

KIMBLE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S 2016 REPORT

2015 was another successful year for the Kimble Lake Improvement District. I am pleased to say that Eurasian Water Milfoil continues to be under control thanks to the efforts of your KLID.

During the summer of 2015, Central Minnesota Aquatic's, Inc. completed five full lake surveys. EWM was found at one location in late summer and it was promptly treated. We can also report that Zebra mussels have not been found in Kimble Lake.

We have enjoyed remarkable success in eradicating EWM from Kimble. EWM is like getting rid of the dandelions in your yard. Despite your best efforts there is always another seed and bright yellow flower ready to sprout and bloom. If you delay your diligence, your yard quickly becomes infested. We need to stay on top of this battle against EWM.

During summer 2014 and 2015 KLID supported the efforts of Kimble Lake Homeowners Association (KLHA) to monitor incoming and outgoing watercraft traffic at the public access. Many people equate this effort to be a vain attempt to keep Zebra mussels from establishing residency in Kimble Lake. Last fall I attended a roundtable meeting for lake associations and lake improvement districts sponsored by Crow Wing County. I picked up a few tidbits of information to support why we need to be actively supporting access monitoring.

1. It appears as though access monitoring is working as violation rates are falling.
2. When surveyed most people say inspectors and volunteers at lake accesses are their #1 source for AIS knowledge.
3. We need to push our lake service providers for proof of DNR training.
4. We need to make sure boat rental companies are supplying clean boats to those who rent boats while staying on Kimble Lake and that guests of Kimble Lake homeowners likewise bring only clean watercraft to our lake.
5. There is a definite relationship between property values, the presence of AIS and water clarity.
6. The greatest risk to our lake is public apathy. Many assume "it will all be okay".

The bylaws of KLID state that our mission is: **"to preserve protect and improve the recreational and overall quality of Kimble Lake by effectively monitoring EWM and other aquatic invasive species. We will work with the Kimble Lake Community, KLHA and County and State Agencies to continuously refine our goals and develop an annual work plan to meet these goals."**

For KLID our focus can no longer only be the monitoring and eradication of EWM. We need to work together with KHLA, CWC and the DNR to help mitigate all AIS risk on Kimble Lake. We believe the expanded focus is in the spirit of the KLID mission statement

Three years ago CWC provided \$5,000 in unanticipated support to KLID for the purposes of finding and eradicating EWM last year. This had a positive effect on our budget and last year we decreased the annual property assessment by \$15.00 to \$75.00. KLID has been supporting KHLA access monitoring by contributing \$3,000 toward the effort. KLID, at its spring board meeting, decided to recommend an increase in the previously approved 2016 budget for access monitoring by \$1,000 (to \$4,000) and to further increase it by another \$1,000 to \$5,000 in 2017. We are essentially recommending that we re-invest the entire unanticipated CWC support into access monitoring. CWC will support our efforts with 450 hours of county paid access monitoring and KHLA will attempt to match the dollars committed by KLID.

The KLID board has come to the conclusion that this is the responsible thing to do. It bothers us that some lake associations whose lakes are infested with invasive species do very little to prevent the transport of invasive plants and animals to neighboring lakes. We must all stand up and work to slow the spread of invasive plants and animals until a resolution is found.

Our 2017 budget requires us to increase the annual assessment to \$90.00. The 2017 budget shows income of \$14,000 with expenses of \$15,010. This budget leaves KLID with a \$1,010 more in expenses than revenue. We do have the reserves to support the budgeted loss. If planned expenses prove to be true we may need to increase the assessment next year, as we believe we have a fiduciary duty to try to run a balanced budget and keep reserves at 2 times our expected expenses.

This summer, in cooperation with CWC, we will again be testing Kimble Lake for Zebra Mussel veligers. The testing is accomplished by pulling a special net behind a fishing boat. A sample is collected and then delivered to a laboratory that will test for the larve. If veligers are present we will work with CWC and MN DNR to develop a plan, find and treat any adult infestations. There has been some reported success at other lakes in getting ahead of the explosive growth of this invasive species. **We hope to again report that there are no veligers present.**

Please make sure all who provide lake services to your home have been trained and certified by the MN DNR. There is no need to compromise the quality of our lake because someone has been too busy to receive the training. If you purchased a boatlift, float or associated equipment that has been in use in another lake, by law it must not be placed in Kimble Lake until 21 days have passed.

Please make sure your friends and family follow laws established to protect our lake against invasive species as they bring their watercraft to Kimble Lake. Please ASK them before they unload their watercraft.

I am in my second year of my term as President of KLID. Davee Olson, Vice President and Gary Schwartz, Treasurer, are in the first year of their board terms. Ellen Miller, Secretary is in the final year of her board term. Ellen has agreed to stand for re-election. Steve Erickson is in the second year of his term as is board member Dick Bredehoft. Jack Larsen is in the first year of his board term. Larry Knutson and Rick Beyer are in the final year of their board term. Rick has moved off the lake and Larry Knutson has decided to step down. We thank Larry and Rick for their many years of valuable and thoughtful contributions to KLID. We are excited to have two new members joining the KLID board. They are Nels Johnson and Mike O'Neil. Please thank current and past LID board members for all they have done for Kimble Lake. Our success in fighting EWM didn't just happen by itself.

If you would like to be part of the LID board and help guide future Kimble Lake AIS risk management, please let one of the board members know.

Do not short cut Kimble Lake. Please check your septic systems to make sure they are in compliance and be especially mindful of what you put on your lawn and of changes you make to your shoreline. Please do all you can to keep Kimble Lake clean and pristine.

Have a wonderful summer.

Tom Hansen - Kimble Lake Improvement District, President
tomhansen@comcast.net 612-325-9676