

December 2021 AIS update

After a beautiful spring, summer, and fall, the Lake District Commissioners are looking forward to a beautiful winter filled with progress for the Lake District.

THANK YOU FOR THE TREMENDOUS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE at the Annual meeting on August 21, 2021.

After some question and discussion, the property owners present voted 72 (yes), 1 (no), 1 (abstained) to approve the budget that was presented. The budget was created with input from the Response Team that has been working very diligently for the last several years to access the latest research, funding sources, and consultants available to manage invasive species. The current most invasive species in Crescent Lake is EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil). The members of this team are Chairman, Terry Goldbach, and members, Jim Gehrke, Cindy Hermel, Steve LaPorte, Dick Lower, Darrel Mack, Dennis Southworth, and Harvey Wolff.

In addition to that team, the District tapped the resources of the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Committee, the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Association,, and the Crescent Lake Management Plan that was written by the Crescent Lake Association Committee of Cindy Hermel, chairperson, and Maria Rudesill and Rosy Page.

Also at the annual meeting the first Crescent Lake Board of Commissioners was announced. Two of the members had been appointed before the meeting. They are Bob Thome - appointed by the Oneida County Board of Directors, and Maria Rudesill - appointed by the Crescent Township Board of Directors. The three additional commissioners elected by the property owners are Jim Gehrke (1 year term), Jim Ketterson 2 year term), and Tim Kilgore (3 year term). Those of you that wish to see the minutes of the Crescent Lake District Annual meeting can see a draft on the District's website, crescentlakedistrict-Wix.com

Other action taken by the Board of Commissioners since the annual meeting include the transfer of AIS related roles and responsibilities and DASH boat ownership. These actions took place at two meetings. (All meetings of the District must be/and were, posted in two locations which are at the Crescent Town Hall and the Oneida County Court House. A third posting is also placed at the Crescent Town Shop. All notices of meetings may also be seen at the website as a convenience.)

Through the formal process required by state statute the District has:

1. Requested and received approval of the transfer of the remaining grant funds that were originally awarded to the Lake Association so that the District can continue the action plan described in the grants.
2. Requested and received the approval of the transfer of the DASH boat to the District so it can assume all related use and continue the EWM removal process that was done by the Association in the past.
3. Other action of the District has involved meeting with County committees and staff in order to comply with standards related to establishing a bank account and meeting tax and property information regulations.

On November 29, the Response Team met and reviewed data provided by Whitewater Associates, a consulting firm that has been surveying the lake in preparation to advising us how to proceed with the EWM removal. To learn more about them google Whitewater Associates Inc. That data was compared with data compiled by Team members throughout the summer and fall. A meeting is scheduled with the DNR to also review the information that is most recent and will be used to plan for next year, and future years of AIS activities. The

Response Team is suggesting treatment of 53 acres of EWM next summer. The District Commissioners and the DNR will have to approve whatever is done.

The Lake District and the Lake Association Boards both want to emphasize that continued ASSISTANCE BY VOLUNTEERS IS CRITICAL TO OUR SUCCESS as effective stewards of Crescent Lake.

Here is how you can help:

- ★ Inspect boats at the landing. Clean Boat/Clean Waters inspections will continue. If you have inspected in the past, or if you are able to help in the future, we need you. There will be a training session in the spring. You are not assigned a shift, you choose when you can work. Materials are at the landing that you can distribute to boaters. Boaters are interested and want to know more about Crescent Lake and all invasive species. There are species that we do not have yet that we can prevent through education. We also can provide information about areas of our lake that should be avoided in order to work with us to assist in our prevention/mitigation efforts. We need volunteer hours to “repay” the DNR for grant funds. Contact Cindy Hermel at clhermel@hotmail.com
- ★ Monitor lakeshore. This is a very effective way to remove EWM before it becomes so tall and thick that it impedes the use of the lake. You can volunteer to remove it on your property and several other portions of the lakeshore if you want to. Wade, kayak, or paddle board, or use a motorized boat to search for EWM to pull. Again, there will be a training and you can work according to your own time to do it. Wendy Goldbach will be making more announcements about this program. Her phone number is 715 490 2954. Call to volunteer.
- ★ Sign up to work on the DASH boat. We need three kinds of workers for this containment effort. **SCUBA divers** If you are a certified diver, we need you. Pay will be \$30.00 per hour and you can work as few as 3 hours, or as many as you like per week. Training will be provided for all divers. If you are not a diver, but if you know of someone, or have information about someone that can be contacted about working for us, let Jim Gehrke know 715 360 3993. **DASH Boat driver**. We need at least one more boat driver. You will not have to commit to any one day of the week, or to every week of the summer, but we want to schedule drivers ahead of time so that we are sure we have one before we schedule divers. Call 715 360 3993 now if you are willing to help. **Baggers**. This work is done while the boat is operating. These people are on the boat and they make sure that the vegetation that is fed into the suction tube gets moved into the bags and when the bag is full, move it aside and attach a new bag. Shifts are three hours and you can pick the days that you want to work. You can be trained on the first day that you choose to work. Call 715 360 3993.

Crescent Lake District has scheduled three more board meetings. Regular meetings are scheduled for January 4, April 4, July 5. The 2022 Annual meeting is currently scheduled for August 20, 2022.

Plans are in progress to make the Lake District website a “link” on the Lake Association website, and the Lake Association a “link” on the Lake District website. Please keep up with the news and meeting notices on one, or both of them.

Submitted by Jim Gehrke