

Chair's Report, October 25, 2023

On Tuesday, October 10, Trish Dawson and I had lunch with DNR Lake Coordinator Ted Johnson. We found him remarkably receptive to working with us. We intend to invite him to one of our winter meetings. Among the many tidbits of information that Ted communicated to us were the following, most of which meshed very well with the implementation steps in our emerging lake plan.

- We should keep drawdown as a tool in the toolbox to address navigation issues/dredging. Mechanical dredging is pennies/dollar in cost effectiveness, versus any kind of hydraulic system.
- Commercial harvesting of carp might make sense
- Fish sticks should be added to help fishery: in a natural ecosystem, there would be 300-600 locations of "coarse woody habitat" PER MILE. Grants are available to help with this via "Healthy Lakes Grants." Lack of "near shore habitat" is the #1 limiting factor to healthy fisheries in the National Lakes Assessment
- Shoreline planting/restoration can be very important as "filters": hardstem bullrush, iris, etc.
- Herbicide applications near boat landings/navigable areas CAN be helpful, and not harmful: ProcellaCOR is currently best resource
- Adding interpretive signs around lakeshore can be helpful: grants available via "Educational Grants" program
- Prairie restoration along riparian zones can also be beneficial (in tandem with WildOnes and High School and others).

Ted strongly suggested that we sit down (for lunch/coffee) with Aaron O'Connell—our fisheries DNR representative, to discuss the carp situation AND a possible shock survey—moving up in the rotation.

I also had a long conversation on Tuesday, 10/24 with Tim Hoyman of Onterra, and I have circulated (by email), the latest version of our Implementation Plan. I believe it sets an ambitious but realistic set of goals and actions for us. Please read it with care, and come prepared to discuss it, and (ideally) to approve it, at our November 29 meeting. PLEASE SEND ME SUGGESTIONS/EDITS/CONCERNS WELL BEFORE THAT MEETING, by email, so that we can have a focused conversation in a timely fashion. Timeline for upcoming months:

- November: approval by District Board in November
- January: "Official First Draft" to DNR (21 Day "public posting—FB/Web; JP newspaper)
- February: Ted Johnson at our meeting; DNR Approval of Plan (pending changes)
- March: File new 5 year Mechanical Harvesting Permit
- April/May: Public Wrap-up Meeting with Tim Hoyman

Finally, to advance our goal of improved communications and increased workforce (allowing the Board to serve its proper role in governance), Tim suggested (and I concur) that we should a) set up (rent) a physical office space open to the public for a set number of hours per week; b) hire an "Executive Director/Volunteer Coordinator" (e.g., 10 hours/week) to facilitate communications, centralize our documentation and record-keeping, and grow our volunteer (workforce) base.