

December 6, 2021

Dear ELIA Members -

It is the time of year to pay your dues for 2022. Your dues plus your generous tax-free donations help make everything we do possible. Thank you for your continued support.

Looking back, it has been a busy year on the lake. Significantly, we held our annual meeting in person at Quit Qui Oc's outdoor pavilion. It was really a great time to sit with friends and share a meal together. We held a zoom annual meeting in 2019, so being with friends and neighbors in person made a world of difference.

Sadly, we lost our remaining Lifetime Director, Tom Nelson. Tom was not only a supporter, but a doer for many years. His insights were always helpful in guiding our board. He will be remembered and he will be missed.

This summer we used our Lake Management account funds to expand our water quality testing program and expand our efforts on weed management. Because we had marked via GPS weed bed locations the previous summer, we were able to pinpoint and eliminate a number of targeted weed problem areas. But our major weed areas – the outlet bay, Neuses and Sheboygan Bays, will continue to need yearly attention.

Water chemistry tests suggest we are holding pretty steady on the water quality spectrum, which is good news.

Work is being done to update our 2013 Lake Management Plan (LMP). This summer we re-mapped the lake bottom invasive weed locations by type. We last did this Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) - Aquatic Plant Assessment - weed location survey with help from the DNR in 2012. The identification of the weed types and their location was all that made up the original 2013 LMP which you can find on our website.

This year's LMP update is going much further than using only this level of lake assessment. We are now doing a complete watershed survey. We are working with Stantec environmental engineers to gather data from the county Erosion Vulnerability for Agricultural Lands (EVAAL) data base, and combining this with other reference points including village storm water run-off mapping, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) mapping information and other available data to help build a plan that will guide our decision making on ranking opportunities for remediation and give us potential costs. From here we will build a plan for implementation, following established Best Management practices (BMP's) that have been established for this type of environmental work.

Although the DNR wasn't interested in funding development of this plan, It is recommended that we tailor the plan to meet the required elements for WDNR Lake Management Plan. This would put ELIA in position to take advantage of implementation funding, which can provide up to \$200,000 for projects. There are a few additional steps to this route and could cost an additional \$5-6K, but it may be well worth it.

The board will review the work done by Stantec and vote on proceeding with the environmental plan they lay out at our January board meeting. If all goes well, this would put us in a good place for getting much of our plan development in place in the coming year. This is a big step forward in expanding our understanding of the total watershed which is critical to creating a holistic long-term plan. We will then see how we can secure grant funding to support these identified initiatives and determine how much of this we will have to fund. This is just the beginning as this work will be an on-going effort in the years to come.

Yes, this is a major step forward and will be a big effort. But it is worth it as we look to plan a vision for the lake for the coming generations. Your support through this effort will be essential. Thank you in advance for your encouragement and any input you care to offer. Plan your work. Work your plan! That's the goal for 2022.

Best wishes to you for the holidays and the coming New Year!

Sincerely,

John

**ELIA is a 501c3 organization. All donations are fully tax deductible.**