

KIMBLE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S 2017 REPORT

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL

2016 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 summer 2016, Central Minnesota Aquatic's, Inc. completed five full lake surveys. EWM was found in three locations and it was promptly treated. 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.

ZEBRA MUSSELS

Unfortunately, we must report that we have found evidence of a Zebra mussel presence. In November, five Zebra mussels were found in three distinctly different locations. The Zebra mussels were all found on recently removed lake equipment. One of our major concerns is that the Zebra mussels were of all sizes, infant to adult. This most likely means they have been in Kimble waters for several years. This coupled with the geographic dispersion most likely leaves us without treatment options.

In early May, the DNR spent a half a day on the lake searching for the home base of these Zebra mussels without any success. The water temperature is still too cold for divers to search, so any further search has been delayed until June when we will continue our search for the source of the infestation. Treatment options may be limited but we have high hopes that the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Research Center at the University of Minnesota will provide some hope for eradication at an affordable cost within a few years.

ACCESS MONITORING

Over the past several summers KLID has been supporting the efforts of Kimble Lake Homeowners Association (KLHA) to monitor incoming and outgoing watercraft traffic at the public access. Many people will now question the need to continue this effort now that we have Zebra mussels in Kimble Lake. Watercrafts are inspected in hopes of keeping our lake free from numerous other AIS, some of which present a far greater problem than Zebra mussels. We also have a duty to help prevent the spread of AIS from Kimble waters to other Minnesota lakes.

Three years ago Crow Wing County (CWC) started to provide \$5,000 annually in unanticipated support to KLID for the purposes of finding and eradicating EWM. KLID supported KLHA access monitoring by contributing \$4,000 toward the effort in 2016. The KLID Board has approved a 2017 and 2018 budget that provides access-monitoring support

of \$5,000. We are essentially recommending that we re-invest the entire unanticipated CWC support into access monitoring. CWC will additionally support our efforts with 450 hours of county paid access monitoring along with KHLA attempting to match the dollars, committed by KLID, through donations from property owners.

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 AIS to neighboring lakes. We must all stand up and work to slow the spread of AIS until a resolution is found.

Immediately following the annual meeting of Kimble Lake Improvement District, Megan Weber from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Research Center will share her knowledge on Zebra mussels with us. I encourage you to attend to learn what is being done at the University of Minnesota to fight AIS.

2018 BUDGET AND PROPOSED ASSESSMENT

The 2018 budget requires us to increase the annual assessment to \$115.00. The 2017 budget shows income of \$16,500 with expenses of \$16,510. This budget leaves KLID with \$10 more in expenses than revenue. \$93.60 of the \$115 is directly used to find and treat EWM, \$16.50 covers the cost of insurance, Crow Wing County expenses, printing and postage. The remainder \$5.00 pays for the toilet at the access. The budget and the assessment are in line with our fiduciary duty to try to run a balanced budget and keep reserves at 2 times our expected expenses.

YOUR KLID BOARD

I am in the final year of my term as President of KLID. Davee Olson, Vice President, Gary Schwartz, Treasurer and Jack Larsen, Secretary are in the second year of their board terms. Ellen Miller, Mike O'Neil and Nels Johnson are in the second year of their terms. Steve Erickson and Dick Bredehoft are at the end of their three-year term and they together with me are standing for re-election. 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.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

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.

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. We all need to make sure you do not apply excessive fertilizer to our yards. Much of it ends up in Kimble Lake and encourages weed growth. 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