

VERGAS LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 43
VERGAS, MN. 56587
AUGUST 2008

Surprise, yes there is the remnants of the Lake Association. With lack of serious issues to deal with, the Association fell apart. However; The County Lakes Assn. continued to want our water test results for long term trends. We still had money in the treasury so we have been paying the cost and doing the water testing and have continued to belong to both the state and county lakes associations.

Our treasury is now depleted so I am asking for lake residents to pay \$25 Lake Assn. Dues. That money will allow us to continue our current involvement and keep us solvent for several years.

There are about 700 lakes in MN. that have submitted water data for at least eight years. Of those about 1/4 of the lakes showed improvement in clarity, 60 some percent were no change and some 20 percent exhibited a decline in transparency. Long Lake was in the no significant change category. Several lakes in both Otter Tail and Becker Counties showed improved trends.

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

- Use "Phosphorus free" fertilizer and none close to shore.
- Properly maintain septic systems.
- DO NOT deposit grass clippings or leaves in the lake.
- Encourage vegetation (buffer zones) next to the shoreline.
- Rip Rap shoreline to prevent erosion.
- Minimize soil disturbance and use terrace landscaping.

Remember it is what happens within 150 feet of the shoreline that is the most critical and that is OUR responsibility.

Along with transparency our water samples are analyzed and a TSI (trophic state index) results. That value describes the level of Algal growth in the lake. Long lake is in the 40-50 range which tells us we will have some Algal Bloom problem.

I have observed and other people have reported the return of the Forest Tent Caterpillars. Our beach (the SW, On Freedom Flyer Rd) is planning to aerial spray next spring. To do that, the contract has to be set up this fall, with money collected, so the applicator can order chemical. Cost will be \$30-\$35 per acre. (Fuel and Chemical cost will be determined in the spring and that will drive the price per acre). When our beach had it done five years ago the cost came out to \$30 per property owner. A formula for estimating is: Each pass of the aircraft covers 50 feet and on average it takes three passes. Another way to estimate is 150 feet for a length of 1/2 mile equals nine acres.

An aerial picture of your beach, with landmarks the pilot can SEE, will need to be delivered to West Central Ag Air (218 736-7220, talk to ether Ryan Lubben, owner, or Casey) in Fergus Falls yet this fall. (lake pictures can be obtained in Perham at the ASCS office for a nominal price). The spraying needs to be accomplished in the spring when the leaves are about 50% normal size.

You will be pleased to hear that Sandy Vandermay has put together a list of property owners on Long Lake. That is the basis for our mailing. It has been a lot of work and she deserves our thanks.

Along with your dues I would like some feed-back on how to proceed with our assn. I would also like to hear from volunteers who would be willing to serve as officers and beach captains. The lake population has grown significantly. Many properties have changed hands and I know there is great talent out there. Just like Sandy, we need YOU to get involved.

Questions and comments can be directed by e-mail to whegg@cox.net or phone me at 342-2897. All mailings should go to P.O. BOX 43.

Wally Hess

Acting President