



President's Notes

Winter Newsletter time is here and so is snow, cold and weather delays. This of course is all so that we appreciate those nice days on the lakes soon to come!

2019 RECAP

Veliger Testing – No larvae form of zebra mussel's were detected in the tests. Thanks to Doug Tarasar for the testing.

Water Quality Testing – This continues to be completed in association with WAPOA. Results for our lakes and lakes in our region can be found on the WAPOA web site. A link is also on the ELRA web site. Thanks to Jim Fraser for 2019 testing.

Eurasian Water Milfoil Actions – Surveys were completed of Emily and Mary for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). EWM has been previously identified as present in Emily and Mary. Treatment areas were identified in both lakes. Treatment was completed in the fall on both lakes with 5.8 acres on Mary and 16.1 acres on Emily. Using ELRA budgeted funds, additional donations, Crow Wing County Funds, and City of Emily Waters Committee funds all identified areas for treatment were able to be treated.

Fish Stocking – No fish stocking of Mary Lake was completed in 2019 in accordance with MN DNR requirements. ELRA stocks Mary 2 out of every 3 years in the same years as the MN DNR stocking of Emily. ELRA stocks Mary since the MN DNR doesn't.

Emily Waters Committee – ELRA participates on this Committee which recommends projects and use of funds that the City appropriates. Board member Deb Hansen is our representative going forward on this Committee.

Legal challenges were made to the City's funding in 2019 which required ELRA to prepare Joint Powers Agreements with the neighboring townships of Little Pine and Fairfield.

Notes (con't)

Thanks to their cooperation agreements were able to be reached allowing for this important resource from the City of Emily to continue.

2020 CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES

Water Testing – Water testing for clarity and quality will continue. ELRA would like to study options to improve water quality; however, volunteers for this are required. To volunteer, email ELRA at elra@emilylakes.org.

EWM – This continues as a major effort for ELRA. As we have seen the amount of Eurasian Water Milfoil varies from year to year due to weather and other factors. ELRA needs to be prepared to treat whatever areas are identified to keep the EWM in check.

The cost for the inspection and survey as well as treatment comes from ELRA budgeted funds, Crow Wing County AIS funds and the City of Emily Waters fund. ELRA will also be applying for a MN DNR Grant.

Your efforts have allowed ELRA to treat all areas where needed the last 4 years.

Veliger Testing – This is as an early warning measure for the presence of zebra mussels. Testing has been taking place on Emily as Crow Wing County funds that lake due to the public access. ELRA plans to expand this testing to Mary; however, this would be at ELRA's expense. Remember to inspect your docks, boats, lifts, etc. as you put them in or remove from the water. Report possible infestations to the **MN DNR and ELRA**.

Other AIS species monitoring – ELRA will be on the alert for the presence of other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) such as Starry Stonewort. If you suspect something – report this to the **DNR immediately and ELRA**.

Meet Your New Board Members

Two new board members were elected at last year's annual meeting. Make sure to give a "Thank You" to these individuals for their willingness to serve!

Consider becoming a board member yourself!

Jean McLeod

I am new to the ELRA board this year. I have lived in Minneapolis most of my life and am planning to move to Emily this spring or summer. Having spent much of my life swimming, fishing and boating on several lakes in MN, I appreciate keeping our lakes a valuable resource for all of us.

I worked at the University of Minnesota for over 30 years as a Program Director providing training solutions for organizations. While doing so, I had the opportunity to hold positions on several Human Resource Associations. Now that I am retired, I look forward to learning and helping contribute to our lake association goals.

Mike Peck

Hello, my name is Mike Peck and I am one of the new board members on the Emily Lakes and Rivers Association. My wife Jody and I have been on Lake Mary since the summer of 2017 and recently we have both retired and made Emily our permanent home. Our daughter Lindsey is married to Travis and we have one grandson named Tyson.

I was in the HVAC industry and my wife was in banking. We both love to golf, enjoy being on the water, and spending time with family and friends. If you ever see a yellow pontoon out on the lake, please feel free to float on over and introduce yourself.

Public Water Access - Emily

A repair need was reported to the MN DNR regarding the public water access on Emily. A large hole approximately in the middle left just behind the concrete boat ramp was identified. This hole nearly swallowed our modest pontoon trailer requiring a tow truck to get it out.

The DNR plans to repair in the spring; however, if you are one of the early spring users of the ramp, you may encounter a problem. The bigger trailers or tandem axle trailers may not experience the problem.

Upcoming Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting is Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Contact us at elra@emilylakes.org if you have an issue you wish discussed at the meeting or you wish to attend.

ELRA Annual Meeting

The ELRA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. This is expected to be the same day as the Lakers Lions Corn Feed. Come for the meeting then head over to the Corn Feed!

We need all ELRA members present to conduct important ELRA business! Plan your attendance now!

Q & A

Q. Where is the nearest Watercraft Decontamination Unit?

A. Ruth Lake public water access at 21244 Mill Road, Emily, MN 56447 (off State Hwy #6)

2020 Crow Wing County AIS Plan

The draft AIS plan for 2020 includes 300 hours of boat inspections to be provided by the County at the Emily Lake access - same as 2019. The hours have previously been scheduled to cover the prime boat traffic periods during the season. \$3,000 is proposed for EWM control – a \$1,000 less than 2019. The County allocates funds to the lakes that are infested with EWM that have a public access. The County, so far, has also allowed ELRA to use funds allocated for Emily for Mary. \$3,000 is a significant amount but insufficient to cover the full inspection, survey and treatment needs for Emily and Mary Lakes. The AIS plan also proposes funds for educational materials and funds for payment of lab fees associated with monitoring of zebra mussel veligers.

Join/Renew ELRA Membership

Submit membership information and payment by mail or online:

Mail

Fill out the membership form included with this newsletter. A check for your **\$50** membership dues should be sent along with your membership form to **ELRA, P.O. Box 111, Emily, MN 56447**.

Online

Complete the form at the ELRA web site at www.emilylakes.org. Be sure to click the "Buy Now" button to pay your dues by credit/debit card. An on-line card processing fee of \$1.50 is added.

To target a donation to ELRA for specific projects use the donation option at the ELRA web site or include on your membership form.

This newsletter and membership form are being sent to all property owners on Dahler, Emily, Mary and the Little Pine River. Follow-up with your friends and neighbors. The more members we have the more we can do for the lakes and river! Thank you for your support!