

Lake Committee Report. Meeting held August 7, 2023

### *GEESE EGG ADDLING*

The permitted period for egg addling has ended and the report for 2023 has been closed out with the Fish and Wildlife Services. Nothing more needs to be done until 2024.

### *HAZARDOUS ALGAE*

There have been no reports of algae on the lake.

### *BEACH TESTING*

We were notified on Wednesday evening, July 12<sup>th</sup> that the results of our weekly beach testing showed high levels of E.Coli. The PA Dept. of Health regulations state that E.Coli density may not exceed 235 per 100ml and the 30-day geometric mean may not exceed > 126 per 100ml. We normally are <25, but that week we had 408 and 440. Signs were posted that both beaches were closed and email blast was sent out to all residents. In addition, a notice was posted on the Friends of Walker Lake Facebook page. Sekula Environmental was contacted to retest and we were informed that all but two of the lakes/beaches that they had sampled on Monday July 10<sup>th</sup> had failed and they could not resample right away. In addition, when the Health Dept. followed up with a phone call to us, we were told that they had approximately 90 beach closings that week.

The beaches remained closed until July 24<sup>th</sup>. Sekula retested the beaches on Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, but we did not receive results until August 21<sup>st</sup>. We received the notice that we could reopen on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from the PA Health Dept.

We believe that the high E.Coli counts were a result of recent storms in the area with large amounts of rainfall. There is no evidence of any septic issues on any lakefront property at this time and we encourage residents to report any suspicions. We will not be conducting further investigation.

We would like to request that residents continue to clean up after their pets and do not feed or encourage the geese in any way.

Some residents have requested DNA testing be done on the E.Coli. This could determine whether the source is human, pets, or avian. The Lake Committee is researching the cost of DNA testing for future consideration.

We would like to recommend that the Rules and Regs. Committee require homeowners to provide some sort of documentation of septic pumping and inspection on a regular basis. Septic malfunctions and leaks could lead to E.Coli in our lake. Many other communities require proof of septic maintenance.

The Twin and Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy (TWCWC) hosted a presentation by Peter Wulfhorst of Penn State Extension about On Lot Septic Systems on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at the clubhouse. This presentation will be available for viewing via the Friends of Walker Lake Facebook page, at walkerlake.com, or at TWCWC.com. Every homeowner is encouraged to take advantage of this useful knowledge.

### *CREEL SURVEY*

Please continue to fill out the 2023 creel survey via a link on Facebook and the Walker Lake webpage. The survey gives us additional information to help decide to stock the lake in the future.