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Bay Lake Improvement Association
P.O. Box 461 • Deerwood, MN 56444-0461

Summer 2015

Fellow Bay Lakers,

We hope that you and your family are off to a great summer at the Lake and want to take this opportunity to apprise you of the efforts we are taking to contain our infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), as well as our efforts to prevent further invasions of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Fortunately, the past two years have seen relatively slow growth of EWM. Late ice out and high water levels have helped our efforts to knock back EWM and allow native weeds to flourish. This "slower growth" allowed us to concentrate our efforts in the areas of heaviest growth, such as belts of growth that hinder navigation and sections where native milfoil (the good kind) can displace EWM. However, as those of you who have been around for a while know, it only takes one season of ideal growing conditions for EWM to thrive. This past winter's lack of snow, early ice out and current drought conditions around the state are cause for concern. This year we will need to treat many more acres than we have in the past two years. The fall treatment is the most effective and where we concentrate our efforts.

This year we also plan to continue to ramp up our AIS Inspection efforts. Over 40 lakes in Crow Wing County are currently infested with Zebra Mussels, with many more statewide. We believe the best way to prevent an infestation, although not 100% effective, is to diligently monitor the public access and attempt to inspect every boat launched into our Lake. This year, starting May 1st and continuing until Fall, we will have Paid Class 1 inspectors on the public landing for most daylight hours. We will also continue to help pay for inspectors on our upstream lakes to prevent their lakes and ours from becoming infested. While we receive some money from the county and state, our financial allocation has actually decreased this year due to the expansion of the county inspection program. Also, we are initiating an AIS rapid response plan, to be ready to act should we discover new AIS in our lake.

With the decrease in funds from the state and county as well as the increase in our treatment of milfoil this year, your donations to the BLIA Environmental Fund are more important than ever. Our community has always been exceedingly generous and we hope that continues this year. Thank you to past donors--your support makes our AIS efforts possible. If you have not given in the past please consider a donation this year as all donations make a significant impact.

Thank you,

The BLIA Board

Protecting, Preserving, Maintaining, Improving Your Bay Lake Environment