

Big Chetac 2015 Property Owner Survey Results

244 returned completed surveys out of 390 or 62.5%

Not all people answered all questions, so individual question counts provided throughout the report.

1. What type of property do you own on Big Chetac? (If you own more than one property answer the following questions for the one you have owned the longest, selecting only one answer per question.)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Primary Residence	48	20%
2	Seasonal	108	46%
3	Less than Seasonal, such as weekends throughout the year	60	26%
4	Business	7	3%
5	Undeveloped Land	5	2%
6	Other	7	3%
	Total	235	100%

2. How long have you owned the property? (Please provide your best estimate by providing a single number and not a range.) 243 responded, with an average of 19.74 years.

Range of Ownership in Years	Number	Percent
5 or less years	36	14.81%
6 to 10 years	42	17.28%
11 to 15 years	45	18.52%
16 to 20 years	36	14.81%
Over 20 years	84	34.57%
Total	243	100.00%

3. How many days each year are there people at the property? (Please provide your best estimate by providing a single number and not a range.)

Range of Days People at Property	Number	Percent
Greater than 300 Days	37	15.48%
201 to 300 Days	13	5.44%
101 to 200 Days	58	24.27%
51 to 100 Days	61	25.52%
26 to 50 Days	50	20.92%
16 to 25 Days	8	3.35%
15 Days or Less	12	5.02%
Total	239	100.00%

4. How many people are typically at the property each time it is being used? (Please provide your best estimate by providing a single number and not a range.)

Range of # of People at Property	Number	Percent
2 or less people	117	48.55%
3 to 5 people	86	35.68%
6 to 10 people	29	12.03%
11 to 20 people	0	0.00%
21 to 50 people	5	2.07%
Over 50 people	4	1.66%
Total	239	100.00%

5. From the list below, check all the activities on Big Chetac that you, your family, or guests participate in. (check all that apply)

#	Answer		Response	%
1	fishing from the shore		207	86%
2	fishing from a boat		224	93%
3	pontoon boating		169	70%
4	speed boating		63	26%
5	jet skiing		36	15%
6	water skiing or tubing		124	51%
7	canoe/kayaking		94	39%
8	wildlife viewing		168	70%
9	swimming/wading		153	63%
10	rest/relaxation		201	83%
11	ice fishing		109	45%
12	sailing		14	6%
13	snorkeling/scuba diving		0	0%
14	Other		5	2%
15	I/ do not participate in any activities on the lake		1	0%

6. From the list of activities below, choose the three that you, your family or guests participate in most often. (only check 3)

#	Answer		Response	%
1	fishing from the shore		99	41%
2	fishing from a boat		176	73%
3	pontoon boating		138	58%
4	speed boating		15	6%
5	jet skiing		9	4%
6	water skiing or tubing		50	21%
7	canoe/kayaking		16	7%
8	wildlife viewing		48	20%
9	swimming/wading		53	22%
10	rest/relaxation		89	37%
11	ice fishing		31	13%
12	sailing		2	1%
13	snorkeling/scuba diving		0	0%
14	Other		4	2%

7. During open water season, how often, if at all, does the water quality of Big Chetac Lake negatively impact your enjoyment of the lake?

#	Question	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	All of the Time	Total Responses	Mean
1	Water quality impacts my enjoyment of Big Chetac	18	28	102	84	8	240	3.15
Percent		7.50%	11.67%	42.50%	35.00%	3.33%	100.00%	

Of 240 responses, 194 are impacted at least sometimes, and 222 reported being impacted (representing 80.83% and 92.50%, respectively).

8. Below are primary indicators of poor water quality that may negatively affect your use and enjoyment of Big Chetac. From the list below, please check all issues that are of concern to you. (check all that concern you)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	foul or offensive odor	144	60%
2	icky or green water	209	87%
3	toxic blue green algae blooms	157	65%
4	thick mats of Curly Leaf Pondweed(CLP)	151	63%
5	excessive levels of phosphorous	104	43%
6	other	9	4%
7	no concern with these issues	17	7%

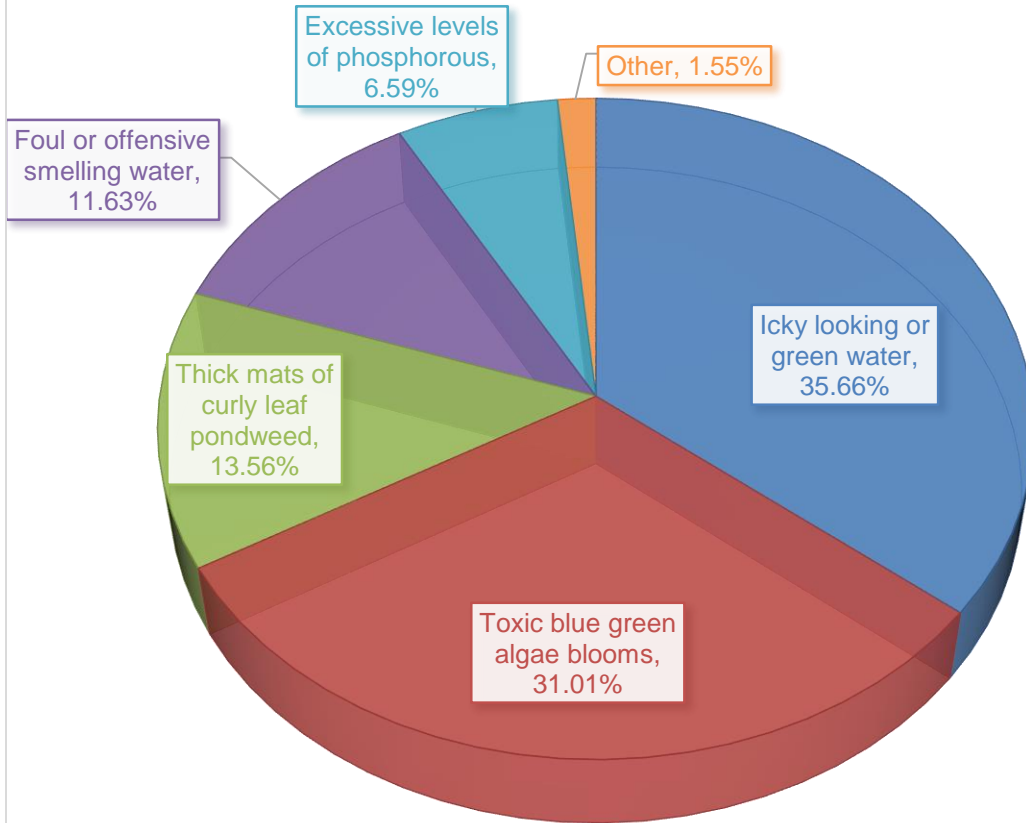
Other
Green surface scum
Introduction of invasive species.
Poor fishing because of spraying.
Lack of weeds and fish last two years
Poor fishing
Swimmers itch
Weeds
Water level
Killing off fish cover/weeds

9. Please rank each of the following primary indicators of poor water quality in Big Chetac in order of concern to you. Please choose any given ranking only once (ie: only one of the six indicators can be most important, second most important...).

#	Question	First Most Concern	Second Most Concern	Third Most Concern	Fourth Most Concern	Fifth Most Concern	Sixth Most Concern	Total Responses	Mean
1	Foul or offensive smelling water	30	53	48	39	29	7	206	3.02
2	Icky looking or green water	92	60	46	15	4	2	219	2.02
3	Toxic Blue Green Algae Blooms	80	43	41	27	14	2	207	2.31
4	Thick mats of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP)	35	38	35	66	28	4	206	3.13
5	Excessive levels of phosphorous	17	12	27	37	92	8	193	4.03
6	Other	4	0	1	0	1	21	27	5.11

Other
Walleye population decreasing.
Are fish okay?
Surface scum
Water level
Water level
Lack of weeds and fish last two years
Water level
Swimmers itch due to feeding of water fowl
Water level
Fish cover

TOP WATER QUALITY CONCERN



10. How do you rate the water quality of Big Chetac?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Excellent	2	1%
2	Good	52	22%
3	Fair	105	44%
4	Poor	61	26%
5	Very Poor	16	7%
	Total	236	100%

11. Please indicate your current level of satisfaction with the BCABLA's "Past & Current" activities to improve water quality sponsored by the Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association under the under the supervision and approval of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
1	Environmental studies to determine the exact causes of the water quality issues of Big Chetac	102	86	34	5	3	230	1.79
Percent		44.35%	37.39%	14.78%	2.17%	1.31%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
2	Development of a lake management plan on how best to improve the water quality issues of Big Chetac	94	90	28	12	7	231	1.91
Percent		40.69%	38.96%	12.12%	5.20%	3.03%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
3	Obtaining grant from DNR to help fund development of a Clean Boats Clean Waters Boater Education Program	116	56	48	2	7	229	1.81
Percent		50.66%	24.45%	20.96%	0.87%	3.06%	100%	

#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
4	Development and implementation of a Clean Boats Clean Waters Boater Education Program	87	72	56	4	5	224	1.96
Percent		38.84%	32.14%	25.00%	1.79%	2.23%	100%	

#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
5	Obtaining grant from DNR to help fund a study to determine the effectiveness of ALUM to reduce phosphorous levels in the lake	112	60	39	5	11	227	1.87
Percent		49.33%	26.43%	17.18%	2.20%	4.86%	100%	

#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
6	Obtaining grant from DNR to help fund the use of the aquatic herbicide Aquathol to manage Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) in Big Chetac	127	46	32	13	10	228	1.83
Percent		55.70%	20.18%	14.04%	5.70%	4.38%	100%	

#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
7	Development and implementation of 3 year plan to treat CLP in 90 acres at very north end of Big Chetac	111	62	29	14	12	228	1.92
Percent		48.68%	27.19%	12.72%	6.14%	5.27%	100%	

#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
8	Lake Association plan to plant native aquatic plants in the area that CLP was reduced	101	64	49	5	7	226	1.91
Percent		44.69%	28.32%	21.68%	2.21%	3.10%	100%	

#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
9	Having Lake Association meetings open to the public	129	45	42	3	6	225	1.72
Percent		57.33%	20.00%	18.67%	1.33%	2.67%	100%	

#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
10	Lake Association phased approach to the water quality issues (fund raising, research, public input, planning, testing and further research, public input and further planning)	103	89	25	5	8	230	1.81
Percent		44.78%	38.70%	10.87%	2.17%	3.48%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
11	Birchwood News articles to learn about water quality issues of Big Chetac	99	66	51	6	7	229	1.93
Percent		43.23%	28.82%	22.27%	2.62%	3.06%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
12	Having all related information posted to the Lake Association website: www.bcabla.com	114	62	43	3	4	226	1.77
Percent		50.44%	27.43%	19.03%	1.33%	1.77%	100%	

#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
13	Having biannual newsletters mailed to all lakeshore property owners	152	57	18	5	1	233	1.48
Percent		65.24	24.46	7.73%	2.15%	0.42%	100%	

#	Question	Completely Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Completely Dissatisfied	Total #	Mean
14	Communications in general by the Lake Association about their activities	128	65	26	5	7	231	1.69
Percent		55.41%	28.14%	11.26%	2.16%	3.03%	100%	

12. Please indicate your level of support for the following "Future" activities to improve water quality on Big Chetac. (Beyond 2015, assuming DNR oversight and approval). We will use this information to revise the lake management plan and determine the activities we should pursue in relation to improving the water quality of Big Chetac.

#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
1	Any DNR recommended or approved activities	130	63	25	9	8	235	1.73
Percent		55.32%	26.81%	10.64%	3.83%	3.4%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
2	Continued use of DNR recommended or approved aquatic herbicide to control Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP)(outside of wild rice zones)	150	46	17	7	14	234	1.67
Percent		64.1%	19.66%	7.27%	2.99%	5.98%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
3	Development and implementation of a plan to reduce CLP throughout the entire lake approved by the DNR (outside of wild rice zones)	164	37	16	6	14	237	1.60
Percent		69.20%	15.61%	6.75%	2.53%	5.91%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean

				nor Oppose				
4	Allowing Big Chetac lakeshore owners to pull permits through the Lake Association and DNR to have the CLP in front of their properties treated with aquatic herbicide (outside of wild rice zones)	158	35	18	5	17	233	1.66
Percent		67.81%	15.02%	7.72%	2.15%	7.30%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
5	Continued phosphorous reduction through CLP control and management if approved by DNR	167	34	17	7	10	235	1.55
Percent		71.06	14.47%	7.23%	2.98%	4.26%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
6	Phosphorous reduction through sediment sealing (ALUM treatment), as recommended in ALUM study if approved by DNR	134	55	26	5	15	235	1.77
Percent		57.02%	23.40	11.06	2.14	6.38	100%	

#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
7	Continued use of grants to help fund water quality activities	179	29	16	1	7	232	1.40
Percent		77.16%	12.50%	6.90	0.43%	3.01%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
8	Continuation of Clean Boats Clean Waters Boater Education Program	163	45	22	1	4	235	1.46
Percent		69.36%	19.15%	9.36%	.42%	1.8%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
9	Continuation of Invasive Species Monitoring Program	173	39	16	3	3	234	1.39
Percent		73.93%	16.67%	6.84%	1.28%	1.28%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
10	Funding Studies as appropriate to help improve water quality	160	37	26	4	6	233	1.54
Percent		68.67%	15.88%	11.16%	1.71%	2.58%	100%	

#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
11	Continued raising of funds through public donations to help fund water quality activities	161	44	21	1	5	232	1.47
Percent		69.40	18.97%	9.05%	0.43%	2.15%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
12	Establishing a Lake District to raise funds through property tax assessments to help fund water quality activities	65	49	40	30	51	235	2.80
Percent		27.66%	20.85%	17.02%	12.76%	21.71%	100%	

13. 2015 is the Lake Association's 20th Anniversary. It was formed with a mission of protecting and improving the water quality of the lakes. Do you think the BCABLA should continue in its mission to protect and improve the water quality of our lakes?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Completely Support	183	77%
2	Somewhat Support	25	11%
3	Neither Support nor Oppose	18	8%
4	Somewhat Oppose	2	1%
5	Completely Oppose	9	4%
	Total	237	100%

14. Please indicate your level of support for the use of the following “Funding” mechanisms for implementing any water quality initiatives undertaken.

#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
1	Continued use of Grants to help fund water quality activities	202	16	11	1	6	236	1.28
Percent		85.59%	6.78%	4.67%	0.42%	2.54%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
2	Continued raising of funds through public donations to help fund water quality activities	172	40	14	1	4	231	1.38
Percent		74.46%	17.32%	6.06%	0.43%	1.73%	100%	
#	Question	Completely Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Completely Oppose	Total Responses	Mean
3	Establishing a Lake District to raise funds through property tax assessments to help fund water quality activities	56	53	37	33	54	233	2.90
Percent		24.03%	22.75%	15.88%	14.16%	23.18%	100%	

15. As a lakeshore property owner, you have the most at stake when it comes to the water quality of Big Chetac. If every Big Chetac lakeshore property owner had to contribute dollars annually to support water quality initiatives, how much would you be willing to contribute each year? This is not a measure of commitment; it is asked only to provide a measure of potential support. (Please provide your best estimate by providing a single number and not a range.)

Range of Contribution Dollars	Number	Percent
\$0	29	14.36%
\$0 to \$24	5	2.48%
\$25 to \$49	8	3.96%
\$50 to \$74	24	11.88%
\$75 to \$99	5	2.48%
\$100 to \$149	67	33.17%
\$150 to \$199	2	0.99%
\$200 to \$299	27	13.37%
\$300 to \$499	6	2.97%
\$500 to \$999	18	8.91%
\$1000 or more	11	5.45%
Total	202	100.00%

Average number of Dollars reported of \$190.74.

16. Do you think the following entities should be concerned about water quality in Big Chetac?

#	Question	Definitely Should be Concerned	Probably Should be Concerned	Should Neither be Concerned nor Unconcerned	Probably Should Not be Concerned	Definitely Should Not be Concerned	Total Responses	Mean
1	Edgewater Township	184	33	12	2	5	236	1.35
Percent		77.97%	13.98%	5.08%	0.85%	2.12%	100%	
2	Village of Birchwood	173	40	14	3	5	235	1.41
Percent		73.62%	17.02%	5.96%	1.27%	2.13%	100%	
3	Town of Birchwood	168	44	17	2	5	236	1.44
Percent		71.19%	18.64%	7.20%	.85%	2.12	100%	

17. Do you think the following entities should publicly support (non financial) the activities of the BCABLA and WI DNR to improve water quality in Big Chetac?

#	Question	Definitely Provide Public Support	Probably Provide Public Support	Neither Provide nor Not Provide Public Support	Probably Not Provide Public Support	Definitely Not Provide Public Support	Total Responses	Mean
1	Edgewater Township	174	38	12	1	7	232	1.40
		75.00%	16.38%	5.17%	0.43%	3.02%	100%	
2	Village of Birchwood	167	42	13	2	7	231	1.44
		72.29%	18.18%	5.63%	0.87%	3.03%	100%	
3	Town of Birchwood	166	45	13	1	7	232	1.44
		71.55%	19.40%	5.60%	0.43%	3.02%	100%	

18. Do you think the following entities should provide financial support for the activities of the BCABLA and the WI DNR to improve water quality in Big Chetac?

#	Question	Definitely Provide Financial Support	Probably Provide Financial Support	Neither Provide nor Not Provide Financial Support	Probably Not Provide Financial Support	Definitely Not Provide Financial Support	Total Responses	Mean
1	Edgewater Township	125	66	26	3	14	234	1.78
Percent		53.42%	28.21%	11.11%	1.28%	5.98%	100%	
2	Village of Birchwood	113	75	28	3	12	231	1.81
Percent		48.92%	32.47%	12.12%	1.30%	5.19%	100%	
3	Town of Birchwood	115	69	33	3	12	232	1.83
Percent		49.57%	29.74%	14.22%	1.29%	5.18%	100%	

19. To guide us in our future communications (newsletters, website posts, Birchwood News Articles, etc...), what would you like more information about? Please indicate the topic or topics you would like to learn more about in the box below:

The topics requested are shown below. Duplicate requests were combined and any personal information or commentary has been removed.

1. Septic System information – impact on lake water quality, inspection and enforcement of systems.
2. Success stories associated with water quality, CLP management and phosphorous reduction.
3. Comparative information of Chetac with other surrounding lakes. Information about what other lakes are doing to treat their issues.
4. Information on Resort owner involvement in customer education on clean boats, fish limits and lake management to improve water quality.
5. Impact of herbicide treatment on native plant population. Information on native plant restoration plans. General native plant information, what is good and what is not.
6. Nature information, such as bird sightings.
7. Fishing reports: What people are catching. Impact of fishing from treatment. Impact of fishing limits on different species of fish. Increasing the limit on crappies. Control of large-mouth bass, not small-mouth. Walleye management.
8. Fishing tournament Information – schedule, impact on lake (pros and cons), donation of dollars for tournament use as a funding mechanism.
9. Cost of stocking fish in the lake.
10. Reporting and mapping of blue green algae blooms.
11. Lake management plan – future activities, expansion of herbicide treatment throughout lake (time-table established for long term management of lake).
12. Concentration of herbicide used to manage CLP.
13. Treatment of CLP in Old Hayes Road Boat Landing Bay.
14. Alternative methods to treat CLP that is located in “Wild Rice Zones”. Information about what a “Wild Rice Zone” is and why is wild rice protected?
15. Information about phosphorous.
16. Information about ALUM (pros, cons & costs), its use and other success stories. Funding mechanisms for ALUM and other activities, grants, etc... Alternatives to ALUM for sediment sealing, if any.
17. Treatment of CLP by individual property owners: Sharing owner contact information for adjacent owners to contact one another about treating CLP in front of their properties.
18. Water quality improvement information from activities to date. Information about all water quality initiatives.
19. Taxing (or usage fee) of users of the lake, owners, resorts, vacationers. Study using a boat trailer tax to pay for activities.
20. Information about what property owners can do to protect the lake and water quality.
21. Water levels on the lake.
22. DNR recommendations for the lake.
23. Forming a lake district – the how to with pros, cons, costs.
24. Future initiatives like fish sticks.
25. Invasive Species Landing monitoring and expanding the program.
26. Water patrol enforcement of hours for water skiing, jet skiing and power boating.
27. Continued sharing of information addressing pros and cons of different options.
28. Posting survey results on website.