

Walker Lake Lake Committee report

June 2020

By Peter Wulfhorst

The lake committee met on June 15.

Water Quality – Aqua Link conducted a macrophyte study and first Submerged Aquatic treatment on June 2. The study found variable leaf milfoil, an invasive plant roughly 500' away near the opposite shoreline from the boat launch, leading Aqua Link to believe that this plant was more likely introduced by waterfowl as opposed to launching a boat with a plant on it. Aqua Link treated the plants with Reward in hopes of containing any outbreak. They will keep a close watch on it with their next visit. The problem We suspect the plant may have spread to some degree and we will keep a close watch looking for this plant on every site visit. This is a plant that can reproduce via fragmentation, so pulling it out could potentially be more harmful than good if the plant is not fully removed.

Aqua Link will conduct another Submerged Aquatic treatment in their July visit as well as the first Floating Aquatic treatment. Lake front property owners who wish to have their water lilies and/or watershield floating plants treated need to notify the office by July 1. I will send an e-mail reminder as well.

Dam – The lake committee is now recommending that we lower the lake this fall. If the Board agrees, the lake committee will authorize our engineer to submit the lake drawdown permit so immediately after Labor Day we can lower the lake. It will take about a week to lower the lake. Once the lake is lowered, the pipe will be inspected by the engineer to determine whether it needs to be repaired. In talking to the engineer, his inspection report will need to be reviewed by DEP. Then the engineer can prepare bid specifications for the work that contractors would submit bids. Based on our engineer's experience, he feels that actual work might take place until 2021.

Simultaneously when the lake is lowered, lake front property owners can obtain permits to remove sediment from their lake shore property.

The lake committee purchased 3 signs educating boaters to clean their boats to prevent spread of aquatic plants. Bill Boehme was provided the signs to be installed at the 3 boat launch areas.

Creel Survey – Marissa Boehme has placed the creel survey on the Walker Lake website. We have received a few surveys from fisherman. The results will be summarized by the committee.