**Cedar Lake Water Quality Annual Review**

**2025 was a relatively quiet year for the Water Quality Committee (WQC).**

* **No wake zone:** No implementations were needed this year. It was touch and go in late June, when we were monitoring the lake level almost daily.
* **AIS vegetation survey:** Both last fall and this spring’s surveys showed low levels of aquatic invasive species (AIS), so no eradication efforts were required.
* **Water clarity:** The water was very clear this spring.
* **Landing inspections:** Our inspection program continues to be successful. Final numbers for 2025 will be available at the November Board meeting.

**Rapid Response Team**
The team did not need to meet this year, as no emergency issues arose. We did, however, place a sign and cleaning tools for boats and trailers at Wurm’s Landing. All tools remain in place and will be collected for storage this fall.

**Zebra Mussel Project**
Holly’s zebra mussel monitoring project will wrap up this weekend with collection of the zebra mussel traps. Pictures and other data will be submitted to the U of M contact, early the week of 9/15. New this year, is testing the hardness of the water at each trap site. Last year, the summary report from the U of M was received the first week of December.

**CD3 Stations**
Our two CD3 stations continue to be successful. These units bridge the gap between good intentions and long-term actions. They help prevent the spread of invasive species through increased compliance, better education, and proven biologically effective methods.

**Lake Steward Program**
Christa Lane-Larson initiated a Lake Steward program on the lake this year and has had active conversations with 3–4 residents so far. This is a great start, and once more residents see the benefits, we expect participation to grow. Expanding this program is an important goal—our lake needs more stewards.

**Budget**
Glenn has managed the financial side and the WQC recommends that we keep both the budget and the annual property tax assessment the same as last year.

**Acknowledgments**
Thank you to Glenn, Bruce Emerson, Holly, and Christa for their hard work and dedication this year.

**Addressing Vegetation and Algae Blooms**

We’ve had several questions about the native vegetation and algae blooms seen this year. While they don’t occur every year, they are happening more frequently.

Here’s why:

* **Zebra mussels** filter the water, making it clearer and allowing more vegetation to grow.
* **More vegetation** means more plant material eventually dies and decomposes.
* **Decomposition** uses oxygen, which affects the lake’s natural balance.

Other contributing factors include:

* Climate change (warmer temperatures, less snow, shorter winters)
* The narrow north-south structure of the lake
* Runoff from lawns, roads, and surrounding land

Unfortunately, these conditions are part of our lake’s “new normal.” While these conditions definitely affect Cedar Lake’s water quality, there is no easy solution. As individual property owners, we all need to do our part to limit the impact we have on the lake. The CLCC as always will continue to work with our partners and follow the science as we explore viable options and communicate them to the membership.

**Breaking News**

**James Johnson of Freshwater Scientific** **Research** completed his annual fall survey of the lake this week. I spoke with him and received a preliminary report. The final written report will be presented at the fall meeting. In short, NO EUROPEAN MILFOIL. He did not report on Curly Leaf Pondweed, as that is surveyed only in the spring. If we have a winter with ice and a lot of snow cover, it may kill off the curly leaf.

The algae bloom is normal for this time of year and is not unexpected. Paraphrasing here, starting the last two weeks of August, we start losing 2-4 minutes of sunlight per day, this means cooler temps at night and the upper layer of lake water loses heat. The bottom part of the lake loses oxygen content, releasing nutrients into the lake. Algae determines its own buoyancy and rises to the top of the lake.

Zebra mussels do not like blue-green algae and spit it out releasing it back to the bottom of the lake. The cycle repeats.