

## Big Chetac Lakeshore Property Owner Survey Results –Part 3

As reported in last two months' Birchwood News, the Lake Association is in the process of updating its' lake management plan for Big Chetac. To do that, a DNR approved survey was mailed out to all Chetac lakeshore property owners on March 10th. The survey was administered by a survey company out of Minnesota. The results are being used to determine the activities that should be pursued moving forward to further improve the water quality of the lake. The survey had several parts: Demographics about the respondents; water quality concerns; satisfaction with the Association activities to date; water quality activities they want to pursue moving forward; how to fund these activities; and, local governmental concern and support.

We previously reported the respondents' feelings on water quality and their overwhelming support for nine water quality initiatives. 92.5% reported being negatively impacted by lake water quality in some way and the initiatives they support include any DNR recommended or approved water quality improvement activity. This includes the continued use of herbicide treatments to control CLP and to reduce the level of phosphorous in the lake, and the use of an ALUM treatment to prevent the release of phosphorous from the lakes sediment. This really makes sense given it is the DNR's responsibility to protect and enhance our natural resources. We also reported overwhelming support for continuing to fund initiatives through grants and public donations. This month we will cover the survey respondents' views on local government and concern for water quality and their support for water quality initiatives.

### Survey Facts:

- Survey mailed to all 390 property owners (list supplied by Sawyer County).
- 244 people returned completed surveys, representing a 62.5% response rate.
- As a result of the outstanding response rate, the findings are considered statistically representative of the whole group.

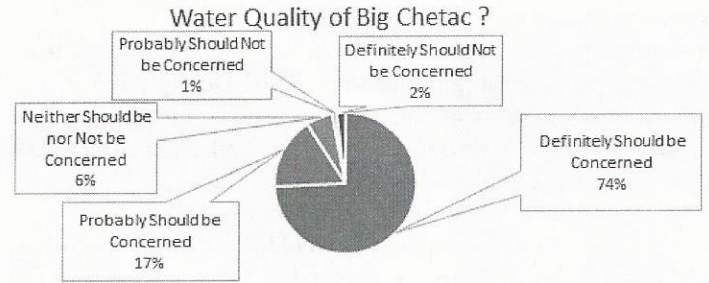
### Part 1: Big Chetac Lakeshore Owner Demographics (what do we know about them?):

- Property Type they own and use: Primary Residence 20%, Seasonal Residence 20%, Less than Seasonal 46%, Business 3%, Undeveloped Land 2%, and Other 3%.
- Length of Ownership: Average of 19.74 years, with 34.57% owning their property over 20 years.
- Days they use their property each year: 45.19% over 100 days; 46.44% from 26 to 100 days; and, 8.37% less than 26 days each year.
- Number of people using property when in use: 48.55% 2 or less; 35.68% 3 to 5; 12.03% 6 to 10; and, 3.73% over 10.
- What activities they participate in on Big Chetac: #1 Fishing from a boat (93%); #2 Fishing from shore (86%); #3 Rest/Relaxation (83%); and, #4 Pontoon Boating (70%).
- What activities they participate in most often: #1 Fishing from a boat (73%); #2 Pontoon boating (58%); #3 Fishing from Shore (41%); and, #4 Rest/Relaxation (37%).

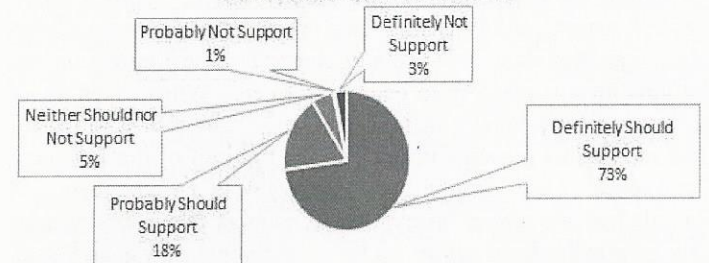
**Part 2 : Local Government Concern and Support:** Should the local governmental bodies (Edgewater Township, Village of Birchwood and Town of Birchwood) be concerned about the water quality in Big Chetac, and publicly support the activities of the Lake Association and DNR to improve water quality of

**Big Chetac (both non financially and financially)?:** Yes to all three questions.

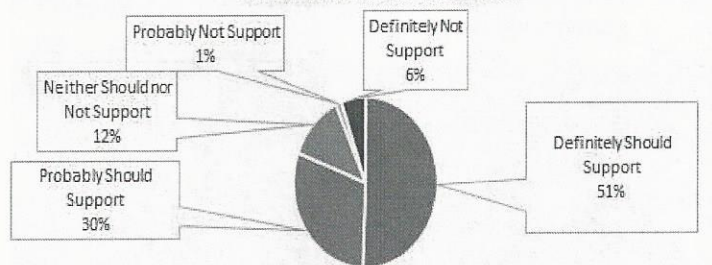
Should Local Governmental Bodies be Concerned about the



Should Local Governmental Bodies Publicly Support (non-financial) the Water Quality Initiatives on Big Chetac of the Lake Association and DNR ?



Should Local Governmental Bodies Publicly Financially Support the Water Quality Initiatives on Big Chetac of the Lake Association and DNR ?



The above indicates that lakeshore property owners believe that our local governmental bodies should all be concerned not only for about the water quality of Big Chetac, but should publicly support the activities of the Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association to improve the water quality of the lake. That support should come include both nonfinancial and financial support. The survey results did vary somewhat between the three entities, with the largest reported need for support coming from Edgewater Township. You can see those specifics by reading the full survey report.

A link to the full survey results can be found on bottom left of the Lake Association website home page at BCABLA.com. Next months' edition of the Birchwood News will include a summary of the Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association revised Lake Management Plan. We expect that revision to include all nine of the proposed water quality activities supported by the survey results we have reported on over the last few months.

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