

Tug Lake District Newsletter

July 30, 2024

Dear Tug Lake Residents:

The Tug Lake District is implementing the goals outlined in a Wisconsin DNR Lake Planning and Surface Water Grant we received in the spring of 2024 to address lake water monitoring of blue green algae. Here is a brief summary of our progress to date:

Goal I: Continue water chemistry monitoring of internal/external nutrient loading along with occurrences of blooms and their toxicity.

Action Step: Todd Miller has submitted his 2022-2023 Toxin Analysis which indicates that we need to continue doing on-going analysis of blue green algae amounts and its toxicity.

Action Step: The Citizen Lake Monitoring Network composed of Reid Badeau and Don Olson continue monitoring internal nutrient loading at the deep hole north of the big island and water depth monitoring of blue green algae around the lake on a weekly basis and send their results to Dr. Todd Miller, Associate Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at UW-Milwaukee.

Action Step: University of Wisconsin Stevens Point faculty and students are doing internal nutrient loading water analysis every two weeks and also get these results to Dr. Miller.

Goal II: Collaborate with farmers to voluntarily collect agricultural field data and monitor nutrient management for farms in the watershed.

Action Step: Todd Nicklaus, TLD Chairperson, Dan Marzu, Certified Crop Adviser and Northcentral Region Outreach Specialist for the UW-Madison Nutrient and Pest Management Program, and Tom Boisvert, Conservation Program Manager for the Lincoln County Land Services Department, are implementing the SnapPlus (Soil Nutrient Application Planner) Program which helps farmers make the best use of their on-farm nutrients by calculating potential soil and Phosphorus runoff losses while assisting in the economic planning of manure and fertilizer applications.

Goal III: Develop a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan with recommendations for future interventions to mitigate the growth of blue-green algae.

Action Step: Buzz Sorge, DNR Lake Management Planner, is in on-going consultation with the Tug Lake District and will be guiding the next grant writing initiative and intervention steps for the lake in 2025 and beyond.

SAVE THE DATE: The Tug Lake District Annual Meeting will be on August 31, 2024, at the Merrill Incredible Bank from 10 am to noon followed by our Annual Tug Lake Picnic. More detailed information will be forthcoming during the month of August.

If you have any questions and/or comments, please call me at 715-218-0284 or email me at john.greenwood@wisconsin.edu.

With best regards,

John Greenwood, Tug Lake District Secretary