

Lake Owen Association Lake Manager Activities Report Board Update August 17, 2020

North Landing, Decontamination Station

Bayfield County passed an ordinance update to require inspection and decontamination when available at a public or private access. This means both the hot water pressure wash at the North Outlet Landing and the sanitizing station at Otter Bay are mandatory.

(b) If a decontamination station is available for use at a public or private access, the boater shall decontaminate per posted directions and / or inspection protocol using the decontamination station provided.

(e) "Decontamination station" means a device provided at a public or private waterway access to remove all potential invasive species. The station may consist of high temperature water (140 degrees Fahrenheit or more) applied with a pressure washer by trained personnel, a recommended chemical solution applied with a low-pressure sprayer, or other techniques.

The USFS and the Town of Drummond granted permission for installation of the decontamination station in the road right of way, and it has been constructed. Signs were designed (w/Tom and Bill) and will be delivered August 19. While the opening was delayed considerably, we plan to gain some experience with operation yet this year.

Shoreland Restoration

Cheryl provided consultations regarding shoreland plantings and infiltration recommendations to owners of eight properties in July. Four of the eight are located on Krafts Point Road. Planting guidance specific to Lake Owen was also updated and posted on the LOA website.

Results:

- ✓ 350ft² "Healthy Lakes" native plantings to be installed under contract with grant funds (2 sites)
- ✓ Larger native planting – combination of plants and seeding, 350ft² plantings could be grant-funded (1 site)
- ✓ One owner was aware of important habitat area off her shore (emergent and floating aquatic plants) from the annual meeting and web site!

Discussion: While it appears that the intent of the original grant application was to support native plantings along the water, other practices that infiltrate runoff to the lake are also grant-eligible according to Pamela Toshner (DNR grant contact). **The board might consider making such projects eligible to reduce runoff of nutrients and sediment to the lake either lake-wide, or perhaps in Otter Bay where nutrient concentrations are higher.** Because these projects are expensive, the board might wish to wait for results of watershed analysis to make a recommendation. **Seeking board recommendation/approval.**

Infiltration Opportunities



Rock infiltration between the driveway and the lake would prevent runoff, which carries nutrient and sediment, from entering Lake Owen.



Runoff from a parking area at the Villas creates downstream erosion which likely carries sediment to the lake. Rock infiltration could be used to capture runoff adjacent to the parking area and below downspouts.



Rock infiltration and rain garden examples from Deer Lake.

Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response

A final draft of the AIS Rapid Response Plan is included with this report.

Seeking board recommendation/approval.

Lake Owen Science Update (from Steve Schieffer)

Water Quality/Watershed Analysis

The water collection and physical parameter data collection is continuing and going smoothly. The new lab results seem to be consistent with expectations and it appears to have been a good choice to switch labs.

Jake (GIS specialist) completed the watershed land use with areas. This will allow us to now evaluate the direct runoff watershed and how it impacts the lake. We will also make some predictions to demonstrate how land use changes could affect the lake water quality.

Groundwater Study

With substantial help from Bill H, Ed R, and Tom J (and others) seven wells were secured for groundwater testing. Samples will be submitted once all have been collected. The collection bottles with instructions were shared with Tom J, and he and others are getting those to the properties. Once these water sample results are received, we will determine if more sampling is necessary.

Groundwater modeling will be completed after sample results, outflow, and precipitation data are available (beginning in November).

Yellow Iris

Steve had a lengthy telephone conversation with Brian Heeringa from the National Forest Service. Brian is in full support with the physical removal of yellow iris on USA land. However, he needs to work with their lead ecologist to get approval, and this may take some time. Because of this and the time it takes to get an herbicide permit for chemical removal on one private site, we are suggesting that both occur in 2021.

Annual Meeting Presentation

The annual meeting presentation was recorded and should be available on the LOA website.