Little Rice Lake Associations (LRLA) General Meeting

Date: September 7, 2024

Time: 11:30 am -2:00

Location: Wolf River Rendezvous

I. **Meet and Greet gathering with Lunch (Brat)-**
We had a good turnout, around 20 members, at the General Meeting and everyone was anxious to hear Tiffiney's report.

II. **Landowner Survey Results**

a. The Association sent out 102 letters to lake property owners. The purpose of the survey was to petition the DNR to raise the level of the lake. It is the Associations understanding that maintaining the damn at a higher contour level should help to inhibit the overgrowth of vegetation in the lake. In order to petition the DNR there needs to be 100% agreement by all owners of property surrounding the lake.

b. As of 9/7/2024 we had 59 surveys returned
   i. 58 voted yes
   ii. 1 voted no

III. **Membership Update**

a. 70 paid members
   i. 14 new members
   ii. 54 returning members
   iii. 2 business

*This is an increase from last year's membership of 60 paid members

IV. **Election Update**
Emails were sent out asking for members to add their name to the ballot for the President, Secretary and 2 Director positions. We had no response so the current board members that hold those positions agreed to continue in their positions for the next 3 years.

V. Treasurer Report

Income- $2,800
Expense - $4,720.03
On Hand Cash - $15,556.88

VI. Volunteer Update

We would like to thank the following members for volunteering at the Brush Run in June and/or the Championship Race over Labor Day weekend; Marty & Jackie Thyssen, Ashley Polacheck, Tammy, Holly & Jay Barta, Cindy & Pat Larscheid, Mike Braunreiter, Denise, Cole & Kevin Smith, Chris & Gail Dockry, Glenn Lassanske, Dakota Abel, David & Sharon O'Bright, Rick & Sara Zellner, and Darci & Steve Motiff. Hopefully we haven't missed anyone!

The race volunteers from the association pulled in approximately $430 in tips for working the concessions in the pavilion.

VII. Tiffiney Kleczewski, PE Flambeau Engineering

Lake Survey – Changes to Lake 2017 to 2023. Full lake aquatic plant survey completed in 2017 and 2023. The following tables, photos and other information were obtained and transferred to our newsletter from the report that was completed by Tiffiney Kleczewski.

PL Stats 2023 vs 2017

***Table below does not include areas that were inaccessible**

Statistics	**2023**	**2017**
Total number of points sampled	177	189
Total number of sites with vegetation	120	95
Total number of sites shallower than maximum depth of plants	169	157
Frequency of occurrence at sites shallower than maximum depth of plants (how many spots that could have plant growth)	71.01	60.51
Simpson Diversity Index	0.87	0.79
Maximum depth of plants (ft.)	7.7	7
Average number of all species per site (shallower than max depth)	1.51	1.06
Average number of all species per site (veg. sites only)	2.13	1.75

Species Richness	20	22
Species Richness (including visuals) • 10% increase in plant coverage • Plants growing up to 1 foot deeper • Increase in species per site – good diversity	23	23

Statistical difference in plant presence

Little Rice Lake 2017 vs. 2023 Aquatic Plants

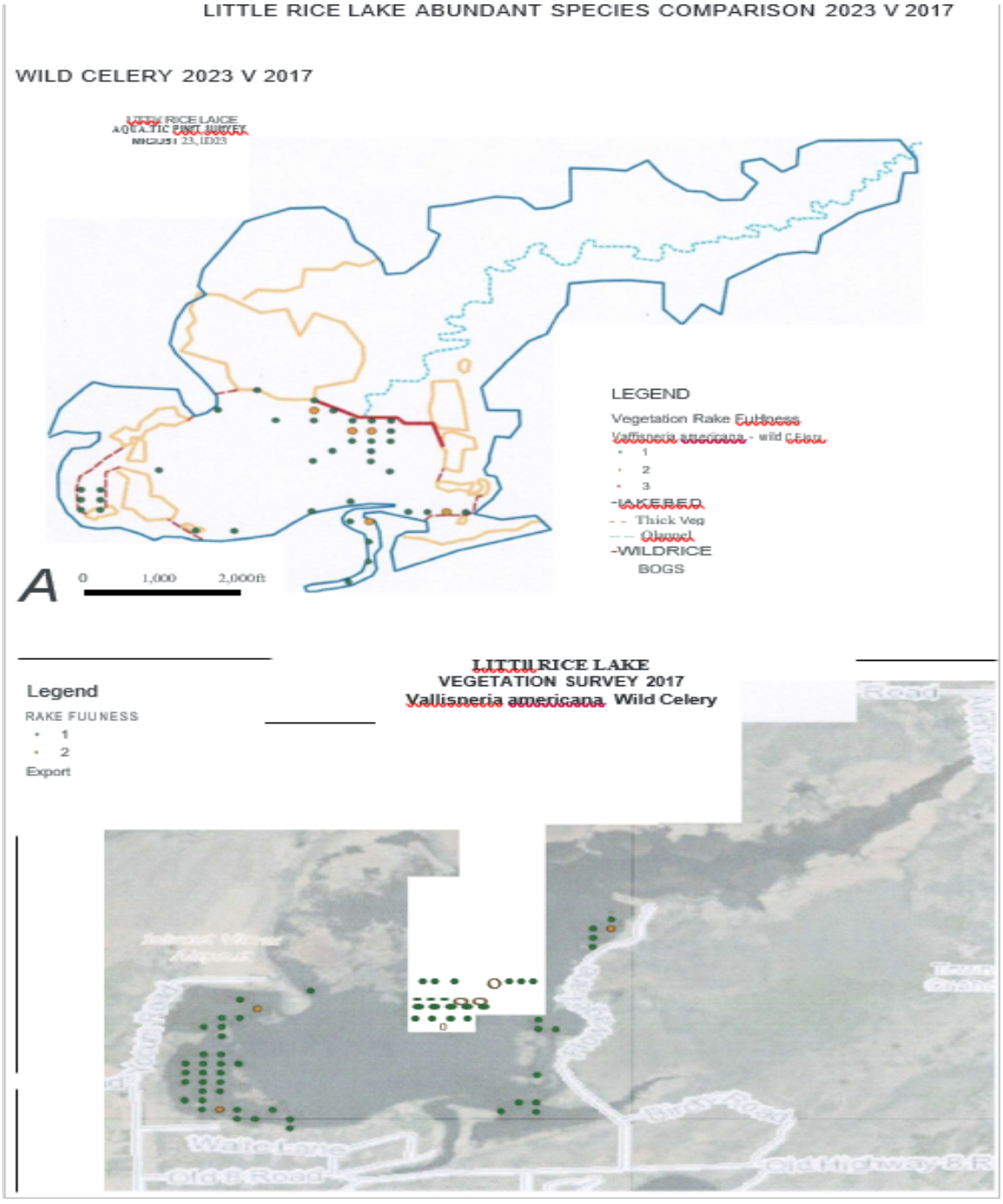
2017 survey total points - 189 2023 survey total points- 177

	2017 Present	2023 Present	Significant Change	Increase/Decrease (proportional to # sampling points)
Bidens beckii (formerly Megalodonta), Water marigold	18	4	**	-
Braseria schreberi, Watershield		1	n.s. /Not substantial	+
Ceratophyllum demersum, Coontail	1	6	*	+
Ceratophyllum echinatum·, Spiny hornwort	1	1	n.s.	+
Chara sp., Muskgrasses	6	5	n.s.	-
Elodea canadensis, Common waterweed	12	42	***	+
Myriophyllum sibiricum, Northern water-milfoil	15	6	n.s.	-
Najas flexilis, Slender naiad	5	41	***	+
Nitella sp., Nitella	4	46	***	+
Nuphar variegata, Spatterdock	0	2	n.s.	+
Nymphaea odorata, White water lily	1	2	n.s.	+

Potamogeton amplifolius, Large-leaf pondweed	1		n.s.	-
Potamogeton epihydrus, Ribbon-leaf pondweed		1	n.s.	+
Potamogeton gramineus, Variable pondweed		1	n.s.	+
Potamogeton natans, Floating-leaf pondweed		1	n.s.	+
Potamogeton praelongus, White-stem pondweed	3	5	n.s.	+
Potamogeton pusillus, Small pondweed	2	36	***	+
Potamogeton robbinsii, Fern pondweed	3		n.s.	-
Potamogeton strictifoloius, Stiff pondweed		2	n.s.	+
Potamogeton zosteriformis, Flat-stem pondweed		3	n.s.	+
Sagittaria latifolia, Common arrowhead	1	1	n.s.	+
Schoenoplectus subterminalis, Water bulrush	2	2	n.s.	+
Sparganium sp., Bur-reed	9	11	n.s.	+
Utricularia vulgaris, Common bladderwort	4		n.s.	-
Vallisneria americana, Wild celery	69	41	**	-
Zizania palustris, Northern wild rice	3	1	n.s.	-
Aquatic moss	11	5	n.s.	-

Increase in coontail, waterweed, naiad, nitella, small pondweed

- Coontail and waterweed have low C-value (3) indicating disturbed conditions and low biological integrity
- Naiad, nitella, small pondweed have higher C-values (6/7/7)
- Decrease in water marigold, wild celery
  - Both have higher C-value (8/6) indicating high biological integrity



- Increase in coverage 10%
- Slight increase in rake fullness (density) 1.16 to 1.20
- **Increase in water level by 6"-** Likely will **not affect** aquatic plant growth
- Depth of plant growth depends on water clarity more than depth, clarity varies throughout the growing season and from year to year

Plant	Water Depth
Wild Rice	4"-4', 18"-22" ideal
White water lily	3"-· 3'
Spatterdock	1'-3'
Watershield	Up to 10'

- Difficult to raise the lake level above ordinary high water mark due to permitting through DNR.
- Check dam operating order for water levels allowed.

***Increase in weeds** could be due to past winter with low ice and snow levels. Most lakes in the area are seeing an increase in weeds this year.

Implementation Plan

- Section 7 of 2019 Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP) outlines steps to take to manage lake. **See website for Lake Management Plan. http://littlericelake.org**

Active Goal: Manage aquatic plants to allow for access to open water.

Action 1 - Determine where access is needed and create a plan

- See Figure 19 on page 9
- indicates Main Navigation Lanes based on the density of plants in 2017/18; this lane location should be determined by the Association, DNR and GLIFWC.
- Choose a method, prepare a plan and apply for a permit.

Action 2 - Decide on method(s): harvest. mechanical. manual and/or dredging

- Harvesting, manual or mechanical removal are the recommended options for the main navigation lane at this time. Any of these methods may be used for individual lanes as conditions permit.
- Hiring a contractor with a harvester is recommended at this time. The following must be considered:
  - Where the harvesting is feasible based on the size/configuration of the harvester?
  - When will harvesting-take place? Plan to harvest when plants start to impede, navigation, but not so thick it is impossible to navigate.
  - Will it be needed more than once a season?
  - Where will harvested vegetation be disposed of?

- Mechanical removal by cutting or dragging may be used for the main and individual navigation lanes. The following must be considered:
  - Will it be needed more than once a season? Begin early in the growing season when plants are most susceptible to disturbance and continue as needed throughout the season.
  - Where will vegetation be disposed of?
- Manual removal (hand pulling) may be used for the individual lanes; consider where vegetation will be disposed of. Begin early when biomass is low; continue throughout the season as needed.
- Dredging may be further investigated in the future; this is a costly option that requires extensive planning and permitting.
- Continued use - if navigation on the lanes with a motor boat is started early in the season and continues on a regular basis the plants will tend not to grow in that area due to the continued disturbance.

Timing - choose a method for the following year by fall of the current year. Begin plans for necessary permits. If harvesting is chosen, begin looking for a contractor in fall for the following year.

Action 3 - Procure funds for the chosen method: apply for grants

- Continue to raise money to fund the chosen methods
- Navigation channel dredging may be eligible for a Recreational Boating Facilities Grant.

Timing - Begin fund raising immediately. Begin grant writing at least 3 months prior to due date. See details on grants below.

Action 4 - Apply for necessary permits

- Permits are needed through WDNR for harvesting, mechanical removal and dredging. Permits are also needed for manual removal if wild rice is present in the affected area. The following link has information on aquatic plant management and the permitting process https: dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/

Timing - Begin permit process in fall for the following year. Prepare plans and be sure funding will be in place for the proposed control method.

Active Goal: Improve fishery by reducing/eliminating winter kill and improve habitat.

Action 1 - Discuss aeration plan with Greg Matzke, Tom Carlson and Scott Van Egeren.

Determine best location, design, operation and maintenance schedule, responsible parties.

Action 2 - Apply for Lake Plan Implementation grant to fund materials and installation costs of the system.

Action 3 - Discuss fish sticks with Greg Matzke, Tom Calson and Scott Van Egeren.

Determine best locations, source of trees, installation.

Action 4 - Apply for Healthy Lakes grant to fund fish sticks.

Timing -- Schedule meetings immediately to begin planning process. Apply for grants by due dates listed in the following section.

Future goals

- Set target oxygen level to reach goal of preventing fish kill
- Measure oxygen levels throughout winter months
- Set goal for how much and which type of fish habitat is desired

Active Goal: Protect fish and wildlife habit.

Action 1 - Keep aquatic plant management to a minimum

- Create lanes only where access is needed and vegetation is too thick to navigate. Keep main navigation lane width to 30 ft. or less and individual lane width to 15 ft or less (as recommended by DNR and Mole Lake Tribal Biologist).
- Choose the method with the lesser impact to the lake.

Action 2 -Continue water quality monitoring

- Participate in the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) and monitor for total phosphorous, chlorophyll a, secchi depth and dissolved oxygen monthly May to September. Continue dissolved oxygen monitoring during winter months.

Action 3- Keep the shorelines healthy and in a natural state.

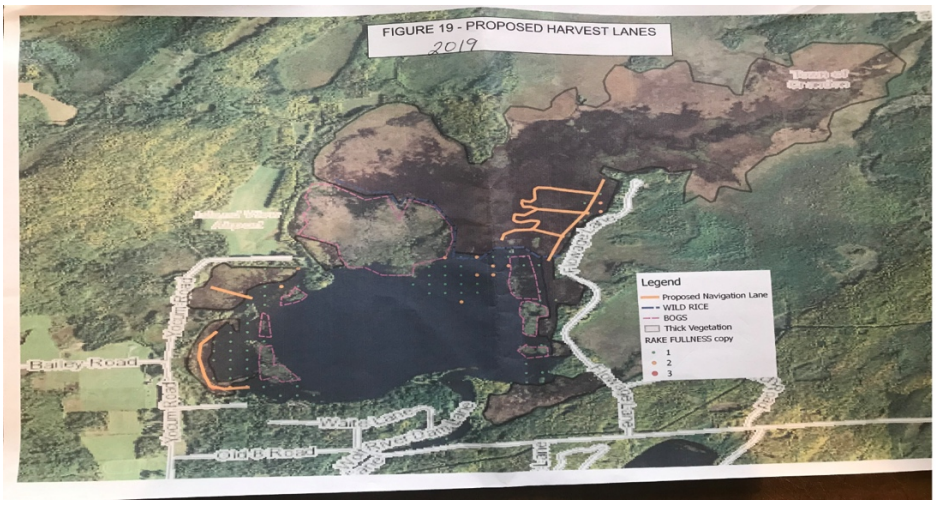
- Create/maintain a 30 ft buffer along the shoreline of native herbs, shrubs and trees.
- Do not fertilize the lawn or do so responsibly.
- Maintain septic systems to keep nutrients and pathogens from entering the lake.

Action 4- Monitoring for AIS including Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly leaf Pondweed.

- Get trained in CLMN protocol for invasive species and monitor the lake throughout the growing season.
- Prevent the introduction of new AIS into the lake through watercraft inspection at the landings (Clean Boats Clean Waters, CBCW); target busy times such as holidays and other high traffic days.
- Maintain AIS signage at all public accesses including illegal to launch and illegal to transport signage.
- Provide AIS training in identification and monitoring for all interested parties on both lakes.

Funding-AIS Education, Planning, Prevention grants may be available to assist with costs of training, monitoring and CBCW program. A. Healthy Lei<es Grant may be available for shoreland restorations including native plantings for buffers.

Figure 19 Map of Purposed Navigation Lanes 2019



Map of Lake in 1938- the damn was rebuilt in the 50's to raise water levels to flood the wetland surrounding the Lake Proper.