

2003

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) took 29 samples with 4 of the 29 samples identified Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in three areas of the lake (~9.5 acres).

CLIA worked with the city of East Bethel to obtain funds (\$2500) to complete a fall treatment of two of the areas (~8 acres).

CLIA applied for a DNR grant to treat the third area (~1.5 acres near the public access off of County Road 22).

2004

The third area (~1.5 acres) was approved and treated in the spring using DNR grant money. All treatments were completed utilizing:

- a) DNR licensed applicators
- b) DNR approved herbicides specifically targeted for EWM
- c) DNR recommended dosages.

CLIA initiated EWM spotter teams. DNR aquatic plant management specialist Chip Welling was enlisted to do hold training classes on aquatic plant identification followed by on-the-water training. The lake was divided up into eleven geographic areas with each area assigned to individual spotter teams. The CLIA spotter teams identified a fourth area of abundant EWM. They also noted one of the fall 2003 treated areas (6.5 acres) showed common to abundant areas of EWM.

CLIA worked with the City of East Bethel on a DNR grant (\$6500) to complete an aquatic plant survey. The grant was accepted and Osgood Consulting was hired to handle the lake assessment. The assessment included 267 samples taken along 89 shoreline tangents @ 100', 200' and 300' increments and can be viewed at "EWMSurvey04".

2005

The 2004 aquatic plant survey was published, showing the presence of EWM in 61 of the 267 samples taken.

CLIA retreated one of the 2003 areas (6.5 acres) and treated a fourth area (identified by the spotter team), 1.6 acres.

The CLIA board made a decision to explore alternative funding methods in an effort to reduce the spread of EWM, CLP and other exotic species. After exhaustive research, it was determined that the volunteer organization reached its limitations to raise the funds necessary to be effective at minimizing growth of EWM with the treatment and control methods designed and approved by the DNR.

The CLIA board's decision was to form a dedicated a committee to research and initiate efforts toward becoming a Lake Improvement District (LID) to share the responsibility

and costs equitably amongst all property owners abutting Coon Lake. The Coon Lake Improvement District Advisory Committee (CLIDAC) acted in accordance to suggestions from representatives of the DNR to limit the focus of the LID to the single issue of a Lake Management Plan. The CLIDAC paralleled the successful efforts of other LID's recently formed in the State of Minnesota and presented it's preliminary petition to Anoka County Property Tax Records Division and the Anoka County Attorney's Office for review.

2006

All four of the previously treated areas were infested with EWM (common to abundant) with an additional 25 acres (common to abundant) not previously reported. CLIA applied for DNR grant money for treatment of ~20 acres in three separate areas. The DNR accepted treatment in two of the areas (~13 acres). CLIA disbanded the spotter teams.

In August 2006, the CLIDAC proposed that a Lake Improvement District (LID), as allowed by Minnesota Statutes 103B.521, be established by the county or by petition to the county by a majority of the property owners within the proposed District. It was proposed that the District be limited to the property abutting Coon Lake to minimize the taxing district and to focus the impact and responsibility directly to those property owners having a vested interest and potentially being the best stewards of Coon Lake.

The CLIDAC received signatures from a majority of parcels within the proposed LID, and serving in the best interest of the property owners of Coon Lake and with the understanding that the growth and spread of EWM would not wait for any political exercise, the CLIDAC, representing CLIA and the majority of Coon Lake homeowners, respectfully requested that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners establish Coon Lake as a LID by resolution of the County Board to promote greater local involvement in lake management activities.

2007

CLIA identified 13 areas of EWM infestation as candidate treatment areas. The DNR Department of Ecological Services (Wendy Crowell) did a lake survey on 6/20-21 and identified 14.5 acres for DNR grant money. Wendy's report is available at "EWMDNR07".

2008

On January 8, 2008, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners ordered the establishment of the Coon Lake Improvement District (CLID) via Resolution # 2008-10 with five appointed interim directors.

CLIA hired independent lake survey specialist Kelly LaFortune to complete two separate aquatic plant surveys using the DNR point intercept methodology. The first survey was completed in June and the second survey in August. In the June survey, the most common aquatic plant in Coon Lake was the invasive species CLP (Poyamogeton Crispus) which was found in 61.1% of the stations sampled. The other non-native

aquatic plant, EWM (*Myriophyllum Spicatum*), was found in 31% of the stations sampled. Kelly's June 08 report is available at "EWMCLPSurveyJune08".

The August survey showed that the presence of CLP was drastically reduced. This is due in part to the life cycle of CLP as it is normal for it to be absent or reduced in the month of August. The August survey for Coon Lake showed CLP present at .6% of the stations sampled. The EWM was 32.7% of the stations sampled. LaFortune's August 2008 report is available at "EWMSurveyAug08".

The DNR added additional requirements for receiving grant money for invasive species control/management (DNRWaterQual08). Included in the new requirements is a water quality plan, which CLIA authored and is implementing (CLWaterQualPlan08).

In July, the CLID holds its first annual meeting and the general CLID property owners elect five board members and approved the 2009 budget, treatment plan and assessment charge.

2009

CLIA purchases two Global Positioning System (GPS) units to complete delineation work and reestablishes invasive species spotter teams. Classroom and on-the-water training was provided by DNR representatives and CLIA members. The spotter teams identified and mapped candidate areas consisting of level 3 and 4 EWM for June treatment candidates. The June treatment was financed and managed by the Coon Lake Improvement District (CLID). A total of 73.3 acres was treated for EWM by Professional Lake Management (PLM) on behalf of CLID. A performance clause listed by CLID in the PLM contract ensured that a minimum success rate of 90% would be achieved.

In July, the CLID held its second annual meeting and the general CLID property owners elect one board member and approved the 2010 budget, treatment plan and assessment charge.

Spotter team and PLM investigations confirm the performance clause was met. For more information on CLID, link to "<http://www.clidmn.org/home.html>".

CLIA hired LaFortune to complete an August aquatic plant survey. Eurasian Milfoil was present at 24.8% of the stations sampled. Kelly's August 09 report is available at "EWMSurveyAug09".

Ongoing efforts by CLIA, CLID, the DNR and private professional lake services organizations such as Kelly LaFortune, PLM, Lake Restoration and other interested parties will continue to protect the quality of Coon Lake and protect the best interest of the property owners and users of Coon Lake.