

June 21, 2023

Dear Crescent Lake Neighbors,

We are writing to provide a mid-summer update from the Crescent Lake District. First, we hope you are enjoying the lake in 2023 and are looking forward to a great Fourth of July celebration. The Crescent Lake Association has a fun Independence Day planned with its annual boat parade and fireworks display. Additional details are on its website at [www.crescentlakewi.org](http://www.crescentlakewi.org).

Now for news from the Crescent Lake District. Our efforts to control the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) over the past two years have been highly successful. In fact, in the fall of 2022, our lake survey indicated little to no EWM in any part of the lake except for the area near the highway boat landing. As a result, we sought and received a conditional permit for spring 2023 treatment of approximately 19 acres near the boat landing. This permit was conditional upon an EWM Meander Survey, which White Water Associates completed in May 2023. This survey confirmed the presence of EWM in the boat landing area of the lake. The response team submitted the survey results (map attached) to the DNR, and arrangements were made to treat the designated area. However, to the great surprise of the response team, just days before the planned treatment, notice was received that the DNR was withdrawing the conditional permit and would not allow the treatment plan to progress. This was a stunning and disappointing decision from the DNR. It remains unclear of the DNR's decision basis, but there is apparently a differing opinion between local and Madison-based DNR representatives on the need for treatment and the potential impact on native walleye fingerlings. The Response Team shared its disappointment and concern with the decision, however; the DNR was unwilling to reverse its decision.

In the opinion of the response team and the CLD Board, this puts Crescent Lake at great risk of losing the successful years of gain made in the control of EWM. By allowing the EWM to continue growing in the boat landing area, we risk having EWM plants chopped by boat traffic, drifting to other lake areas, and regaining growth. Let's hope our worry is overly pessimistic. To be proactive, we contracted for three days of hand pulling by scuba / DASH boat diver service from Aquatic Plant Management. They were on the lake in the landing area this past Monday and Tuesday, June 19-20, plus one additional day that will happen soon. The cost for this dive service is \$7,844, which we have funds for. This decision by the DNR was an important reminder that the DNR has ultimate authority over any chemical treatment program.

The next Crescent Lake District Board meeting is Thursday, July 6, at the Crescent Lake Town Hall. You are welcome to attend. We strongly encourage your attendance at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 19, at 9:00 am at the same location. At this important Annual Meeting, we will discuss our EWM plan for 2024 and beyond, request your approval for our 2024 budget, and elect a District Commissioner. Please try to attend.

I am sorry to share the disappointing news on the 2023 treatment plan before the holiday, but we felt it was important to be fully transparent with our update on the 2023 EWM control program. As always, please try to properly remove any EWM you see, volunteer for landing inspections, and keep your boats away from the shoreline, especially in the EWM area described above.

Have a Happy Fourth of July at Crescent Lake.

Tim Kilgore – Chairman, Crescent Lake District  
Terry Goldbach – Response Team Leader

Attachment: EWM Meander Survey Map May 2023

# Crescent Lake - Polygon 1 EWM Meander Survey

May 2023

