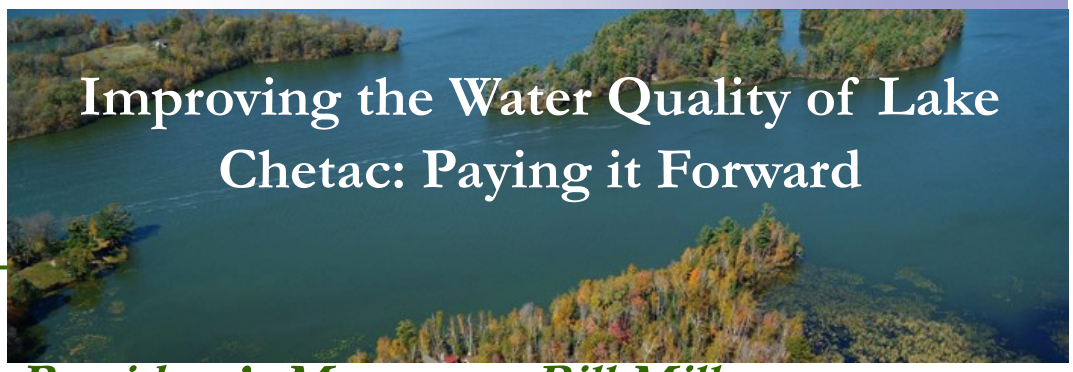
Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association

Spring 2016



Improving the Water Quality of Lake Chetac: Paying it Forward

Inside this issue:

President's Message – Bill Miller

2016 is shaping up to be another great year for Lake Chetac. While the weather of spring has seen its extremes from cold to warm, the board of the Lake Association has been working very diligently behind the scenes to continue its efforts to improve the water quality of our lake and protect the tremendous fishery we have. We are not planning to have our first open board meeting this year until June, which will be our annual meeting. However, the board has met already and been regularly communicating to complete our plans for 2016 and beyond. Since our fall 2015 newsletter was sent out in November a great deal has transpired.

The DNR's technical review committee issued their recommendations. They are in line with what was discussed as possible outcomes in our fall newsletter. In addition, the majority of our board members met with a group from the Wisconsin DNR out of Spooner in late February to discuss the best way to go about improving the water quality of our lake. That meeting was extremely productive and this newsletter will highlight what was discussed and decided upon as a result of that meeting.

The progress we have made in the last three years is fantastic and we could not be more pleased with the results of our work to date. However, not everyone is pleased with the work we have been doing. As everyone is (or should be) aware, a small group of people including the board members from the Village of Birchwood and the Township of Edgewater have opposed the use of herbicides (Aquathol K) to control CLP since we were awarded the grant back in 2013. The Lake Association board would like to see if we can find some common ground with these individuals during 2016.

As an act of goodwill toward the town and village board members the board of the Association has elected not to do an herbicide treatment this year. To that end, we have hired a consultant (Dave Blumer of Lake Education and Planning Services) to help find that common ground and to complete our revision of the 2010 lake management plan. In addition, we have hired a consultant to complete an economic impact study of the cost to the community of having poor water quality like ours. Finally, we will still have the same plant studies completed (early and late season) as we have over the last three years. That will provide us with insight as to the overall success of our three years of treatment, and the ramifications of not treating this year. All of these things are discussed in greater detail in this edition of our newsletter.

As discussed in past newsletters and on our website, my tenure as President of the Association ends with the election of a new President at our official annual meeting in June. I agreed to stay on one additional year, at last year's annual meeting, as no one else stepped up to take on the role. Mark Robinson, one of our current board members, is willing to take on the role of President come June. However, he would like to see others run for this position as well. Please read the article on the last page of the newsletter in regard to paying it forward. I hope everyone has an incredible summer, and I hope to see you around the lake.

Water Quality Goals Revisited

Big Chetac is a green lake. It will always be a green lake. The green in the lake is algae. Some algae is good and some is bad. Big Chetac has both good and bad algae. Blue Green Algae is bad and the overall goal of all our water quality initiatives is to reduce the number of days each year the lake experiences toxic Blue-Green Algae Blooms.

The algae in our lake is there because we have too much phosphorous in the lake. To reduce the quantity of algae in the lake, we need to reduce the level of phosphorous. By reducing the level of phosphorous we will reduce the number of days we experience the blooms. The two primary sources of the phosphorous are the lake sediment (69%) and the CLP (15%). To improve water quality requires addressing both the lakes sediment and the CLP. By doing so we will improve water clarity, reduce blue green algae blooms and improve overall water quality. It is that simple: the lake will remain green (just less so), will remain an incredible fishery, will remain a scenic and quiet place to live and enjoy for future generations to come. However, it will be a safer place to do all those things.

DNR TECHNICAL TEAM RECOMENDATIONS

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
810 W. Maple Street
Spooner WI 54801

Scott Walker, Governor
Cathy Stepp, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711

January 7, 2016

William Miller
Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association
1668N Sunset Beach Dr.
Birchwood, WI 54817

Subject: DNR Lakes Technical Team Review of Lake Chetac Management Plan Activities

Dear Mr. Miller,

The Wisconsin DNR Lakes Technical Team (Tech Team) met on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 to review the technical merits of the draft Lake Chetac Management Plan. The Tech Team also reviewed the herbicide and aquatic plant monitoring data from the North Bay Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) control project since the Tech Team recommended that project in 2010. The September 10, 2010 Tech Team letter recommended that the CLP herbicide control project be on a smaller scale to provide information on the ability to control CLP and evaluate native plant responses. The key points of our evaluation and discussion are below.

Lake Management Plan

- Goal 1 of the Lake Management Plan currently states "Reduce the number of days the lake experiences severe algae blooms (days with P of >30 ug/L)." Consider re-wording this goal to "Reduce annual summer mean TP concentration to XX ug/L" or "Increase summer mean secchi depths to X feet." Annual means are easier to quantify than daily concentrations.
- Consider promoting and implementing shoreline Best Management Practices like buffers, rain gardens, and fish sticks to reduce nutrient runoff and increase shoreline habitat. DNR Lake Protection Grants are available to help fund many of these projects and DNR staff are willing to provide technical support for these projects.
- Many of the activities in the Plan will require detailed monitoring programs to assess the projects. Please work with DNR staff to develop specific monitoring strategies for each of the projects.

Herbicide Treatment

- The herbicide treatments have been effective at reducing CLP within the North Bay.
- While the 2013 herbicide treatment in the North Bay effectively controlled CLP, the higher herbicide concentration of the 2013 treatment also caused a reduction of two native plants Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) and Small Pondweed (*Potamogeton pusillus*). The plant monitoring data show that those two native plants have not yet recovered as of 2015, even with reduced herbicide concentrations for the 2014 and 2015 treatments.
- Poor water clarity is likely a bigger barrier for native plant growth than competition from CLP. The native plant data from Fred Thomas Bay accentuates this point. Following the 2013 herbicide treatment, Small Pondweed was present at 33% and Flat-stem pondweed was present 26% of the monitoring points in Fred Thomas Bay; both species increased post-treatment compared to 2013 pre-treatment data. However, both of the plants species were absent during the pre and post treatment plant surveys in 2014. It is likely that the deep snow during the 2013-2014 winter, shaded and killed these plants. Late ice out that spring may have been a factor as well. In 2015, Flat-stem pondweed was still absent, and Small pondweed was present at 2 points pre-treatment and 1 point post-treatment. The Tech Team suspects that

DNR TECHNICAL TEAM RECOMENDATIONS

poor water clarity in the lake prevents native plants from recovering from a disturbance. Therefore, the Tech Team does not support herbicide treatments in new areas of the lake until native plants increase significantly within the North Bay treatment area or the lake water clarity improves significantly.

- At this time, the Tech Team does not support an herbicide treatment of Bed 4 as described in the draft Lake Management Plan. Consider working with the Department to develop a dye study for Bed 4 prior to applying for a permit to treat Bed 4 with herbicide. The study would use dye as a surrogate for herbicide to determine if a treatment would provide adequate herbicide contact time for effective CLP control, if the dye moves into the wild rice beds, and if the dye leaves the lake via the outlet.
- Individual riparian treatments are not an effective way to manage CLP. The manufacturer of Aquathol K does not recommend treating areas less than 5 acres in size as the herbicide is likely to dissipate off site quickly and have reduced efficacy. Please remove individual treatments from the plan as an option and incorporate smaller navigation issues into larger, comprehensive CLP management zones.

Alum Treatment

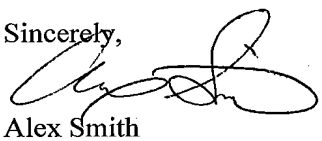
- The Tech Team supports the Alum treatment proposal for the North basin as written in William James' Alum Dosage Report. Modeling results show that an Alum treatment can dramatically decrease in-lake phosphorus concentrations and increase water clarity. This would mean a decrease in the frequency of toxic blue-green algae blooms and promote native aquatic plant growth.
    - It is important to note that chlorophyll a concentrations (measure of algae in the water) in Lake Chetac exceed 50 ug/L each summer. According to the World Health Organization, waters with chlorophyll a concentrations that exceed 50 ug/L exhibit a High probability of adverse human health effects due to blue-green algae toxins.
- Future CLP management may be necessary within the North Basin to control CLP populations and the phosphorus they contribute to the lake in order to prolong the results of an Alum treatment.

Alternative CLP control options

- The Tech Team supports the Lake Association's decision to not pursue CLP harvesting at this time for long-term CLP control. While harvesting can be effective at removing CLP biomass and associated nutrients, herbicides are more effective and efficient than harvesters at reducing turions for long-term CLP control. Further, in lakes where harvesting is a successful management tool, Lake Districts or local units of government have established monetary and human resources specifically dedicated to harvesting.
- The Department cannot permit individual aerators for CLP control. Please remove aerators from the Plan.

Thanks to you and the Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association for your efforts to protect and improve Lake Chetac. We look forward to working with the Lake Association and local community to protect and improve this valuable resource. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to setup a meeting with us to discuss these issues in more detail.

Sincerely,



Alex Smith

CC: Cherie Hagen, Scott Van Egeren, Scott Provost, Carroll Schaal, John Gozdzialski – WDNR
Lisa David – GLIFWC
Dan Tyrolt – LCO Conservation Department
Dale Olson – Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation Department
Vicki Busick, Linda Zillmer – Village of Birchwood
Natalie Clemens – Town of Edgewater
Nicole Minnick – Town of Birchwood

Extending an Olive Branch—Hiring Dave Blumer

Dave Blumer worked for SEH Consulting and was involved in the studies conducted from 2007 through 2010 in determining the causes of our poor water quality. Dave started his own company since that time and is considered an expert in the field. The work he will be conducting is covered under our AIS Grant and as such qualifies for a 75% funding match from the WI DNR.

Among other things, Dave will be reaching out to each of the individual board members from the Town of Birchwood, the Village of Birchwood and Edgewater Township to set up individual meetings with each of them. We hope that the olive branch we have offered through our decision not to do an herbicide treatment this year will result in their agreeing to meet. If they do agree to meet, we are hopeful we can find some common ground in which we can all work together toward the same goal of water quality improvement.

The board of the Lake Association is certainly willing to consider alternative ways to manage CLP in the lake to help improve the water quality of the lake. There is one viable alternative to herbicide treatment, and that alternative has been encouraged by one of the Village of Birchwood Board of Trustees: Mechanical Harvesting. There are pros and cons to the use of mechanical harvesting and as stated in the DNR's Technical Teams Recommendation letter the DNR supports our continued use of herbicides and our current positon of not pursuing mechanical harvesting to manage CLP. That aside, we are certainly willing to consider it and hope that Dave can further that discussion with members of the respective town boards.

The management of CLP is only one of the two things which must be done to improve the water quality of the lake, the other is to reduce the release of phosphorous from the sediment in the lake. There is only one viable option to that, the use of Alum to seal a small portion of the lakes sedimentary layer. As stated in the DNR's technical review committees recommendations, they believe that the use of ALUM will not only reduce the number of days the lake experiences blue-green algal blooms, but will improve the water clarity of the lake enough to have native plants expand into the areas where we have eliminated CLP. An ALUM treatment itself should be non controversial, given it is used throughout the United States and the rest of the world to purify drinking water. In fact it has been used to purify drinking water as far back as the formation of the Roman Empire. However, statements have been made by both the Village of Birchwood and Edgewater Township against the use of ALUM. So, we hope that through Dave, the board members will have any concerns over the use of ALUM alleviated.

Both the use of Mechanical Harvesting and ALUM are discussed in further detail in separate articles in this edition of the newsletter.

Mechanical Harvesting of CLP

Mechanical Harvesting is a viable alternative to the use of herbicides to manage Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS's), including CLP. As stated in the DNR's Technical Review Committee's recommendations it is not as efficient as the use of herbicides and is more costly. However, those things do not mean this alternative should be ignored, or tossed aside. It is really is an option worth further discussion and consideration. The biggest hurdles with the pursuit of mechanical harvesting as an option for our Lake Association is one of simple economics. The use of herbicides is considered a control strategy by the DNR and as such qualifies for grant monies from the state of Wisconsin. The grant funds make it relatively easy for a Lake Association like ours to fund the difference and manage CLP through the use of herbicides.

Unfortunately, mechanical harvesting is only seen as a maintenance (not control) option by the DNR and therefore does not qualify for grant funding. There is a limited amount of grant funding available to cover a portion of the cost of a harvester. However, no grant funding is available for operation, maintenance or storage of the harvester, nor for the disposal of the weeds harvested. These things all add up. So, it is not just a cost difference, because there is no cost sharing from the DNR for this, our Association would have to take on all the costs associated with it.

Other downsides from mechanical harvesting are that it is non selective, collecting everything in the path of its cutting blades, CLP, native plants, fish, turtles, etc. It also can also result in floating fragments ending up along the shoreline that get dropped during the harvesting process.

There are many positives to mechanical harvesting as well. First, it does not require the use of herbicides and therefore would alleviate the concerns expressed by those in opposition of their use. Studies out of Minnesota have found that harvesting actually removes some phosphorous out of the lake (minimal in amount, but still a removal). Harvesters are selective as to the specific area they are being used in. So while herbicides result in drift and effect plants outside of the treatment area, harvesting does not. Therefore, if you wanted to improve navigation for boats at a landing (for example), you could do so without impacting any of the other plants in bay the landing is

Mechanical Harvesting of CLP

located in. We know that we have many areas on the lake where CLP creates navigation issues. Since harvesters are portable, they can be used in various locations throughout Chetac and Birch to deal with this issue. The use of harvesters would also allow us to start addressing the concerns of those individuals who live on Birch Lake or on the south part of Lake Chetac who have not had CLP managed near their properties. We get a large number of inquiries as to when we will be treating the CLP in front of this or that persons property. The nuisance level of CLP is real and the value of its removal goes well beyond that of reducing blue-green algal blooms. Mechanical harvesting would certainly allow us to provide those people with immediate relief.

The majority of lakes that use harvesters have been those which have established Lake Districts or Cities, Towns, Townships or Villages (entities which have a taxing base/ have a taxing authority). However, some Lake Associations do in fact use mechanical harvesters for their aquatic plant management. It is just harder for Lake Associations to find ways to cover all the costs.

One of the things that we would hope that Dave Blumer will explore with the members of the local governmental agencies is how they can help with any of the costs relating to mechanical harvesting. Perhaps they have a place the harvester could be stored when not in use, or over the winter. Perhaps they have land in which the removed plants can be dumped. Perhaps they can let us use their low interest financing options offered to local governmental entities to fund things like harvesters. Perhaps they would be willing to insure the equipment. Perhaps they would be willing to commit funds to cover some or all of the operating costs. Perhaps they would be willing to form a Lake District to fund the operation in its entirety. We won't know if this discussion never occurs. Therefore, we think it important to explore it further.

Sediment Sealing with ALUM

As we have shared in previous newsletters, ALUM seals the bottom of the lake surface where placed and prevents the release of phosphorous from the sediment in that area. We had a grant awarded to the Lake Association to determine whether an ALUM treatment could be effective in our lake to reduce the level of phosphorous and thereby significantly reduce the number of days the lake experiences blue-green algal blooms. The results of that study have been shared in previous newsletters and the report itself is available on our website at bcabla.com.

The findings showed that by treating approximately 460 acres in the deep water at the north end of the lake (majority of the area over 20 feet deep, the rest over 15 feet deep), we would see a 47% decrease in average phosphorous levels in the lake and a 74% drop in blue-green algal blooms as well as a significant increase in overall water clarity: 1 meter, or 3.3 feet of added average water clarity. The total cost would be approximately $1.7 million. As we have said in the past, we are eligible for both state and federal funds to help offset this cost. However, we will still need to raise somewhere in the neighborhood of $1.2 million to treat. The treatment would occur over three years, so the cost would be spread-out over that same time period.

The Association would hope to be able to raise a large portion of these funds through a social crowdsource funding campaign. Dan Herscher has offered his time to help coordinate this and set the campaign up. Here, like in the case of mechanical harvesting, Lake Districts are usually formed to enable the funding of these types of projects. So that is also an option. While we saw in the results of our 2015 survey that there was mixed support for the formation of a lake district, it was not an overwhelming no. So it may be something that we might choose to pursue at some point.

In a previous newsletter we published the WI DNR's full report about ALUM treatments. It can also be found on their website at: http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/publications/documents/alum_brochure.pdf .

Aluminum sulfate (ALUM) is soluble in water and is mainly used in the purification of drinking water and waste water treatment plants. When applied to water, alum forms a fluffy aluminum hydroxide precipitate called a floc. As the floc settles to the bottom of the lake, it removes phosphorus and particulates (including algae) from the water. The floc settles on the sediment where it forms a layer that acts as a barrier to phosphorus. Phosphorus released from the sediment, combines with the alum and is not released into the water to fuel algae blooms. Algal levels decline after alum treatments because phosphorus levels in the water are reduced.

The use of ALUM for water purification dates back to the formation of the Roman Empire (truly old school). It is also found in many products we have in our homes, from the sticks we use to stop bleeding from shaving cuts to baking powder. Yes, we ingest the stuff. Ever had any baked product where baking powder is called for: cake, bread, biscuit? Then you too have eaten Alum. It can also be found in Maalox, in maraschino cherries, pickles, some deodorants, skin whiteners and other things as well.

Lake Association Volunteers Needed

Lake Association Committees you might be interested in knowing more about or participating in:

Water Quality - Replacement needed, currently led by Mike Klink; email: mike_klink@hotmail.com
Mike Klink, our Association Treasurer/Board Member has been part of the Citizens Lake Monitoring Program for many years. The data collected will be used in our assessment of the activities we pursue. - See 'Local Happenings' below for more detail.
Fishery - Led by Ken Olson: email: vance234@yahoo.com Ken Olson has been working behind the scenes on our fishery for many years with a number of other people, including Max Wolter from the DNR and Chris Scheifelbien from our Association. He has agreed to lead this committee to continue our efforts to protect and enhance our fishery.
Aquatic Invasive Species - Led by Mark Robinson: email: markl.robinson@gapac.com. Mark Robinson is a member of the Association Board, a scientist, and is very passionate about improving our lakes water quality. He has agreed to lead the work surrounding Aquatic Invasive Species Management. He will need others to help him as it is a big job to prepare and manage all the required paperwork and communications, coordinate the parties involved in pre/post treatment testing, and the treatment itself.
Clean-Boats-Clean-Waters - Led by Bob Reynolds: email: golferreynolds@gmail.com. Bob is one of the Association Board Members and a past president of the Association. He has agreed to manage the program including working with the Birchwood School Conservation Club to find our landing monitors and doing all the paperwork with the DNR surrounding the grant and grant funding for the program.
Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership– Led by Bill Miller: millerwf455@gmail.com. Bill is current board president, and represents the Association as a member of the Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership. He reports his activities to the board and the AIS Committee. He has agreed to continue this work after his term as President expires in June.
Fund Raising—Led by Dan Herscher: email: dherscher@hotmail.com. Dan has agreed to develop and put together our fund raising efforts surrounding Alum. He needs others to help. We will need to continue to raise funds for other things as well.
Invasive Species Monitoring - We need someone to coordinate this. We need individuals willing to look for invasive species once or twice a month while out on the lake. Fun and easy job.
Board Membership: President, Vice President, Treasurer and one general board member spots open as of June. Moves off the lake have created the openings for President, Vice President and Treasurer. - See 'Local Happenings' below for more detail.

Local Happenings

Mike Klink (our Treasurer) and Toni Kruse have recently put their lake home on the market and plan on moving to Eau Claire. The two of them have done our organizations water quality monitoring on the lake for many, many years. They have worked tirelessly for this organization; and the data they have collected has been instrumental in our understanding of the lake. We are looking for someone or some couple to take over the water quality monitoring they have been doing.

Once a month from ice out through September they go out on the lake and take a water sample, temperature readings, and water clarity readings from three different spots on the lake. They then send the water samples into the DNR for processing and enter the other information into the DNR's citizens lake monitoring data base. We would also like to find someone (or a second couple) to start doing this same testing in Birch Lake.

The Association would like to give a big thank you to both Mike and Toni and tell them how much they will be missed. For me personally, as I too am in the process of trying to move to Eau Claire, I will be very pleased to have them as neighbors again sometime in the near future.

Terry (our Vice President) and Jean Olson have just sold their cabin at the north end of the lake and have moved to Florida fulltime. Terry has been a great asset to the organization. Our thanks to him for all his time and efforts. We wish both of them well in their retirement.

The loss of these individuals creates an opportunity for several people to get more involved with our mission to improve the water quality of our lake.

Edgewater Township Resident Survey Surrounding Herbicide Use

As we reported on our website in late February the Township of Edgewater mailed out a survey regarding Lake Chetac. The Lake Association is pleased that the town board decided to participate in matters concerning the poor water quality of Lake Chetac. While we felt the survey questions were biased, we encouraged everyone who received this survey to complete it as we thought it important they heard from all of us.

We have not seen any results from the survey as of yet. Once released will let you know.

Let's Thank the WI DNR

The Lake Association would like to encourage you to send an email or letter to the WI DNR thanking them for their continued work to help improve the water quality of our lake. I am sure you can appreciate that most correspondence they receive is from people complaining about one thing or another. We would like them to hear positive things as well.

It is only through the support of the WI DNR that we have been able to accomplish what we have so far. Alex Smith our Lakes Biologist, Max Wolter, our Lakes Fisheries Biologist, and Mark Sundeen, our lakes Aquatic Plant Management Specialist to name just a few have worked tirelessly to help us in our efforts to improve water quality. We would greatly appreciate your taking a few minutes to let the DNR know you appreciate it and want water quality initiatives to continue on our lake.

Please send thank you emails or letters to:

John Gozdzialski, Deputy Director Northern Region

DNR Service Center, 810 W MAPLE ST., SPOONER WI 54801

Email: John.Gozdzialski@Wisconsin.gov, Phone: (715) 635-4002

The Real Economic Cost of Lake Chetac's Poor Water Quality

As discussed in our Fall 2015 newsletter there is a real quantifiable cost of poor water clarity in our lake. Its cost can be seen in lower property values, low sales volumes, lower prices for goods and services, resulting in underperforming and failing businesses as well as limiting the number of business the area can support. The above are known facts.

We have hired an economic consultant to quantify the cost of Chetac's poor water quality to the Edgewater and Birchwood community in regard to property values. This is similar to what was done last year in Menomonie and is currently under way in Chetek regarding their chain of lakes. Every foot of additional water clarity results in a direct and quantifiable increase in property values. So, while the Association's mission for the last 20 years has been to improve the water quality of the lake for the health of the community, we will now be able to quantify the direct property value impact of water quality to our community as well.

We have hired another consultant (an economist) to conduct an economic impact analysis of the poor water quality of our lake on our local community. This project also qualifies for 75% matching from the DNR under our AIS grant.

Summary of February Board Meeting with DNR

In late February, the majority of the Lake Association Board members met with Cherie Hagen, Alex Smith and John Gozdzialski at the DNR offices in Spooner. Alex is our Lakes Biologist and we have worked very closely with him over the last four years. Cherie is Alex's boss and we have also worked with her over that time as well. John is the head of the entire northern region of the DNR. John was nice enough to meet with us for the first half hour or so of our meeting. He wanted to thank us for the work we have been doing.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss:

- The results of the last three years work & all the activities we have been doing relating to the AIS control grant
- The revision of our lake management plan
- The remaining items needing completion for our AIS grant
- The DNR Technical Review Teams Recommendations
- How best to use the monies remaining in the AIS grant and what it could be used for
- Our planned 2016 4th year treatment for the north end of the lake

The meeting was really great and positive. We spent over two hours having a really thorough discussion of the above items and about how to make the most out of 2016. We discussed our disappointment with both the Edgewater Township and the Village of Birchwood board members not taking an active role in trying to solve the water quality issues. That led to a discussion of hiring a consultant to see if they could find some common ground and actively engage these folks in a solution and in completing our revised management plan.

We then discussed if there were negative consequences if we chose not to treat this year. The answer is we will likely lose some of the gains we have made in the north end. CLP will spread and the number of turions there will increase. However, the DNR thought we could regain that lost ground the following year. We were told treating was up to us, we had met the requirements for a permit, followed all the laws surrounding it, and would be issued the permit once this years pre-plant study was completed.

We turned our discussion to other items like the benefits of an economic impact analysis and still doing pre and post plant studies in 2016 whether we chose to treat or not. No decisions as to treating were made during the meeting, the board subsequently decided to hold off on treating in 2016 in an effort to find some common ground with local governmental officials.

Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association

BCABLA PO Box 33 Birchwood, WI 54817
Visit us at BCABLA.com

You can also find and "like" us on Facebook:

http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Big-Chetac-and-Birch-Lake-Association/290256524401583

Protecting our lakes for generations to come! Please contact us with any questions or comments. We hope you have an excellent summer!

Contact Information:
Bill Miller, President 1-715-254-9559 or BCABLA@hotmail.com
Terry Olson, Vice President 920-650-1993 or olsonterry65@gmail.com
Mike Klink, Treasurer 715-271-2582 or mike_klink@hotmail.com
Bob Reynolds, Director 715-354-3822 or golferreynolds@gmail.com
Ron Adamski, Director 715-354-7013
Bill Duffack, Director 715-354-9850; 803-469-0189
Mark Robinson, Director 920-729-8181 or markl.robinson@gapac.com
Arthur Kordus, Director 952.334.3497 or arthur_kordus@ajg.com

Paying it Forward—A call for you to step-up

As this is my last year as President of the Association, I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who I have had the privilege to meet and work with since I first started attending Lake Association Meetings in 2009. It is has been a really wonderful experience and I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity. As I stated last year, Carol and I have decided to move to Eau Claire. My commute to work is a bit extreme at an hour and half each way. Winter driving has taken its toll and I am ready for a change. We are hopeful our house will sell this season, as real estate sales have been brisk.

The work this Association has undertaken is extremely important to the long term success and prosperity of this community. The DNR has been an excellent partner for the Lake Association and has only the best interest of the health of the lake and the community in mind. Both the State and Federal Government recognize that lakes suffering from excess phosphorous, like ours, must be improved. They have solidified that by setting monies aside to help with that effort. That makes the job of leading this organization easier and allows the organization to make real meaningful progress, like we have seen over the last few years.

We need one of our current members to step-up and take the reigns of the Association. It is an extremely rewarding position that provides an opportunity to work with some incredible people. The goals of the Association could not be more just or worth pursuing. The amount of time dedicated to the position goes in ebbs and flows. The schedule is driven by the person taking the role. I have a full time job, have many interesting and time consuming pursuits, and have still found ample time to take on this role. Please email me (Bill Miller) if you are interested in stepping up and helping to continue our efforts to improve the water quality of our lakes.

Detach and Return the Form Below

2016 Lake Association New Membership and Renewal Application

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

BIG CHETAC AND BIRCH LAKES ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 33

BIRCHWOOD WI 54817

Name(s):_____ Email:_____

Address:_____ Phone:_____

_____

Your information will be used for contact purposes only. We will not be sharing this information with anyone outside of the Association. We very much need your email address so that we can more easily communicate with you on a regular basis.

Enclosed:

Membership Fee: Single Membership $20, Family Membership $35 $_____

Donations to help fund Grants($5, $10, $15, $50, $100 any amount helps) $_____

Total Amount Enclosed $_____

All Donations are Tax Deductible and greatly appreciated!