

PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED SUMMARY OF DNR DISCUSSION

On 11/27/13, I met with Heidi Bunk of the Wisconsin DNR to discuss options for chemically treating weeds on Lake Keesus. Chemical treatment is possible under certain circumstances to reduce the amount of Eurasian Water Milfoil and other invasive weeds in the lake. If we choose to pursue chemical treatment and are approved, we will use this as a complimentary strategy to our harvesting program.

During our discussion, Heidi outlined the following criteria and limitations of the chemical treatment of weeds

- The chemical treatment will only be applied in areas to eliminate invasive species of weeds, not the “healthy” indigenous lake weeds
- Protected areas (i.e. Rice, Bull and Marquardt Bays) cannot be chemically treated
- LKMD should apply for a single permit for all interested residents rather than individual residents submitting their own permits
- The request for a permit will specify the properties/areas requesting treatment
- Treated areas are much more effective in contiguous blocks
- The granting of a permit by the DNR does not mean chemical treatment will be allowed
- If a permit is granted, the DNR will then do an on-sight evaluation in Spring to determine if Spring treatment of weeds is warranted in the requested areas
- Some (but not all) of the factors that the DNR considers during the field evaluation include
 - 1) the amount of Eurasian Water Milfoil compared to the amount of native plants;
 - 2) if native plants present could also be impacted by the chemical treatment and
 - 3) are the EWM plants actively growing or not.
- If a significant number of residents desire the treatment (i.e. 10% or more of the lake residents desire treatment), this will move the request into a large scale or whole lake DNR review process which takes more time to complete

If there is interest in pursuing this process, the LKMD will need to address the issue of how to fund the project. There are several qualified organizations that can do these types of chemical treatments. However, it is very difficult to get any kind of estimate of cost on the project until we have a list of property owners who are interested in the treatments.

The LKMD will discuss this at an upcoming winter meeting to determine if there is interest in proceeding with the permit process.

Respectfully submitted.

Craig Musbach, LKMD Commissioner