

Birch Lake Improvement Association Meeting Minutes
Saturday, September 25, 2021

Meeting began at 11:20, Introductions were made around the group.

Emily Gangl - Bank financials - Balance as of 9/20/22 - \$2,683.70. This is the Lake Association's money used to cover the expense of winter aeration (to prevent fish kill) when needed, etc. Other notable finances include last spring's voluntary fundraiser for our first EWM treatment. That brought in \$6,400.00 (\$4,400 lake association member donations + \$2,000 Sherburne County grant). Treatment last spring was \$6,066.66 + \$100 for the spring survey prior to treatment and this fall (Sept 1) \$350 for a fall post treatment survey (we won't need to do another survey now that we did one this fall, prior to spring 2022 treatment).

Keith Gangl - review of aeration this past winter. DNR did determine that aeration was needed during the deep 3 week freeze in February. Thank you to everyone who helped get the aerator in and hooked to our electric panel at the south end of the lake!

--For those of you who are new to our lake here's how we determine if the lake needs to be aerated each winter:

Jason Newman (DNR Officer) visits our lake every couple weeks after the lake freezes. He takes dissolved O2 readings from a few different locations around our lake (and many other lakes in Sherburne County). He emails me a graph of our O2 readings. When he determines that either the O2 in the lake is getting too low or there's too quick of a downturn in oxygen levels he notifies me in an email that it's time to aerate.

Aeration process

- Place two ads in the local paper "notice of intent to aerate"
- Take liability insurance out from a company in Maple Grove
- Call the electric company to turn on our electric board (located at the south end of the lake on the Church Camp property)
- Put aerators in at the south end of lake
- Place 25-30 "thin ice" signs around the opening
- Aeration creates a sizable opening of open water (couple of football fields)
- Open water allows lake to gain back O2 to prevent fish kill
- Aerator runs until the lake will stay open by itself
- Unplug aerator
- Aeration process complete
- After ice out remove aeration equipment (heavy machine/blocks)

Keith Gangl - Good news! We have been removed from the DNR list of impaired lakes (poor water quality) after 10 years. Due in part to the Sherburne County grant and implementation (approx 8 years ago) of the water/rain gutters along the roads surrounding our lake access. Many lake neighbors commented on how nice the water quality seemed this year even with the lack of rain.

Birch Lake Website - check it out!! BirchLakeMN.com There are pictures, eventually these minutes from meetings, maps of our EWM treatment areas, etc. Thank you Jesse Hahne for all the work you put into getting that up and running for us!

Jesse Hahne - Follow up on the Eurasian Milfoil that was found in our lake last spring 2021. Treatment was very successful overall with near 90% control in the area we were permitted to treat. PLM will treat and kill off that remaining 10% next spring for us as a courtesy for our continued business with them. Jesse has found them easy to work with, great with their communication and honest in their approach to our lake working within our budget. Jesse provided great maps with the areas of EWM around Birch Lake as well as maps of the treatment area planned for next spring/early summer. PLM has been working with the DNR and our plan next spring may be to treat more acres of the EWM with a combination of ProcillaCOR and Diquat Dibromide (ProcillaCOR was the chemical we used last spring on our first treatment area). This combination actually helps reduce the cost of treatment to about half of just a ProcillaCOR treatment.

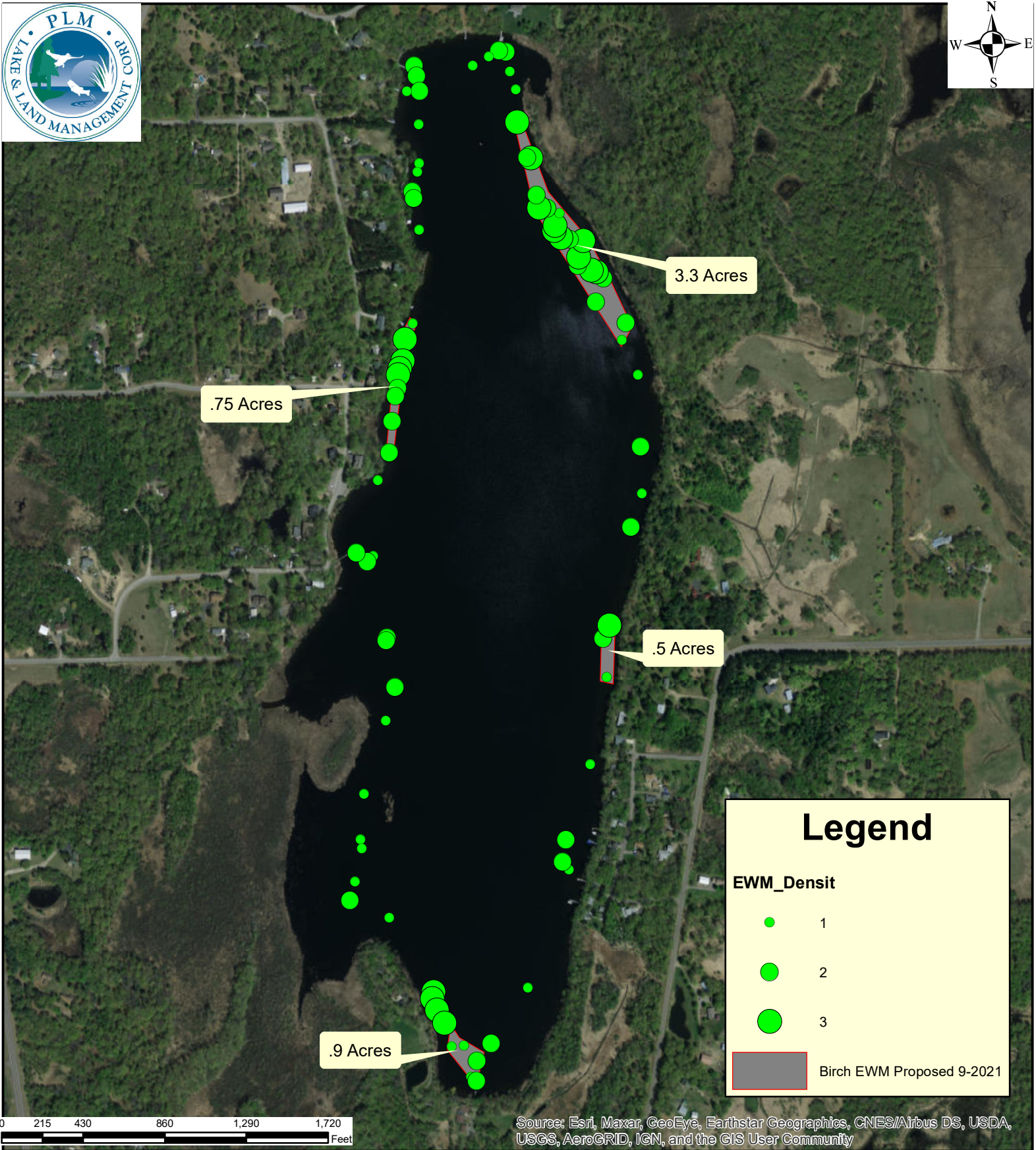
Jesse and Gena Hahne will again apply for the State of MN and Sherburne County grant money for continued EWM treatment next year. Discussion on becoming a 403b was brought up and Jesse has researched all the steps into doing this. There is the issue of liability in the case we are sued for something as a non-for-profit, so research into liability insurance or an LLC will also be looked into over the winter. If Birch Lake can become a non-for-profit there are larger grants we can apply for and receive from the state, which is the driver behind the research into this possibility.

Mike Kelly volunteered to place a small box on his dock next spring to check our lake for Zebra Mussel species (we don't have any that we know of). Jesse Hahne will get Mike's name to the DNR. Thank you Mike!

Please send annual dues of \$30.00 - checks made payable to: Birch Lake Improvement Association. If you were unable to attend the meeting please mail them to Emily Gangl at: 15895 228th Ave NW, Elk River MN 55330. Dues are used to pay for the aeration on the lake (insurance, signage, electricity, public notice in papers). *Separate fundraising done in spring for our next EWM treatment. You will be hearing from me again around February/March

If anyone needs to update an email please contact me at: ganglfam5@gmail.com this is the most efficient way for me to communicate if possible.

Thank you!
Emily Gangl
Birch Lake Secretary/Treasurer
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Project Name: Birch Lake, Poposed EWM 2022
County: Sherburne

Resource: Birch (71005700)
Watershed: .

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