

July 14, 2020 Newsletter

Hello,

As I reported to you on July 4th, there is a patch of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) on the northwest corner of the west basin. Laurie Johnson, my son, and I placed marker buoys near the bed. Our consultant, Dave Blumer asked the WDNR for a permit to treat the bed which covers approximately 0.10 acre yet this summer. The DNR turned his request down. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I sent a letter to the WDNR to request reconsideration of its decision denying our permit. This request was also denied. Pamela Toshner, the specialist who responded to our requests gave the following as reasons for denial.

The reasons for not permitting herbicide treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) during the peak summer season are many, but some key reasons follow:

1. Herbicide treatments are most effective at reducing EWM early in the season when the plant is actively growing, and native plants are less at risk of being impacted. Our northern region native plant protection strategy specifically states *“Control of invasive species or “mixed stands” of invasive and native plants will follow current best management practices approved by the Department and contain an explanation of the strategy to be used. Established stands of invasive plants will generally use a control strategy based on Spring treatment. (typically, a water temperature of less than 60 degrees Fahrenheit, or approximately May 31st, annually).* Please note this strategy was part of your previously approved APM Plan (Appendix A).
2. We are seeing similar variation in results with ProcellaCOR that we would with any other herbicide on a small spot treatment. A 0.1 acre treatment is small, achieving the adequate exposure time without dissipation is unlikely. The notion of applying to a larger area and using more chemicals is contrary to our environmental protection goals.
3. This has been an abnormally hot and sunny summer with algae blooms and fish kills appearing in lakes they never have before and earlier in the season in lakes they may be expected. Given the uncertainty of the treatment efficacy, the risk for water quality and native plant and animal community impacts is unnecessary.
4. Herbicide treatments have mostly ceased in the north, and similar requests have been rejected on other lakes.

Given this situation, we will have to look for other strategies to live with EWM on the lake. Dave Blumer recommends that we set up an on-the-lake training to show folks what to look for when boating around the lake. Most important is to be able to identify EWM fragments in the water and washed up along their shorelines. He says if property owners will just spend a few minutes each day checking their shorelines for fragments, we could minimize the spread during the rest of this year.

We need to set up a training session for lake property owners to learn how to identify EWM. Dave is available on the weekend of Saturday August 1st. He also offered to come to our lake during the week, maybe in the evening. He suggests we have 30 minutes on shore and then up to an hour or so on the water, for effective training. He will talk about what EWM looks like and how to remove rooted plants. Probably drive by the bed so people know what to avoid.

Please let me know about your interest in participating and whether you prefer Saturday or a weekday evening for a training session.

Ed Wink
Secretary/Treasurer
Horseshoe Lake Property Association, Inc.