

Update on Eurasion Water Milfoil (EWM)

The annual meeting Beecher and Upper Lake Rehabilitation District was held on September 2, 2023. Over the past decade, the Aquatic Plant Committee (APC) has been integral in implementing an Eurasion Water Milfoil (EWM) control plan in cooperation with Marinette County's Water Resource Specialist, Chuck Druckrey. We have used chemical treatments and tried to freeze/kill the EWM by lowering the lake levels. We have installed a second valve in the dam to make lowering the lake easier. We have not had an active Aquatic Plant Committee since completion of the 2nd valve project two years ago.

As you all know, by July the EWM was worse than ever. I contacted Chuck Druckrey and explained the situation anticipating we would need an earlier than anticipated draw down of the lake. I also made numerous calls to property owners and we now have four volunteers for the APC, Aaron Shaske, Dan Demko, Erin Enk and Nancy McKenney. They are working with Chuck Druckrey and exploring any alternatives for control of EWM.

The permit to lower the lake requires DNR approval. Chuck completed the required aquatic plant survey in mid-August and presented his findings and recommendations at our annual meeting. After discussion, the property owners agreed to another draw down of the lake to be completed by the end of September, per DNR requirements. We will also be exploring grants to help with cost of chemical treatment. I announced the draw down on Facebook and requested everyone spread the word.

Chuck Druckrey has initiated the draw down permit process for us and completed the required paperwork for the DNR. We are asking for the DNR's permission to treat 10-15 acres of the lake with chemicals and potential draw down of the lake every year for the next several years, as needed. We need to submit a check for \$500 and the permit request needs to be signed by the Chairman of the Town of Beecher, since they own the dam.

We anticipate approval within 7-10 days. Once we have approval, we'll open the valves on the dam. Water levels can go down about 2 inches per day. This means boats and pontoons must be out of the water soon or you may not be able to get your boats out. Many of you have already taken your boats out.

The Board of Commissioners understands the short notice makes everyone scramble to get boats out quickly. We also understand getting the word out presents some difficulty as not everyone was at the meeting or is on Facebook. We have compiled an email and call list for many of the owners and will be able to improve communication in the future. We will also be setting up notice boards around the lake once we get the town's approval. If we don't have contact information, we can't communicate with the property owners except by mail.

We also understand frustration over past EWM control results. The Aquatic Plant Committee is doing their research and working with the DNR to explore every option available. Over the next several months, we will report our progress.

We ask that you send us your suggestions for making this process better. We're all in this together and want what's best for the lake, recreation, boating, fishing and in the end, our property values. Please volunteer in any way you can. I can be reached at Lmags61@gmail.com or 920-609-3711.

Lindi Magnuson, Chairwoman