

LAKE MINNIE BELLE MESSENGER

A Newsletter from the Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association

Fall 2022

Chairman's Corner

by Kristin Jaquith, *Lake Association Board Chairwoman*

Welcome Winter!

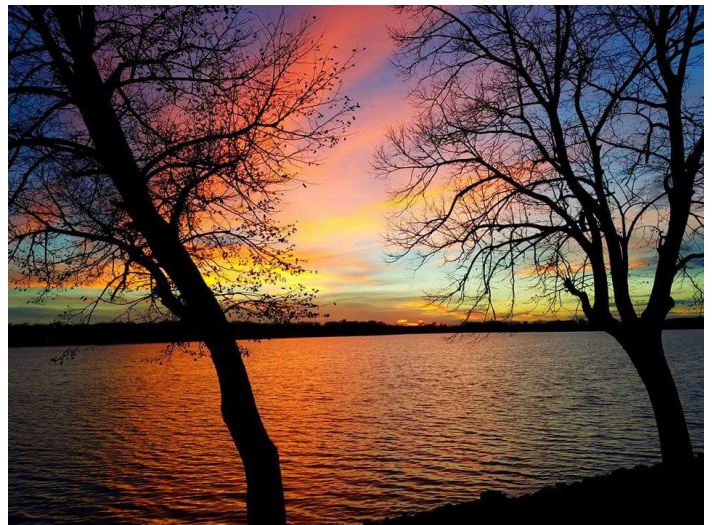
We have had so many cool days ice is forming on the lake. In 2022 we have had NO new reported AIS. The Zebra Mussels have made themselves known, most if not all of us have seen them on our lifts & docks. Comparative to other lakes in the area, we are not seeing as bad of an infestation as of yet. We continue to monitor solutions/treatments for Zebra mussels, but there is no known source yet. We are still seeing low lake levels due to the drought. Part of this is causing us to see more weeds, and weed growth. This summer we took an aggressive approach to weed treatment. I have included a report on that treatment in the newsletter. It is important to note, we are treating for Eurasian Water Milfoil. While we are getting rid of that, we will see native plants take its place.

Weeds are a nuisance, but a variety of native plants is a sign of a good Eco system. This year we were awarded two grants for AIS treatment. One from the DNR and one from Meeker county. With matching fund from our association these help us pay for our treatment of Milfoil. We have a few new members on our Board this year. We welcome fresh eyes and contributions to our Lake association.

Many hand make light work. We appreciate your support and look forward to continuing our mission that strives to preserve and protect Lake Minnie Belle and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, aesthetic values, and surrounding areas.

Looking forward:

Watch for your
Membership Forms
to come out in
January 2023.



Lake Minniebelle Annual Meeting

July 16th, 2022. Our annual meeting was held at Beckville Church grounds on Lake Minniebelle. Last year's minutes were approved after a discussion on AIS fund transfer.

Our guest for the meeting was Arianna Rihardson She oversees grant proposals in Meeker County and our AIS inspections She gave members information on the work she is seeing being done on our lake. Procellecor is being used as a new treatment to kill millfoil with good success.. He also said there has been a low number of decon cleaning of boats entering the lake.

Questions that were asked of Arianna included use of other accesses around the lake , our inspection hours and league fishing controls.

There was a short informational summary on the zebra mussels in our lake. We have them and as of now will continue to monitor them in our lake. The state has no treatment for them as of now.

Don Kotila talked about our lake treatment of AIS. Clark is the company we have used for surveying and treatment of AIS. At the meeting the board was considering a proposal to treat the entire lake this year.

Robert Krueger updated our work on the MBO9 grant. This is a proposal to create a buffer zone on the south side of our lake to prevent runoff into the lake. We are making a buffer zone with CRP land to do this and it will be finished in the spring of 2023.

Board elections were held and new members added were Brian Kittleson, Jake Johnson and Curt Wendland. The meeting was adjourned.

Directory

We want to thank ALL members for supporting our Association, without your continued support, we would not be able to do the work we do. Our 2022 Directory had a few misprints and a some members noted as non members. We are so appreciative of the support of our memberships, and thank all of you for your donations of time talent and gift.

The following were mis marked in the Directory:

Veneta Anderson
Leonard & LeAnn Booth
Malene & Jerry Carlson
Bruce & Sharon Dicke
Kurt & Cindy Egertson
Bob & Susan Foley
Mark & Andrea Jensen
Steve & Dawn Lagergren

Wendy Norine
Dick & Roxy Penk
Chuck & Judy Raske
Larry & Mary Rewerts
Bob & Cindy Snegosky
Mary & Matt Sokol
Seth & Kristin Teply
Bob & Laurie Wendorff

Zebra Mussel Protocol



Zebra mussels are small animals with a striped, D-shaped shell composed of two hinged valves joined by a ligament. The shells are typically one-quarter inch to one and one-half inches long, depending on age, with alternating yellow and brownish colored stripes. Adults are typically fingernail-sized. Zebra mussels attach to hard surfaces underwater.

Invasive species such as Zebra mussels cause recreational, economic, and ecological damage—changing how residents and visitors use and enjoy Minnesota waters.

Whether or not a lake is listed as infested, Minnesota law requires water recreationists to:

- **Clean** watercraft of all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species. (after exiting and before entering the lake)

- o This includes anchor ropes, trailer bunks, transducers/brackets, anywhere invasive species can collect
- **Drain** all water (out of reach to the lake) by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.
 - o This includes ballast containments, livewells, and bilge.
 - o Lower the motor and let drain
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- **Dry** docks, lifts, swim rafts and other equipment for at least 21 days before placing equipment into another water body.

Lake Minnie Belle does have Zebra mussels. You will notice them on your docks, lifts, wheels, any structure below the surface of the water. Use caution when working on or around these items as the mussels will be attached and could be a hazard if touched or brushed against.

Lakes Washington and Stella in Meeker County are also listed in the DNR website as having Zebra Mussels.

Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association will no longer monitor the lake for zebra mussel infestation. The link below is a fact sheet on Zebra Mussels,

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/fact_sheet-zebra_mussels.pdf

**Lake Minnie Belle, Meeker County, Minnesota
Aquatic Invasive Species Management
2023 + 2024 Estimated Costs**



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October 2022

(continued)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association (the Association) has been contracted with Clarke Aquatic Services, Inc. (Clarke) for several years to manage Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) on Lake Minnie Belle. The primary species of concern have been Curlyleaf pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM).

Three aquatic plant surveys are performed on the lake, first soon after ice out to identify CLP locations and densities/coverage for management planning. One late spring to early summer to determine efficacy of management activities on CLP as well as to locate EWM for summer management of it, and then once again late summer-early fall to evaluate EWM management activities.

In 2021 just 3.5 acres of CLP was managed with Aquathol K (liquid endothall) and in 2022 no treatment was recommended. As it relates to EWM, management strategy changed from the use of liquid 2,4-D to ProcellaCOR EC (liquid florasulam) in 2021 with successful control in recommended sites. The Association chose to pursue additional management sites using ProcellaCOR EC in 2022 including all sites EWM was identified except for a small area located on Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) property where treatment was denied. This management strategy required an approved variance from MDNR as it exceeded the 15% littoral zone threshold allowing for 41.2 acres of EWM to be managed on Lake Minnie Belle. These sites are accompanied by an Extended Control Contract (ECC) made between SePRO Corporation (SePRO), the manufacturer of ProcellaCOR EC and Clarke (Minnesota ProCertified ProcellaCOR Specialist) supporting control of EWM in managed sites for 3 years. The 2022 EWM management project with ProcellaCOR exceeded the Association's 2022 budget and therefore Clarke was able to offer a payment plan to the Association via Distributor and SePRO which will be paid over 3 seasons allowing the Association to target as much EWM in Lake Minnie Belle as permitted in 2022.

The Association requested a cost estimate over the next two years. There is an "auto-renewal" contract in place which will cap price increases at 5%. The ProcellaCOR EC applied in 2022 will remain at the 2021 pricing for payments in 2022 and 2023, and all other pricing has a 5% increase for budgeting purposes in 2022 and again in 2023. A letter in the new year will go out with pricing for that season, below includes the maximum. Also below is an example site for CLP to be managed with Aquathol K as well as a site with ProcellaCOR EC should a new infestation be managed (MDNR property for example) in the coming seasons.

2023 + 2024 ESTIMATED PRICING

Below assumes a 5% increase on costs outside of the already agreed upon pricing for the 2022 ProcellaCOR EC project, this is the highest those costs would increase per the auto-renewal agreement barring any unforeseen circumstances. Following the estimated costs are some sample scenarios for budget planning purposes, these are just examples – survey work will determine recommended management sites to be approved by the Association and MDNR.

Program Costs + Mobilization

Including all survey work, mapping, recommendations, and deliverables. Permit applications, treatment area posting, meetings, mobilization, and all other deliverables within agreed upon services.

- **2023: \$2,546.25***
- **2024: \$2,546.25***

Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) Management

Control of identified and approved CLP Management Areas using Aquathol K.

- **2023:**
 - Application: \$131.25*/Acre
 - Aquathol K: \$93.38*/Gallon
- **2024:**
 - Application: \$137.81*/Acre
 - Aquathol K: \$98.05*/Gallon

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) Management

Control of identified and approved EWM Management Areas using ProcellaCOR EC.

- **2023: Second Payment for 2022 ProcellaCOR EC: 382 PDU x \$51.00 = \$19,482.00***
New EWM Sites 2023:
 - Application: \$131.25*/Acre
 - ProcellaCOR EC: \$53.55*/PDU
- **2024: Third Payment for 2022 ProcellaCOR EC: 382 PDU x \$51.00 = \$19,482.00***
New EWM Sites 2024:
 - Application: \$137.81*/Acre
 - ProcellaCOR EC: \$56.23*/PDU

2023 Sample Budget

Scenario: 5 acres of CLP found, no new infestations of EWM to manage.

2023 LAKE MINNIE BELLE SAMPLE CLP Management Sites/Strategy/Cost				AQUATHOL K (endothall)			APPLICATION		HERBICIDES		TOTAL
CLP SITES	SURFACE ACRES	DEPTH ESTIMATE	WATER VOLUME	RATE PPM	GALLONS PER ACRE	TOTAL GALLONS	APPLICATION COST PER ACRE	APPLICATION COST PER SITE	HERBICIDE COST PER ACRE	HERBICIDE COST PER SITE	APPLICATION + HERBICIDE
A-23	5.0	6.0	30.0	1.5	5.8	28.9	\$131.25	\$656.25	\$424.87	\$2,697.75	\$3,354.00

- ProcellaCOR EC Payment from 2022 Management: \$19,482.00*
- Program + Mobilization: \$2,546.25*
- CLP Application: \$131.25*/acre x 5.0 acres: \$656.25
- Aquathol K: \$93.38/gallon x 28.9 gallons: \$2,697.75*

2023 TOTAL: \$26,508.36*

2024 Sample Budget

Scenario: 5 acres of CLP found + 5 acres of EWM (not in 2021 or 2022 EWM managed sites).

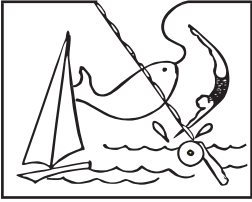
2024 LAKE MINNIE BELLE SAMPLE CLP Management Sites/Strategy/Cost				AQUATHOL K (endothall)			APPLICATION		HERBICIDES		TOTAL
CLP SITES	SURFACE ACRES	DEPTH ESTIMATE	WATER VOLUME	RATE PPM	GALLONS PER ACRE	TOTAL GALLONS	APPLICATION COST PER ACRE	APPLICATION COST PER SITE	HERBICIDE COST PER ACRE	HERBICIDE COST PER SITE	APPLICATION + HERBICIDE
A-24	5.0	6.0	30.0	1.5	5.8	28.9	\$137.81	\$689.05	\$424.87	\$2,832.66	\$3,521.71

2024 LAKE MINNIE BELLE SAMPLE EWM Management Sites/Strategy/Cost				PROCELLACOR EC (florpyrauxifen-benzyl)			APPLICATION		HERBICIDES		TOTAL
EWM SITES	SURFACE ACRES	DEPTH ESTIMATE	WATER VOLUME	RATE PDU	PDU PER ACRE	TOTAL PDU	APPLICATION COST PER ACRE	APPLICATION COST PER SITE	HERBICIDE COST PER ACRE	HERBICIDE COST PER SITE	APPLICATION + HERBICIDE
A-24	5.0	6.0	30.0	4.0	24.0	120.0	\$137.81	\$689.05	\$1,349.52	\$6,747.60	\$7,436.65

- ProcellaCOR EC Payment from 2022 Management: \$19,482.00*
- Program + Mobilization: \$2,673.56*
- CLP Application: \$137.81*/acre x 5.0 acres: \$689.05*
- Aquathol K: \$98.05*/gallon x 28.9 gallons: \$2,832.66*
- EWM Application: \$137.81*/acre x 5.0 acres: \$689.05*
- ProcellaCOR EC: \$56.23*/PDU: \$6,747.60*

2024 TOTAL: \$33,113.92*

Lake Minnie Belle, Meeker County, Minnesota
2023 + 204 AIS Management



LAKE MINNIE BELLE
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
PO Box 34, Litchfield, MN, 55355

Check Us Out!

LMBIA website:
www.lakeminniebelle.org (under construction)

LMBIA on facebook:
www.facebook.com/lmbia

LMBIA Email:
info@lakeminniebelle.org

DNR website:
www.dnr.state.mn.us

LAKE MINNIE BELLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month, either via web or TBD space.
Announcements posted via Facebook.

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