

UPDATE: LAKE DRAWDOWN

BACKGROUND: Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist with Marinette County presented the results of an aquatic plant survey at our Lake District annual meeting on September 2, 2023. It was recommended that we lower the lake this fall in efforts to control the invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and chemical herbicide treatment in the spring. The property owners passed the motion to seek approval of the DNR for a multi-year plan of chemical treatment and lake drawdowns. I thank all of you who scrambled to get your boats out and apologize for the short notice.

Knowing we were under time pressure to get the lake down before the October 1st deadline, the Aquatic Plant Committee and Chuck Druckrey completed the needed paperwork. I got the needed signatures from the Town of Beecher and hand delivered the documents and application fee to the DNR office in Green Bay.

THE BAD NEWS: Unfortunately, the DNR has not approved the permit for Lake drawdown this fall. The permit process now requires significant review and signing off from multiple departments within the DNR. In the past, we were able to drawdown the lake without having to seek special review and permit, as we were under a multi-year Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant. Current regulations now require 60-90 days for completion of the permit application as we are no longer under an AIS grant plan. We did not know this at the time of our annual meeting, and we assumed we would get approval, as in the past. We won't be able to draw down the lake this fall.

THE GOOD NEWS: If you haven't already gotten your boats out, there is now extra time.

The Aquatic Plant Committee has met several times with Chuck Druckrey. The state has a grant program to assist with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control. We are working with Chuck and the DNR to apply for treatment of the **whole** lake this spring rather than spot treatment of 10-15 acres of weeds. Lake drawdowns will be done as needed over the course of the 5-year grant period. This will help pay for of the chemical treatments if we are approved. We can meet the deadline for this application and have the support from the DNR biologists we are working with. If we don't get the grant, we will return to our original request for partial lake chemical treatment this spring and lake drawdown for next fall. The Aquatic Plant Committee is exploring all approved options and will be sharing those ideas for Milfoil control. More details will be available soon on our website <http://beecherupperlakes.com/> along with recommendations that individual property owners can do to manage their weeds.

Lindi Magnuson, Chairwoman of Beecher and Upper Lake Rehabilitation District.