

September 14, 2021

Spring Lake Association Members and Lakeshore Owners

As part of the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District's (PLSLWD) lake management program, lake surveys are conducted on a periodic basis to determine overall lake quality conditions.

Recently, Steve McComas with Blue Water Science (BWS) informed the PLSLWD, that he discovered EWM on Spring Lake (see map above) on July 12, 2021, during a plant survey.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is considered to be an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS because it

- Creates dense mats at the water's surface inhibit water recreationists.
- Overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity.
- Provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals.

After the finding, the PLSLWD reviewed several options which included, no action, complete lake treatment, hand pulling and hand pulling in combination with spot herbicide treatment. It was decided to have Blue Water Science to hand pull the affected areas. Hand pulling was completed on **August 4, 2021**, with the assistance from the DNR. Unfortunately, the infestation was greater than first believed and some areas were not pulled due to the amount of EWM found. The findings of the hand pulling were reviewed with Blue Water Science and the DNR by the Spring Lake Association (SLA). They have both stated that a herbicide treatment yet this year would momentarily control the spread. Comments from the DNR also stated treatment now would allow for a better management plan to be developed and may reduce a more costly treatment down the road.

The SLA Board met on **Monday, August 16**, to review and vote on what actions could be taken by the SLA. The SLA board voted to proceed with treating the identified affected areas lakeshore owners provided DNR permit approval, with a combination of Diquat and ProcellaCOR. This treatment is scheduled to be done on Wednesday September 15, 2021 by PLM, Lake and Land Management, Corp. The cost for this treatment is \$4800 and will come out of a reserve within the SLA budget. Blue Water Science will inspect these areas next spring to determine how effective the treatment was in controlling the EWM and determine next steps.

We believe the steps that are being taken to control the spread of Eurasian Milfoil will benefit all who enjoy the lake. Now that Spring Lake has EWM, the SLA board has agreed that we may need the financial assistance of the Spring Lake Association community with this ongoing effort to control EWM. We plan to add a lake improvement fund to our budget and will look for different ways for our community to make donations and/or get involved.

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