

Lake Owen Association Lake Manager Activities Report Board Update August 17, 2022

Lake Protection Grant Update

Grant runs to 12/31/2022.

It is expected that all grant funds will be used by the end of the year.

Boat Landing AIS Prevention: Decontamination Stations, etc.

Staff Gary Gustafson and Caleb Fox quit work at the campground and decontamination station in July. Sarah Sisco's last day is August 26. Advertisements for new staff were posted at area businesses, on Facebook and the LOA website, and in the Bottom Line newspaper. The newspaper just came out, and we will be accepting applications through August 24 or until positions are filled. There are two applicants for the campground position so far. We have hired James (Rocky) Clements as a decon operator for the north landing. He is available to work on Wednesdays and potentially as a sub for Zach during the week.

Target staffing hours:

Campground: Fri. 10-6, Sat. 7-3, and Sun. 7-1

North Outlet: 7 days a week. Mon.-Thurs. 7-3 and Fri – Sun 7-5 (depending on staff availability).

Boats washed 5/27/22 to 08/16/22: **37**. There were 22 boats washed from May 1 – October 6, 2021.

Addie Arens is entering inspection reports this year.

Shoreland Visits

Preliminary visits for one private owner and the Virginia Beach Condos were completed on August 4th. Both are considering projects. VB is reviewing 20-year agreement required for the grant before proceeding to design phase.

Grant Applications for 2022

Preliminary tasks and budget are attached. Five grants are proposed:

- Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention,
- Information gathering for the update of the comprehensive lake management plan,
- Development of the comprehensive lake management plan,
- Surface water restoration grant for runoff mitigation at the Virginia Beach Condos, and
- Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant (ongoing project and grant).

Drafts for the first four are due Sept. 15. Final applications and the CBCW grant application are due November 15. Board resolutions committing to carrying out the projects and matching the grants are needed prior to the November 15 deadline. As currently drafted, the total match would be \$42,003 to leverage \$128,408 in grant funding over three years. The current \$186,000 Lake Protection Grant was depleted over a 5 year period. The LOA also secures an \$8,000 Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant each year.

Decontamination unit operation is not a grant-eligible expense.

Lake Owen Science Update (July and August)

- Mapped floating and emergent vegetation. New areas were identified. These areas are important habitat areas in the lake, and we will share locations with lake owners and visitors.
- Permit for yellow iris control has been submitted to the DNR. Permission secured for all but one private site. It has been challenging to coordinate with USFS for yellow iris control on their properties.
- Pontoon tours went well. Thanks to Dave Berg and Steve Louis for providing and piloting boats.
- Discussion regarding fishery study with University of MN expert on cold water fisheries is underway. This has included initial discussion of study scope and cost. Initial estimates are in the \$150K - \$230K range, partly dependent upon administrative costs charged by the university. We are proposing further scoping of the study in cooperation with DNR fisheries biologist as part of the lake management plan update. Meeting set with biologist on November 3.