

Bass Lake Association Newsletter

Fall 2019 Edition

Hi Folks,

This is my last newsletter for 2019. Once again, summer and fall have passed far too quickly, and as of this writing most docks, lifts, pontoons, and boats are off the lake. This year was one of our rainiest years on record, and lake water levels this Fall are typical of what we normally see in Spring. Hopefully, a late ice-over date will allow the overflow to lower overall lake levels somewhat yet this Fall.

The following contains relevant information that all should be aware of.

Summer Picnic

We had another great picnic this year. Martha Reger was the chairperson for this year's get together, and she, along with the rest of her team, did an outstanding job pulling together this year's outing. The fund-raising effort produced just over \$1800 after expenses this year thanks to great support and contributions towards this year's silent auction and raffle. Special thanks go out to Andy and Tina Williams who hosted the event as well as to Chuck and Laura Wuems who donated the meat for the barbeque. Thanks also to Chris Rogers who provided us with some great music and to everyone who contributed items for the silent auction.

For those who would like to do some long-range planning, next summer's picnic will be on Saturday, August 8th. Details to follow.

AIS Project

Most everyone should be aware that the Board has been working diligently with the Clearwater River Watershed District to formalize an AIS project for Bass Lake. And, we are pleased to announce that the Watershed Board of Managers approved our application on October 16th.

Although the initial public hearing was a somewhat contentious, the Board conducted a lake-wide survey over the Labor Day weekend to accurately assess the overall level of support for the AIS Project. From the 93 total property owners on the lake, we received 67 signed surveys in favor (72%), 6 surveys against, 3 undecideds, and 17 no responses.

The project will allow us to more effectively manage both existing and future infestations of Aquatic Invasive Species. Management will continue to focus on prevention, early detection,

rapid response, disaster recovery, and ongoing treatment of existing AIS. The first assessment is expected to appear on the first property tax statement for CY 2020.

Formal operating procedures have been crafted and approved by the Watershed District. They will be posted on the Bass Lake Assn web site soon.

I want to acknowledge all the hard work that was done by Connie Crane and Jean Just who worked closely with the Watershed Board of Managers, as well as the rest of the Assn Board members who helped push this project forward. The Board especially appreciates the broad-based level of support that we received from the residents on the lake. As a result, we should be well positioned to manage and combat future infestations of AIS for years to come.

Resource Management Activities

The Board voted to conduct a concentrated search for Starry Stonewort adjacent to the boat launch area this fall. Blue Water Science was contracted to do this work by having a diver examine a 500-yard square area around the Boat Launch as well as a concentrated rake toss and analysis of vegetation in the same area. No Starry Stonewort was found, although we are still troubled with Curly Leaf Pondweed in the area. This work was completed on Friday, October 25th.

The Board also voted to allocate \$5,000 to “at-the-access” inspections once again next Spring. We have been advised that Anchor Dock will be contracting with Wright County to have inspectors at various lakes in the area again next summer, but we have not been provided with any details yet. I will keep everyone informed as to what we can expect next Spring.

The Board also agreed to assemble a volunteer inspections team to help augment what the County will do next year. John Fitzgerald has agreed to chair this effort. Persons who are interested in participating and volunteering their time to help with this effort should contact John over the winter. John’s email is fitzjohng@aol.com

This year’s late Spring Delineation Survey indicated that we still have 2-3 stubborn patches of Curly Leaf that we plan to treat next Spring. Next year’s treatment area will be relatively small compared to previous year’s treatment areas.

These management activities directly support prevention, early detection, and on-going treatment initiatives that are part of our AIS project.

High Water

As mentioned earlier, Bass Lake’s water levels are relatively high especially for this time of year. The overflow was inspected on Saturday, October 26th, and water was flowing out of Bass Lake normally. We expect this to continue right up until the lake freezes over later this fall, but we do expect water levels to be quite high again next Spring. As a result, we will be asking boaters to voluntarily maintain slow-no wakes within 300 feet of shoreline early next Spring. Many

residents have expressed concerns about shoreline erosion as well as an increase in floating bogs this fall. We hope that slower wakes will help mitigate these problems.

Membership Dues

Membership dues for next year will remain the same at \$50 per property owner as they have been for the past couple of years. The Board will no longer maintain a separate Healthy Lakes fund due to the new AIS Project fund, however, the Association will still welcome voluntary charitable contributions. Membership dues will help us cover other Association expenses such as insurance, picnic expenses, water quality monitoring, membership dues in Wright County and MN COLAS, nuisance trapping expense, beaver dam removal expense, etc.

Bass Lake Web Site

I am pleased to announce that the Bass Lake Assn has its own web site once again. Members can access our web site by clicking on the following link: <https://basslakewrightcountymn.com/>.

We are still working on content and certain sections will be added and/or changed as time goes on. We will be posting additional information during the winter months, so we encourage Association Members to check in periodically just to see what's new.

That's about it for now. If you have any questions or would like further clarification on any of the information contained herein, do not hesitate to call or write. Have a great winter, and I'll see many of you on the lake again next Spring.

Sincerely,

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