

**Annual Birch Lake Association Picnic Minutes**  
**September 10, 2022**

A special "Thank you" to John and Jackie Alfords for hosting our picnic this year!

\*\*If you were unable to attend the meeting you can mail \$30 association dues (checks made payable to: Birch Lake Improvement Association) to Emily Gangl,

\*\*\*Longer set of minutes this year, but it was a good meeting with a lot of information!

- Review of lake aeration last winter. We came close but mid February gave us a 2 week deep freeze, O2 levels dropped too low and the DNR recommended we aerate the lake. We only used one aerator, to try to save electricity costs buying us time until ice out. With a couple hiccups, we pulled it off.

For our new lake neighbors, the following is an explanation of what aeration is and why we need to do it some winters: Aeration is the process of opening up part of the lake, about the size of several football fields, during winter to increase oxygen levels in the lake to prevent fish from dying. All winter the DNR monitors the oxygen level in our lake and when it decreases too much we need to aerate. We aerate at the south end of Birch lake. We work with the DNR to open an area of ice by placing floating machines in the ice which moves water around to keep the water open for oxygen. We post warning signs of "thin ice" around the edge of the open ice warning anyone out on the lake that this ice is open.

We have a shallow lake, when we experience an early freeze and early snow this darkens the lake and cuts off the process of our lake making oxygen for our fish. If the oxygen levels are too low our fish will die and in the spring when the ice comes off the lake the dead fish float to the top and surround our shorelines.

- Bank financials. Current balance as of 8/31/2022 is \$2,948.32.
- Eurasian Millfoil treatment continued this past summer. Treatment was completed at a cost of \$8,020.87 with a ProcellaCOR chemical treatment only (reminder: this chemical is not harmful to humans or wildlife). See attached treatment. We received a free survey from the DNR (normal cost is \$1,000 and in 2020 was waived due to COVID) because we almost qualified to be a test lake for a hybrid chemical treatment of ProcellaCOR/Dyquat solution. However after the DNR surveyed our lake they found our non-invasive species of plants were too close to our clusters of EWM. The non-invasive plants were at risk of being harmed by the Dyquat solution, therefore we were disqualified for this test lake program. But we did get a free \$1,000 survey out of it, however, in 2023 we will need to absorb the cost of the survey out of our spring EWM fundraising.
- Jesse Hahne volunteered to complete the paperwork to establish a non profit on behalf of Birch Lake Improvement Association. A motion to do so was made by Keith Gangl, seconded by Emily Gangl. Motion voted on by all present and carried with no members opposed. Establishing a nonprofit on behalf of our lake will allow us to apply and accept larger grants to fight our EWM from the state

and possibly allow our members to write off the EWM donations and annual dues on their taxes. This change will require the need of a tax filing/preparations annually.



- Jesse Hahne also attended the Sherburne County Aquatic Invasive Species meeting May 5, 2022. A few points of interest:
  - Birch Lake made the list for boat launch inspection because we are fighting EWM. We received 55 hours of inspection at our public launch (lowest on the list, but also the newest).
  - Big Lake and Lake Orono found Zebra mussels. Elk Lake found some shells at the launch, but no live mussels yet. Jesse has a Zebra mussel collection station attached to his dock and Robert and Fern Kelly took another one for their dock for next summer. No Zebra mussels have been found on our lake yet.
  - Golden Clams are a new invasive species on this group's radar. Up until now Golden Clams were thought to not be able to survive our cold winters but have now been found in Briggs Lake year-round for the first time this year. This may be something we need to watch out for in the future as well.
  - The DNR is tracking a large carp infestation in Eagle Lake; they estimate over 4,000 carp in that lake now with many over 20 lbs. GPS trackers have been placed on a few sample carp to better understand activity in the lake. These carp uproot many of the native plants that help keep the lake clean and therefore causing issues for this lake. So if you see any of the lighted carp boats on our lake thank them and encourage them to keep up the good work. We would like to encourage them to fish our lake for carp as much as possible.

Thank you everyone for your continued interest and investment in our lake! Have a great winter and hope to see you out next spring and summer!

-Emily Gangl  
Birch Lake Secretary and Treasurer



## Legend

-  Birch\_EWM\_TreatmentTracks\_2022
-  Birch\_EWM\_Final\_2022

**Project Name:**  
Birch Lake, Treatment Tracks 2022

**Resource:**  
Birch (71005700)

**County:**  
Sherburne

**Watershed:**  
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Metro:  
1511 Maras Street  
Shakopee, MN 55379

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