

Meeting Notes:

Call to Action Meeting – **Eurasian Watermilfoil Focus Group** - 2010-12-09

Naughton Community Centre

Present: **Simon Lake**- Perry Sarvas, Linda Heron (also **Vermillion R.**), Pat Scott, John Perhoff, Jessica Tann, Lesley Flowers, **McFarlane Lake** - Lin Gibson, David Young, regrets Don Gibson, **St. Charles Lake** – Andy Brunet, Dave Hodge, Bob Hay, **Richard Lake**- Alex Cieslewicz, Brian Wills, Brenda Polano, **Raft Lake** – Reg Kusnierczyk, **Ramsey Lake** – regrets Lilly Noble.

1. Review of Water Gathering: The content of the presentations of the three speakers was reviewed. Comments from the group noted that the Kawartha Lakes are better but there is still a milfoil problem that Minnow Lake was harvested and the EWM is not as bad, some noted that some of the references and examples in Gord Millers address were dated. There was consensus that that harvesting was not an attractive method of control. The example of Clear Lake in Espanola was reviewed stating that they had at least a 50% reduction in EWM using weevils. Concern over loss in lake front property value was raised. There is at least an 18% drop in value once EWM is established in front of any ones property.
2. Alternatives for Eurasian Watermilfoil control – Discussion of use of impermeable barriers, rototilling, and drawdown of water levels in winter and herbicides. The group did not like the idea of herbicides being added to the lakes but would like more information.
ACTION ITEM: Lin Gibson will ask John Nagascenti about Dyquat and other herbicides and she will also ask John Gunn about herbicides. (The Trent System uses Dyquat.)
CONSENSUS REACHED- Weevils appear to be the best method of EWM abatement and the group will pursue this method.
3. Invasive Species Funding Program: This is a recently announced federal funding program with an application due date of 2010-12-20! This grant could pay up to 50 % of costs of a project. Stephen Butcher read it carefully and says the criterion appear rather loose. After some discussion it was decided to apply on behalf of the following lakes: **Simon, Richard, McFarlane, Long, Grant, St. Charles, Middle and Hannah.** Although it was noted that Ramsey has some EWM it was thought that the Source Water Protection Act might cause some difficulty with the project.
ACTION ITEM: Stephen Butcher, Dave Hodge and Alex Cieslewicz or someone else from Richard Lake will meet on Monday Dec. 13, 2010 to prepare the application. It will be sent to Marty Hilovsky to fill in technical data and an estimate of costs and then sent in as written by this sub-group.
4. **Next Steps:** Prepare to present a Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Project to City Council so that funding can be provided. This project will not be presented as a pilot program in one lake. It will involve all 8 lakes listed above.
 - Gather Support materials: in the form of performance reports and testimonials from the Town of Espanola.
ACTION ITEM: Stephen Butcher will contact the town of Espanola for reports. Alex Cieslewicz will contact Marty Hilovsky re EnviroScience’s report for Clear Lake.
 - Apply for Invasive Species Funding as above.

- Prevention and Education Program: Federation of Anglers and Hunters will provide free signage for boat launch sites upon request.
ACTION ITEM: Each stewardship group will commit to making people aware of boat cleaning and other methods of preventing the spread of invasive water species. It is recognized that each lake will have unique approaches.
 - Approach individual Councillors such as Jacques Barbeau, Joe Cimino , Doug Craig and Frances Calderelli regarding the possibility of funding EWM abatement program.
ACTION ITEM: Once Perry Sarvas has a fair idea of the cost of the project he will contact the councillors. (Jacques Barbeau and Joe Cimino will be the councillors on the Lake Quality Advisory Panel.)
5. Affiliation with GSWA. After discussion, CONSENSUS was reached and the Eurasian Watermilfoil Focus Group will be affiliated with the GSWA as sharing common membership and common goals. The organization will be loose and not be organized as a sub-committee with formal reporting requirements to the GSWA.
 6. Other: Postings for citizen members of the Lake Quality Advisory Panel are coming out. Lin Gibson encouraged everyone to apply. (See the city website and /or the newspapers.)
 7. Next meeting: **THURSDAY JANUARY 6, 2011 AT NAUGHTON COMMUNITY CENTRE –SENIORS ROOM 7:00PM.**

By Lesley Flowers, Secretary, Simon Lake Community Stewardship Group