



Wapogasset/Bear Trap Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 345

Amery, WI 54001

November 21, 2022

To: WBT Lake Trustee's and WBT Lake email authorized list

From: Dave Erspamer, WBTL Sanitary District President, Mark Jacobson, Lake Conservancy, President WBT Lake Management, Committee Chair, First Vice President, and Marty Noonan, WBT Lake Improvement Association, President

Topic: Zebra Mussels Lake Wapogasset/Bear Trap Update

Upon initial sightings and confirmation of Zebra mussels on the north edge of Wapogasset by Dave Millard, WBTLA Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Monitoring Chairperson, our WBTLA President called for all Lake Trustee's to check lake docks, rafts, lifts, and other equipment which were out of the water and on property owner's shorelines within their assigned areas.

WBTL Sanitary District sent out a similar message to their email list which included the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department Zebra Mussels Inspection Brochure.

Our Trustee's are organized with assigned geographic areas around our two lakes. The attached Trustee's list from our annual WBT Fall 2022 Lake Directory page 4 shows a listing of 29 designated areas around our two lakes. Page 5 further shows those areas around our two lakes of which the starting point and numbers are shown on the attached map.

Don Springer is a member of our WBTLA Communications Committee and has put together an Xcel spread sheet that is representative of our inspection data thus far. Attached you will find a chart that Don has put together to record the inspection information as of November 10, 2022 that he has received. It was plotted onto our Trustee areas 1-29 Lakes Map to visually show areas where they have been found.

- So far there were 151 Zebra mussels found in Lake Wapogasset.
- Trustees and others have surveyed 370 properties. There are an estimated 329 properties which we believe need to be inspected.

Our lake properties consist of individual properties, mobile homes, and RV Parks (3), a large Bible Camp and YMCA Camp, Waterside Bar and Grill, and Mort's Marina and Townhomes. Some of our properties are members that are classified as backlots (not on the lake, but near it). They may or may not have lake equipment on their back lots.

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A joint meeting was held November 10, 2022 with the Sanitary District, WBT Lakes Conservancy and WBT Lake Association Presidents as well as several lake management individuals from our lakes, Polk County and WI DNR. The goal was to share information about our two lakes and to become educated on how to best deal with the Zebra mussels (ZM's).

Several facts and myths were explained and discussed as well as several resource documents were sent out to the attendees. The meeting was a good start to share materials and to start planning for actions to be considered and taken.

We have put together the following list of bullet points to help communicate several of the take aways:

- Lakes can survive once it has been learned that Zebra Mussels have been found
- As of today, there is no magic solution to get rid of them, but researchers continue to work nationwide on the problem
- Deer Lake was listed as being infested in 2016 with one spot and in 2022 they have been found in most areas of the lake
- Balsam Lake was listed as infested in 2021 and has been taking actions such as cleaning equipment at boat launch areas
- Decisions as to what action can be done, must be coordinated with "others" such as Native Americans, DNR fish management, Sanitary District, Conservancy, WBTLA and DNR and Polk County lake management regulators.
- Wapogasset is the only lake so far that has Zebra Mussel sighting. Bear Trap has not seen any. Several Trustee lake areas have not been inspected or reported as of November 10, 2022.
- Zebra Mussels will die when they are taken out of the water and seen on boat lifts, docks, marine rails, etc. They must have water and do not like sunlight exposure. They will survive in cold and freezing temperatures in the water over winters. This makes it difficult to deal with them.

The November 10th meeting minutes recorded the following Actions/Ideas:

- Our prior lake efforts (Zebra Mussel Testing, Clean Water Clean Boats, Education, etc.) have been helpful, but have not stopped ZM's entrance to our lakes. Keep doing it to prevent the spread of ZM's and also to help prevent the entry of other Aquatic Invasive species such as Eurasian milfoil.
- Consider cleaning equipment, grants, and education for ZM's
- Place signage to make everyone aware of ZM's in our lakes
- Utilize the ZM's resources being forwarded to the ZM management group
- Prepare a list of all dock installers who do business on our two lakes and give it to Polk Co.
- Develop an action plan
- Consider Grant applications
- Educate WBT lake residents as to how to avoid transporting ZM's to other lakes when they take their equipment off our lakes and use them elsewhere.

The following resources have been provided for further information on Zebra mussels.

Trustee Chart and Lake Map

Polk Co. Dock Brochure

Polk Co. Living with Zebra mussels Brochure

MN Document, Living with Zebra mussels

Respectfully,

Jim Andersen

WBTLA Communications/Education

For:

LBTL Sanitary District

Dave Erspamer

President

Lake Conservancy

Mark Jacobson

President

Wapogasset/Bear Trap Lake Improvement Association

Marty Noonan

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