

A View from the Lake

By Tom Schroeder – President Of BDLMD

As I watched the Lake prepare its cocoon for the winter, it caused me to think about all the work that has been done this year to keep our Lake the jewel of Cumberland and the surrounding area.

Board member's met In January with the WDNR, Barr Engr. and Lake Restoration to plan the 2017 EWM treatment plan for the various parts of the Lake. Due to several areas having small localized EWM in high use areas, rather than treat the whole section of the Lake, the WDNR approved the use of Diquat; a herbicide that can be effective on small infestations of EWM. The approved treatment plan was completed in early April. The annual July and Oct plant surveys showed that overall the treatment was quite successful. However, EWM was found to again be quite prevalent in the Tiger Bay area and Norwegian Bay. These areas will be the focus of the 2018 treatment plan.

In mid. Feb. after almost 2 years of planning and permitting the residents along 3rd Ave. finally saw the channel off Rabbit Bay dredged. After some nail biting with the up and down weather temperatures and varying ice conditions, Erickson's Excavating was able to remove the approx. 1700 cubic yards of sediment, in two days of perfect weather for winter dredging. The dredging permit required pre-dredging samples to be taken which the analysis showed Zinc (Zn) and Lead (Pb) levels being slightly above State threshold values. Therefore the sediment was moved to the City Landfill per permit requirements. Because the sediment appeared to be rich in organics, I worked with the WDNR and Erickson's to get the OK to blend the sediment with top soil to enrich the top soil that Erickson's sells. With the agreement of the WDNR three additional groups of samples were taken and analyzed. The results showed that the blended soil samples were well within the State threshold limits for Pb and Zn. Subsequently, a permit was issued to make use of the sediment versus forming a berm that would have remained indefinitely at the City Landfill.

On Feb. 1, 2017 the BDLMD applied for an acquisition and a construction grant from the WDNR for building a South West Library Lake storm water pond. The two grants amounting to almost \$250,000.00 were awarded to the District in April. The Construction grant application was ranked #1 for that category of Lake Restoration Grants. The BDLMD was able to acquire the property from Dave Desantis (the former Witte property) and a donation of adjacent land from the Cumberland Hospital. During Oct. 2017, Dresel Construction from Chisago City, MN. grubbed out the required trees and brush from the site, formed the storm water ponds, buried the sediment separation tank and planted about 85% of the trees and shrubs on the berms of the ponds. The remaining trees and plants will be planted next spring along with the connection of the existing storm water piping from the Hwy 63/48 hill, 5th and 6th Ave., etc. to the separation tank. When the connections are completed the facility will become fully functional.

The NE Library Lake Storm water pond behind Nezy's was constructed during late Oct. and Nov. 2016. During June, 2017, volunteers planted numerous plants and shrubs. Additional mulch and plantings where added to the project during Sept. and Oct. 2017. Please see the Presidents Letter in the 2017 Annual Letter for more detail.

During May, Barron County completed the replacement of the dam at intersection of 1st. Ave, Berdan and Bonnet Ave. Since the completion of the new structure the lake level has varied from about 1 ¼"

high (above required WDNR Level) to 1 1/4" low. The lake will be kept several inches low over the winter to help prevent shoreline problems.

In a future article other projects undertaken by the BDLMD such as the Library Lake Channel for boating access to down town, eradication of Purple Loosestrife and Japanese Knotweed, Boat Monitoring at the boat Landings, Fish Sticks and monitoring for Zebra Mussels will be covered. Also, look at the BDLMD website at beaverdamlake.org for additional Information.

On the behalf of the BDLMD commissioners please have a Merry Christmas and a great 2018.