



President's Note

Thanks goodness it is finally 2021. I heard that phrase a lot lately. Must be because everyone is anxious for lake season to arrive. There is still more winter ahead of us, but at least we are on the downhill side of this winter. Checkout this newsletter for a recap of ELRA's 2020 activities and our plans for 2021. Then join ELRA and prepare for those great days ahead of us on lake.

2020 Activity Recap

2020 Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)

ELRA has been monitoring and treating EWM in the lakes for several years. Last year we used PLM Lake & Land Management again to survey and treat EWM. The surveys found 11.3 acres of EWM in Emily and 4.3 acres in Mary. Thanks to our generous members plus grants from the DNR, Crow Wing County and the City of Emily's Water Fund we were able to treat all the acres.

EWM treatment is one of ELRA's biggest challenges and the biggest part of our budget. The 2020 EWM budget was \$2,800, but actual treatment cost was \$17,435. We took advantage of grants from the DNR (\$3,700), Crow Wing County (\$3,000) and the City of Emily Waters Fund (\$4,733) to reduce our cost to \$6,002. Thankfully we had some carryover funds in reserve to cover the extra expenses. As you can see, grants and additional donations are critical to us keeping this program going.

2020 Fish Stocking

Fish stocking, another high priority project, of walleye fingerlings was completed on October 27. We were able to stock \$1,800 worth of walleye fingerlings. This is slightly more than our budgeted amount thanks to the additional donations from our generous members. For 2021 ELRA has \$1,700 budgeted for fish stocking. All

donations received for fish stocking go to putting more fish in the lake.

It is also our intention to follow-up with the MN DNR when they complete the next fish survey of Mary to access how our stocking program is working.

Thanks to Doug Tarasar who coordinates with the DNR and our fish supplier to make this happen.

2020 Zebra Mussel Testing

Testing for veligers (zebra mussel larvae) was expanded in 2020 to include 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 last year found no larvae.

Remember to inspect your boats, docks, lifts and other items before you put them in the water this spring and when you remove them in the fall. Inspections are especially important if you are moving anything from one body of water to our lakes. If you should find a zebra mussel report it to ELRA and the MN DNR.

2020 Water Quality Monitoring

Water testing continued last year thanks to Randy Manlick assuming the duties from Jim Fraser. Thanks to Jim for all the years he did this for ELRA. Water is tested for clarity and nutrient content starting in May until September. Last year's sample showed no significant changes to water quality.

2020 Emily Waters Committee & Lake Associations

Deb Hanson has represented ELRA on the Waters Committee for the past two years. We feel representation is important, so our needs made known.

2021 Goals

ELRA's 2021 goals are shaping up to be much like 2020. We will continue to focus on EWM and other AIS threats to our lakes, zebra mussel testing, water quality monitoring and continue to work with the City of Emily, Crow Wing County and the DNR to apply for grants available for lake protection.

2021 Crow County AIS Plans

Crow Wing County plans to continue having watercraft inspectors at the Emily public access again in 2021. Their allocation for Emily is 300 hours during high traffic periods, mainly the weekends.

ELRA Events Calendar

Boat Parade

- Sunday, July 4

Annual Meeting

- Saturday, August 14 at 9:00 am

We need a quorum of members present to conduct ELRA business. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. This meeting is expected to be the same day as the Lakers Lions Corn Feed. Come to the meeting, then head over to the Corn Feed.

Board Meetings

- Thursday, April 22
- Thursday, May 20
- Thursday, June 17
- Thursday, July 15
- Thursday, September 16

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

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	Mark Drewitz, Little Pine River
Director	Mike Peck, Lake Mary
Director	Open

We have an open position on the board. Deb Hansen moved, so according to our By-laws, she can no longer serve on the board. Deb's insight at the board meetings will be missed. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact any board member.

2021 Membership Dues

Join or Renew your ELRA membership by submitting the enclosed membership form along with your payment to ELRA. Our dues of \$50 per property is the same as it has been for the past few years. Any additional donations you make are welcome and helps ELRA fulfill its mission.

You have two options for completing this transaction.

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 the **CLICK HERE TO BECOME AN ELRA MEMBER**. Fill in the information and click SUBMIT. Then, look for the **BUY NOW** button to submit your payment. A fee of \$1.50 is added to your membership to cover the credit card processing cost.

This newsletter is sent to all property owners on Dahler, Emily, Mary and the Little Pine River. The more members we have the more we can do for the lakes and river. Thank you for your continued support.

Fingerlings ready to be released into Lake Mary.

