



Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association (FLPOA)

2019 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program

Mark your calendar! **The Annual Meeting is Saturday, May 25, 2019** again this year we will be hosting a picnic at the Fifty Lakes Pavilion from 11:00-2:00. Come and join your neighbors for a picnic lunch.

2019 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program Plans

This newsletter summarizes the aquatic invasive species (AIS) programs and activities that the FLPOA is participating in through 2019. Currently, the lakes in Fifty Lakes are free of any AIS, with the exception of a small amount of **Purple Loosestrife (PL)** found in Mitchell Lake, much of which was removed by volunteers the past two summers before the flowers went to seed.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/purpleloosestrife/control.html>

Unfortunately, we are surrounded with area lakes that are infected with Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Milfoil and other AIS species. See the DNR infested waters link for more information.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>

Access Inspector Program

Inspecting watercraft entering and leaving our lakes is one way to help keep aquatic invasive species out of our lakes. The role of the inspector is to inspect all watercraft entering and leaving the lake and to educate everyone about AIS.

Last year we struggled to get inspectors on all four of our public boat launches. In 2018, the County funded 300 hours at \$19.02 per hour (\$5,706) for inspections at the East Fox Lake public access. To get the other three lakes' public accesses covered by inspectors, FLPOA funded 528 hours at \$19.02 per hour (\$10,043) to cover inspection hours at Kego, Eagle, and Mitchell accesses from mid-May through September.

For 2019, Crow Wing County boat inspection hours include 300 hours identified for use at the East Fox Lake public access. This is a state program funded by a bill that was passed by the legislature which provides \$10,000,000 funding for county operated AIS programs. In 2018 Crow Wing county received \$442,755 and in 2019 the amount is \$443,109 plus \$24,143 carry over from 2018. The amount each county receives is based on the number of public accesses and parking spots at each.

Funding Challenge

On January 29th three FLPOA board members along with the mayor and one council member met with DNR District Manager, Mike Duval and Crowing County Environmental Services Supervisor, Jake Frie, to discuss the funding challenges they have in staffing and operating AIS programs. Various funding options were discussed such as creating a Lake Improvement District LID, that would provide funding through property tax increment financing. Creating a LID is somewhat complicated and could be a long-term solution. Having the City enter into a Delegation agreement with the DNR could be another long-term solution. Neither would meet our funding needs for 2019. The hourly rate for a level 1 inspector this year will be \$15.30 as the County will hire the inspectors directly. **FLPOA cost for funding 528 hours this year will be \$8,078. Please consider joining FLPOA or renewing your 2019 membership along with any additional contribution, to help fund AIS inspectors at our public accesses on Kego, Eagle, and Mitchell lakes.**

AIS Watercraft Access Surveys

In addition to hiring AIS inspectors, we also conduct plant surveys of our lakes.

In the past we hired Professional Lake Management (PLM) to conduct a plant survey at each of the four public landings. In 2018, we decided to conduct our own plant survey, utilizing the skills of board members trained as

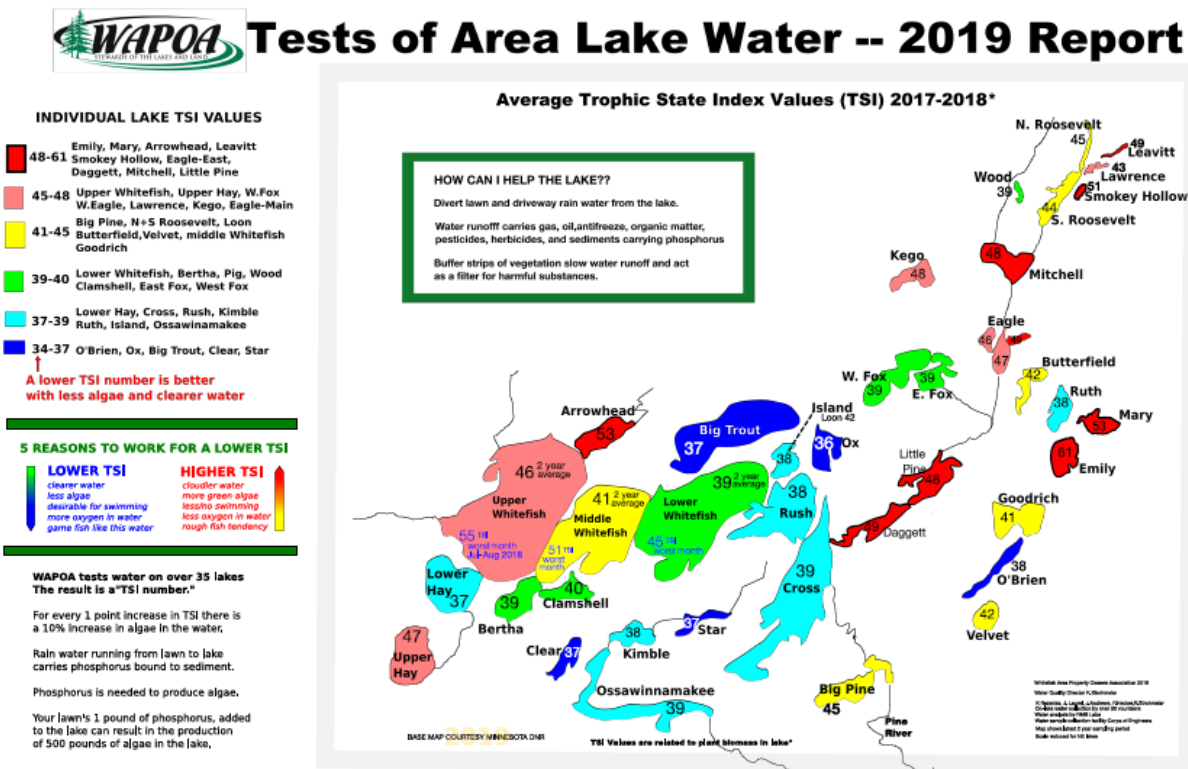
AIS Detectors. We plan to conduct our own surveys again in 2019. The AIS Detector program is run by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC), and the money saved by running our own survey may be used to purchase additional inspector hours. Learn more about MAISRC: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu>

Veliger Testing Program

A veliger is the larva stage of the zebra mussel (ZM). In a ZM infected lake, veligers are found floating/suspended in the water. Water samples are collected using a drift net and sent to RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes for examination. Volunteers take these water samples in July. This is state program that is administered by Crow Wing County. Link to RMB Labs: <https://www.rmbel.info/>

WAPOA Water Sample Testing

FLPOA is participating in this program again, which involves taking water samples in 38 area lakes, and 8 streams, monthly from May through September. These samples are used to create this Trophic State Index (TSI) map.



Education and Awareness Program

FLPOA reaches out to the members and general public with newsletters like this one, monthly emails blasts, AIS signs on CW County 1 and 136, a booth at Fifty Lakes Day, our annual meeting, and personal contact with door to door meet and greet events. We have two AIS Detectors on the FLPOA Board, who are trained to assist the DNR staff in identifying, documenting, and recording AIS plants and animals, and who volunteer for other DNR and AIS related activities.

Thank you for protecting the land and the lakes that we love! ~ The FLPOA Board



Family Membership/Renewal Form

Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 206, Fifty Lakes, MN 56448
www.minnesotawaters.org/group/fiftylakes

Membership Fee/Dues are \$30 per year. Please make checks payable to FLPOA. Or visit <http://minnesotawaters.org/fiftylakespropertyowners/membership/> and click on the "Complete the Membership Form Online" link. **Dues run from June 1st to May 31st. If paying with PayPal, please contribute \$31 to cover the processing expense. Additional contributions are also appreciated. We are a 501c3 organization, so your donation is tax deductible.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Lake Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

I am interested in helping the FLPOA with the following:

Water Testing Events Web Site/Newsletters Board Membership

Other _____

Fifty Lakes Land Use and Shoreland Alteration Permits are Required

Contact the City at 218-763-3113

50lakes@emily.net

www.fiftylakesmn.com