



President's Note

Greetings to all our members and welcome to 2022. Isn't it nice that 2022 has delivered so many days below zero for our enjoyment? I know, we choose to live here so complaining does little good. Thinking positively, we can enjoy the change of seasons and the winter sports. When you are not outside, take a minute to join ELRA and then read the recap of last year's activities.

2022 Membership Dues

February is the start of our annual membership drive. Please renew your ELRA membership, or if not a member, please join. It is simple to join. Just complete the enclosed membership form and send it, along with your payment to ELRA using the enclosed envelope. Dues are only \$50 per property, the same as previous years. Additional donations are welcome and help ELRA fulfill its mission.

There are two ways to join ELRA.

By Mail

Fill out the membership form included with this newsletter and mail it, along with your check to ELRA, P.O. Box 111, Emily, MN 56447.

Online

Go to www.emilylakes.org and from the homepage click on **CLICK HERE TO BECOME AN ELRA MEMBER**. Fill in the information and click **SUBMIT**. Next, look for the **BUY NOW** button to submit your payment using PayPal. A fee of \$1.50 is added to your membership to defer part of the credit card processing fees.

Our membership is open to all property owners on Dahler, Emily, Mary and the Little Pine River.

ELRA 2022 Goals

ELRA's 2022 goals are much the same as previous years. The board's focus will be Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) control and fish stocking. These two items are consistently our members highest priorities. In addition, efforts will continue to monitor for other AIS threats; test for zebra mussel larvae; monitor water quality and report that data to the DNR and WAPOA; and work with the City of Emily, Crow Wing County and the DNR to achieve all our goals. Finally, this year we intend to follow-up with the DNR after they complete the fish survey of Mary to assess how our stocking program is working.

Furthermore, based on the feedback given to the board at the annual membership meeting in August, we will also focus on the following tasks...

1. Explore ways to encourage more lake property owners to become members of ELRA.
2. Be proactive on the water quality and water level issues by creating a special committee to study water quality issues.

ELRA 2022 Events Calendar

Boat Parade

- Saturday, July 2

Annual Membership Meeting

- Saturday, August 13 at 9:00 am

Board Meetings

- Friday, April 15 at 7:00 pm
- Friday, May 20 at 7:00 pm
- Friday, June 17 at 7:00 pm
- Friday, July 15 at 7:00 pm
- Friday, September 16 at TBD

Contact the Board at elra@emilylakes.org if you wish to discuss something with the board or if you wish to attend a board meeting.

2021 Activity Recap

2021 Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)

During 2021 ELRA continued to monitor Emily, Mary and the Little Pine River for EWM. Last year the EWM survey did not find any EWM in Mary and just one plant in Emily. This meant no treatment was necessary. While good news, we have learned after years of monitoring and treating EWM, the growth rates vary greatly from year to year. The Board anticipates that 2022 will see a return of EWM even though native plants flourished in 2021.

EWM treatment is the biggest challenge facing ELRA. It takes a substantial amount of the board's time and roughly half our budget. Treatment cost is always much more than our budget. In 2021, we applied for grants from the DNR, Crow Wing County and the City of Emily Waters Fund to fund the bulk of our expenses. We were able to use the DNR grants to cover the survey costs. The other grants only pay for actual expenses, thus were not used since we had no treatment costs.

2021 Fish Stocking

Fish stocking of walleye fingerlings was done in October. Lake Mary was stocked with 122 pounds of walleye fingerlings that were between 7" to 10" in size. Thanks to additional donations for fish stocking and favorable pricing, this was the most we have ever stocked. Thanks to Doug Tarasar who coordinates with the DNR and our supplier to make this happen.



Figure 1 Fingerlings being released in Lake Mary

2021 Zebra Mussel Testing

Testing for veligers (zebra mussel larvae) was done in July in both Emily and Mary. ELRA provides the manpower to collect the samples and delivers them to the lab. Crow Wing County pays for the tests and reports the results to us. The results from 2021 found no larvae.

ELRA also coordinated for the DNR the inspection of some docks near the public landing on Emily. These inspections were done with a K-9 trained to locate zebra mussels. No zebra mussels were found, but the DNR plans to continue these inspections.

2021 Water Quality Monitoring

Water testing continues thanks to Randy Manlick. Water is tested for clarity and nutrient content starting in May and is tested each month until September. Last year's sample showed no significant changes to water quality.

2021 Emily Waters Committee and Lake Associations

Mike Peck represented ELRA on the City of Emily Waters Committee. The Water Committee reviews applications for the water funds and makes recommendation to the City Council. Representation on this committee is important so our concerns are heard.

2021 Annual Membership Meeting

ELRA's annual member meeting was held Saturday, August 14th in the Emily City Hall gym. The agenda and the various reports discussed at the meeting are on our website if you want to review them. During the New Business portion of the meeting, members shared their ideas and concerns which have been included in the 2022 goals. Three board members had their terms expiring. The election results had Jason Herfel and Randy Manlick being re-elected and Randy Holz elected to fill the position vacated by Mark Drewitz.

ELRA Board Members

President	Russ Boverhuis, Lake Emily
Vice President	Jason Herfel, Lake Mary
Secretary	Jean McLeod, Lake Mary
Treasurer	Randy Manlick, Lake Emily
Director	Mike Peck, Lake Mary
Director	Lori Molenaar, Little Pine River
Director	Randy Holz, Little Pine River