



ELRA Annual Meeting

The Annual ELRA annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2015 at the Emily City Hall starting with an 8:30 a.m. social period with the business meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided. This meeting is your chance to make your concerns, suggestions and direction known in-person to the Board as well as visit with your friends and neighbors. Topics of interest planned to be discussed include:

- Eurasian water milfoil detection and control
- Zebra mussel detection and control options
- Watercraft Inspections
- Change to by-laws (see related article)
- Board elections – three members are up this year. Director positions currently held by Kristi McClain, Mark Drewitz, and Doug Tarasar are up for election. These members have announced their willingness to serve another term.
- 2016 budget

All members are eligible to vote and present actions for consideration. **Plan to attend now!**

President's Notes

Summer is here and flying by! Hopefully you are having time to enjoy our area. The boat parade had excellent weather and many well decorated watercraft participated.

Meanwhile your lake association has been busy with the following:

AIS Awareness– ELRA participated with a 50/50 matching grant with the DNR in a public awareness campaign. This consisted of letters for resort guests advising of AIS prevention actions, windshield cards promoting AIS control measures, 80 public service radio spots on area stations concerning the AIS problem,

vinyl fishing license holders and fish ruler stickers promoting control measures. The items were provided to areas businesses who readily agreed to distribute these items. With the grant, ELRA was able to leverage \$1,000 of our funds to gain \$2,000 of educational materials.

Veliger Testing – The Board authorized the purchase of a special net for testing for the presence of the larvae form of zebra mussels. Board member Doug Tarasar attended training paid for by the County on the taking of samples. These samples will be tested, again at County expense. If zebra mussel veligers are detected early it increases the options for control, including chemical control. The test samples have been taken with the results available in August.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) – Inspection by ELRA members as well as the DNR indicates the EWM is considerably more prevalent than indicated just late last summer. ELRA set up a volunteer system for inspection and mechanical removal with a sign up capability on the web site. Personal follow-up was conducted as well as several emails, post card and newsletters seeking volunteers. A sufficient number of volunteers have not signed up. The Board is now exploring chemical control options and a special Board meeting is planned for late July to study the requirements, costs, and options. \$5,000 is available from Crow Wing County for control measures; however, with the added cost of chemical control this may not be sufficient. **Further information on EWM control will be available at the annual meeting on August 15th.** However, you may continue to sign-up for mechanical control or inspection areas at the ELRA web site at www.emilylakes.org. Training on EWM removal can be provided.

Membership – Recruiting of members continues. The work of ELRA on these issues is important to all property and business owners in our area. Please support ELRA by joining and/or donating now. You may pay via the web site (with an additional processing fee) or send your check for \$25.00 (or more) to ELRA, P. O. Box 111, Emily, MN 56447.

ELRA By-Laws Change Proposal

A change in the By-Laws regarding membership will be proposed for action at the Annual Meeting. As required by our By-Laws, notice must be posted in the newsletter at least 10 days prior to the annual meeting. The proposed by-law change is as follows:

Article III – Membership Section I – Members

Current – “Any individual, partner, or representative of a corporation owning land within the watershed of the lakes and who subscribes to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Association is eligible for membership. The Board of Directors may accept other persons for membership, but such persons shall not have voting rights.”

Proposed – “Any individual, partner, or representative of a corporation owning land within the watershed of the lakes, **and/or, any person in a current written, contractual rental agreement, for no less than 180 consecutive days, from an individual, partner, or representative of a corporation owning land within the watershed of the lakes** and who subscribes to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Association is eligible for membership. The Board of Directors may accept other persons for membership, but such persons shall not have voting rights.”

In order to amend the by-laws a 3/5 majority of the voting members present at the annual meeting or casting a mailed vote must be in favor.

Zebra Mussel Inspections

It may be mid-July but soon it will be time to pull out those docks and lifts for the winter. When you do, take time to examine these items for the presence of zebra mussels. Experts advise this is the usual way that the mussels are first detected in the water. There is no known presence of zebra mussels in our waters at this time; however, we want to be vigilant. Early detection can improve the options for control. Report any detection of zebra mussels to the MN DNR and ELRA.

Identification cards and further discussion on zebra mussels is planned for the annual meeting.



Lake Facts (per MN DNR)

- The deepest point in Mary Lake is 34 feet while in Emily it is 13 feet.
- Emily Lake size is 720 acres. Mary is 412 acres.
- Black Crappies are the most prevalent fish in both lakes.

City of Emily Lake Study

Last summer the City of Emily was awarded funds from the State of MN/DNR "for a study of the effects of the Lake Emily dam in Crow Wing County on water clarity and water levels in Lake Emily, Lake Mary and the Little Pine River". As per the DNR, Dahler Lake and downstream were added to the study. The deadline for the completion of the study was set for June 30, 2015.

The City formed a committee of 6 property owners, a council member, SEH (the firm hired to do the study) and the DNR to determine the scope of the study. A survey was sent out to assess areas of concern of residents. The results of the survey were compiled and questions were developed in the top three categories for SEH to address in the study. They are:

1. Water Clarity - How does the water level affect water clarity (trophic status index, excessive weed growth and algae blooms)? How does erosion affect water clarity?
2. Navigation/Access - How does the water level affect navigation of the river/lakes (ie exposed rocks, deadheads, inlet/outlet, etc) Will extending docks/lifts 6-10 ft into the water affect navigation? How does the water level affect access to the river/lakes via docks/lifts, property owners' shorelines and the public access?
3. Recreation - How does the water level's effect on water clarity affect wildlife (emphasis on fish) and recreational use of the lakes/river (ie swimming, boating, fishing, etc)?

ELRA shared all its records on water levels and water testing with SEH.

In November, SEH presented a proposed draft of the studies contents, the committee reviewed the draft and changes were made to better reflect the purpose of the study. Between November and June the committee only received two brief updates as to the progress of the study. On June 17, the committee was scheduled to review the draft of the study. This meeting was cancelled and included in a special City Council meeting the next day. Discussion of the study was suspended by Mayor Lund within several minutes. In essence the committee was not allowed to express its concerns or ask questions about statements in the document. The City approved the draft. However, after the approval of the draft, the DNR expressed major concerns with the draft. SEH addressed the DNR concerns and the study was approved. The lake study can be viewed on the City of Emily web site under the Announcements tab at:

www.cityofemily.com

Jane Schulte - lake study committee member

Newsletter Copy

You can download a copy of this newsletter in a PDF format from the ELRA web site at www.emilylakes.org.