

Minutes of Special Meeting of Porter's Lake Management District

Control of Eurasian Water Milfoil-Myriophyllum Spicatum (EWM).

Date of Meeting: Saturday, January 26, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.

Meeting called to by Porter's Lake District President, Don Dalton @ 9:04 a.m.

Other board members present included Treasurer, Raymond "Skip" Hansen and Secretary, Paul Zagorski.

Commissioners Bernadette Krentz and Greg Foster were also in attendance.

This district meeting is called to order to update members regarding Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) problem, to determine our response and to consider modification of our budget to cover related expenses.

In attendance and to give independent expert advice was:

- **Paul Skawinski**, Regional AIS Educational Specialist Golden Sands RC&D: Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist
- **Eddie J. Heath**, Onterra

Currently, all the (EWM) has been not been eradicated since the hand pulling last summer. However, the infestation appears to be contained.

Pat Doyle and Skip Hansen dove the lake in 6-7 foot of water where there is an abundance of good, Northern Water Milfoil, which is native. South and North shore seems clean.

2012 (EWM) Survey & 2013 Preliminary Treatment Strategy

DNR has monies available to treat (EWM). Pulling will still need to be done and a substantial amount of volunteerism will be needed.

- **Pulling:** Put your hands in the marl and pull from the root. (EWM) is a perennial. (EWM) also spreads through fragmentation and may migrate someplace else (see map) and/or spreads once it hits the surface, bends and starts a producing new adventitious roots.
 - PROs: hand removal can be done by anyone and anytime, no motorized tools, no permits needed. The hand pulling is a good option, but very tedious and requires a group of volunteers. Paul Skawanski is willing to help. Need one person on the surface to take the plants away. Weevils burrow right into the plant, but cost over one dollar each to purchase.
 - Onterra, LLC <2.3 acres. Hand pulling is probably an acre or a little more
 - CONS: Must get the roots, do not fragment it. If you lose a part of the plant (breakage) it will spread. Mechanical harvesting lanes open for boat transport. Not a good option - gets very dense and encroaches upon the habitat because in the winter (EWM) stands and remains strong. Dick Hansen - Impression and observation there are thousands of plants and no way to hand pull and monitor. Not enough volunteers.
- **Herbicide Treatment**-2,4-D liquid or pellets applied in April or early May. This is a **Systemic Herbicide**. Most of the other good plants will be dormant and won't be impacted. Granular application is dropped to bottom and then vertically and horizontally dissipates. Liquid application is applied from top and may not get to root. The native plants should revive and colonize the area rather quickly. No long term studies on the herbicides. 2,4-D Herbicide treatment applied in 2.3 acre treatment area. Product label is approved by the EPA. Safe on the wildlife. Nontoxic, endocrine disruption. DNR Fact sheet on 2-4D. This has an irrigation restriction. Pellets dissipate a little slower and application is more precise, granular going right down below the plants. Liquid

Herbicides may be better choice because application and longer boom arms and the marl bottom. Not to use both.

- **2,4-D Fact Sheet and link from the WDNR website:**
<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/factsheets/2,4-DFactSheet.pdf>
 - PROS: NO fishing or swimming restrictions after application. Proactive approach. We know ratio of concentration and exposure time. Short term impact to native species. This would be a spot treatment. The herbicide is going to move out of treated area quickly. High concentration, high exposure. Lilly pads are hearty and more dominant to the herbicides and are generally not affected.
 - CONS: Not 100% effective. May need additional application. Mechanics of application. Several State and Federal permits are needed. Shoreline is a buffer. Northern Water Milfoil (good, native plant) is vulnerable to herbicide treatment and some plants will likely be damaged. If there's a lot of plant growth in the area, application may reduce oxygen level in water column temporarily.

Other observations, questions and comments from Porters Lake

- Avg. native plant species in 5 county area is 14.7 plant species per lake. Porter's Lake has 31.
 - Hybrid Milfoil-Unsure if they hybrid in the lake
 - Mt. Morris-2004 series of studies indicated 1.7 acres of (EWM). Didn't start chemically treating until 2010 and now have 16 acres of (EWM).
 - Does it make the chemically treatment more effective since it's contained? No, if done early in spring. 3rd party to apply.
 - U-arms delivery system, salt spreader, herbicide applicator. Agriculture software where to go and apply.
 - Final comment: Paul Skawinski-Hand pulling is a MUST after herbicide treatment. Still monitoring. Lots of eyes on the water. Need to abolish the source populations.
 - When Porters Lake Association solidifies a strategy, there needs to be systematic approach. If we consider the herbicide treatment we still need to have the rest of the lake focused on hand pulling. Herbicide should result in 50-80% reduction in (EWM). April /May treatment will require follow up by hand treatment. Continued herbicide treatments may be required.
 - Systemic herbicide. Kills the entire plant. The plants should be noticeably impacted in a 4 week time period.
1. Projected 3 to 4 year plan and associated budget.
 - a. Design some type of monitoring: volunteering, assess the area, survey the lake 1-2 x's a year. Hand removal program needs to be monitored. This year we spent a considerable amount of man hours hand pulling.
 2. Apply for early response DNR grant. Grant will be submitted by Onterra, LLC. 75% state share and 25% local credit. Up to \$26,666 from Department of Natural Resources. Our net grant is \$20,000.
 3. US Army Core of Engineers and Onterra are working on data to get back that will show what happens to the lake when herbicide is applied.
 4. Onterra will not apply herbicide. District must contract with applicator. Onterra will provide us with names of applicators to bid on the project. Best equipment for least amount of money. Onterra will be at the lake when applicator applies herbicide. Onterra instructs applicator how much herbicide to use and where to apply. They will help with the notification notices.

Budget & Costs

Preliminary costs: \$2,100 granular herbicide. Most of the cost is the application in 2 acres. \$95 in DNR fees. Grant is on first come, first serve basis. 3 to 4 years of monitoring and refinement of treatment areas. At the end of year 2, possible informational meeting.

- Finite numbers. Design a 3-4 year project plan to include:
 - Hours from Paul Skawinski his volunteerism.
 - Onterra cost
 - Volunteerism
 - Application/treatment, clean boats, clean water,
 - Educational brochures (Good resources available within the project scope).
 - Onterra said monies for the grant are already on reserve for us
 - One application per year. Suggested we write the grant application for the maximum number of years allowed, four.
- **Project resolution: Porters Lake District have Pat Doyle as our DNR authorized representative apply for early Response Grant seeking 75% State funding for the proposed treatment on this date, January 26, 2013.**

Example:

\$26,660.60

State share project \$20,000

\$6,666.60-Maximum local share for Porters Lake Association.

Currently, Porter's Lake Association has cash on hand of just under \$25,000 to cover the expense.

Motion: made by Doug Schact to start the process on the WDNR Early Response Grant and to embark on an aquatic herbicide solution for (EWM) for the maximum period allowed, contracting with Onterra, LLC to process.

Pat Doyle 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

Motion: made by Skip Hansen to proceed to fund the spring herbicide application for a total amount, not to exceed, \$7,000.00

Doug Schact 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

FISH

Dick Hansen Fish Stocking Update – Due to the uncertainty with the (EWM) situation soon and because the DNR has only given us permission to stock Crappies and Perch, but no Blue Gills, no monies have been spent since the \$5,000.00 allocation was passed during the 2012 board meeting. DNR will not allow us to stock Blue Gills because of boat scarring of bottom and poor behavior of boat owners. Also, any purchase over \$2500.00 requires a bid. Presently, not enough qualified hatcheries to get bids. Dick suggested we go-ahead with spending up to the \$2,500.00 to stock Crappies and Perch. No vote was needed since monies were allocated. Dick will proceed with fish stocking.

