**NEWSLETTER**

***Greater Jefferson German Lakes Association***

**Website:** [**http://jgla.org**](http://jgla.org) **Email: lakes association@hickorytech.net**

**Please plan to attend the fall business and educational meeting.**

Date: Saturday, November 11

Location: German Lake Lutheran Church

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Major Business: Ratification of Lake Association 501 (C – 3) status; election of

 Board members. Note: Only current members are eligible to vote.

Educational Topics: “Prevention and Control of AIS”, Allison Gamble, Ph.D., DNR;

 “Soil and Water: Agricultural Run-off”, Michael Schultz, Le Sueur County Conservation, District Technician. Also reports from CRWP (Cannon River Watershed Partnership) and Le Sueur County Environmental Services.

**Septic Systems**

On August 4th, 2015 the County Commissioners voted to allow property owners in the Subordinated Sewer District to maintain individual septic systems. The County is requiring everyone to have their septic system inspected by the end of this year and make their system compliant with county regulations by the end of 2017. It is important for folks to move forward as quickly as feasible to become compliant. We are allowed to maintain our own systems, let’s be responsible in doing that. The Lake Association is committed to 100% compliance.

**Weed Spraying**

In 2014 through a grant from DNR we received $100 of $300 cost per acre to spray 25acres of invasive aquatic weeds (AIS) on all four lakes. This year we received a similar DNR grant to spray 50 acres in all four lakes, not in Swedes Bay. Both years the feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with unanimous request to continue spraying in 2016. We are grateful to the coordinators (Jeff Hoffman, German Lake: Jason Gibbs, East and West Jefferson; Gary Frank, East Jefferson; Curt and Joyce Tolzin, Geldner’s Edition, East Jefferson; Lee Plonske, Middle Jefferson) who recruited neighbors, gathered necessary signatures, and collected payment. It would not have been possible without them. One problem encountered was that a number of lake homeowners who are not members of the lake association participated in the spraying although it was required that only dues paying members could participate. The board is requesting that those who benefited from the grant pay their lake association dues now. We have received word from DNR that funding for spraying of AIS will be cut in 2016. At this time we do not know what the impact will be.

**Wetland Restoration Project**

The project on Middle Jefferson continues to move ahead.

**Stage 1** was rip rapping a gully on the Koppelman property to prevent further erosion from runoff from farm fields north of the Koppelman’s property. This runoff was carrying soil into the wetlands by the highway.

**Stage 2** was Koppelmans putting 10 acres in CRP adjacent to the gulley to slow down the runoff from the properties to the north of Koppelman’s.

**Stage 3** is the current one and may involve deepening the Sohm wetland to hold more water and some type of berm to hold water longer to filter it naturally. This water is coming from surrounding farmland tile lines. An engineer is currently finalizing plans to be submitted for permitting. The lake association committed $5000 to this project at its beginning. The board is grateful for the cooperation of the Koppelman family; their interest and cooperation is correcting a long standing problem of farm and woodland runoff into the lake, even though the runoff came not from Koppelman property but from other neighboring farm properties draining into the Koppelman farm.

**County 104 Road Project**

The County 104 project includes a new alignment from County 15 to Tomahawk Point Road. Grading will occur during the 2016 construction season but will not be hard-surfaced until 2017.

**Volunteers Needed**

Research and the experience of other lake associations has found that Invasive Zebra Mussels can destroy a lake. It can only be treated if found early with only a very few zebra mussels present; if zebra mussels are discovered in multiple areas in a lake, treatment is not possible and the mussels will take over, multiplying and attaching to all solid objects: docks, boats, pillars, stones, beaches. They are present in rivers and a growing number of Minnesota lakes. Therefore, prevention is very important.

Zebra mussels are transported from one body of water to another by boats and trailers, bait containers, and other contaminated water sources.

Some lake associations have provided volunteers who are then trained and certified by the DNR to be boat inspectors at public landings. Jefferson German lakes are especially vulnerable because we have several public and numerous private boat launching sites. This year Le Sueur County (using state funds authorized by the legislature to fight AIS) pays county sheriffs to do boat inspection. Volunteers are paid $15 per hour, considerably less than sheriff’s pay, and would expand the number of hours of boat inspections. The DNR is launching a new AIS preventive program in 2016 using volunteer AIS Detectors and Trackers, trained by DNR and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Research Center***. If you are interested in helping protect our lakes from the invasion of Zebra Mussels please contact one of the members of the board. This is very important.*** We must make every effort, (including individually, inspecting and cleaning our boats, draining them and putting unused bait in the trash prior to leaving a lake) to keep Zebra Mussels out of our Jefferson German Lakes. Please consider what you can do to help, and if possible for you, volunteer to become a boat inspector, AIS Detector, or AIS Tracker.

**Fun Note!**

West Jefferson and East Jefferson Lake residents enjoyed wonderful 4th of July boat parades.