Aquatic Invasive Species Update

by Kevin Farnum

Starry Stonewort Project Update

2017 Starry Stonewort project started on time this year, at least as early as the SS would allow. This year it didn't grow up from the bottom as early as it did last year, however, the contractor was able to start the pilot project in late June in the Hwy 55 access area and the channel into the lake. With completion of those areas they started in the 2017 pilot project areas. These areas were adjacent to those areas worked on in 2016. The same protocol activity used last year was performed again this year with one area being mechanically pulled and then chemically treated (it will be treated again once more this year) and another area only chemically treated (it too will be chemically treated one more time this year.) Those areas worked on last year received an early treatment in the spring of 2017 and once again one month later. Those areas on the most recent survey did not see any new SS growth so were not treated a third time this year. This is good news and we hope that this lack of new growth is a good sign. We do however, expect that any bulbils (stars) that are in the sediment will still remain viable. We were disappointed that we discovered that bulbils that were in the bottom sediment were not impacted by the chemical treatments last year. What we have learned is that either mechanical + chemical treatment or just chemical treatment will give relief from areas over-loaded with Starry Stonewort, but the quickest relief is from mechanical pulling, however this has depth limitations.

A more full report will be issued when all of the third party data is received.

2018 AIS Pilot Project for Starry Stonewort on Lake Koronis

Lake Koronis, a lake of 3000 acres of which 1176 are littoral acres, is heavily infested with Starry Stonewort. Just as the lake is divided up into areas that are able to grow vegetation so can it be divided up into management areas for managing invasive species. These areas can be divided by management factors, such as different depths, areas around docks and lifts, temperatures, time in the year, personal preferences for or against chemicals, costs, etc.

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Letter From The President

Welcome to the Fall 2017 edition of the Koronis Lake Association newsletter. After a fairly pleasant summer, fall’s cooler days and beautiful colors are always agreeable with lake living. This column briefly highlights our summer activities and their status. Please read the newsletter to gain information on current lake projects. Below are a few topics that I felt were important.

1. AIS/Starry Stonewort Update – The AIS inspection/education program will be coming to an end the first part of November. It has again run very smoothly this year with our working partnerships through the North Fork Crow River Watershed (delegation agreement/funds administration), the DNR and LAMB Labor Services of Paynesville (scheduling, hiring, etc.). We are on schedule to deliver the inspection hours that we budgeted for. Thanks to all our partners – it worked really well! Lake Koronis has again been very proactive and in the national forefront of developing the treatment and management of Starry Stonewort. The second year of the pilot project went well regarding the schedule (on time and on budget) and results. We learned that our strategy of mechanically pulling and/or chemically treating does give relief from the heavily infested areas. We are hopeful that this management strategy will continue to be effective going forward. Our consultants have reviewed and agreed with our strategy. Kevin Farnum has worked tirelessly on this project along with the help of Dick Johnson, Jeff Erdmann and Jim Losleben. Many thanks to them! Of course, funding for managing Starry Stonewort will continue to be critically important. Remember you cannot eradicate Starry Stonewort – you manage it. Thanks to all KLA members who contributed extra dollars to AIS this year. We took in $9,150!! There were some very generous

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The pilot project has demonstrated that not one management protocol will fit all situations. As a result of this a protocol can be integrated with several of the different management factors, some of which also yield other ecological benefits to native species. In 2018 and into the future this integrated protocol based on what is believed to be important factors will be put in place.

In 2018 the major infested area, first discovered and delineated by DNR in 2015 will be broken into two areas based on depth. With an integrated approach we can take advantages of more time for some activities, early treatment in some areas before mass of invasive makes it less effective, and create environments that improve survival of native plants and animals. What this means is that in the shallow area, the Starry Stonewort is able to be pulled at least 1 month earlier than at a greater depth, thus extending the pulling season by 1 month allowing a greater area to be covered. Pulling may also quickly open up habitat for fish movement away from other treatment areas.

Chemical treatments, algaecides, as with the pilot, can be integrated into this approach to improve the effectiveness of the mechanical pulling. At a depth over 4 feet the mechanical puller is not as effective and may require diver gleanering to improve efficiency. However this increases cost and impacts the amount that can be accomplished in one season. Based on the findings of early chemical treatment in 2017 on new growth, it was discovered that a reduction in chemical treatment was possible that is more sustainable. This chemical treatment can be used to gain early control of material at depths over 4 feet. In simple terms the protocol for management is- Areas less than 4 feet in depth - mechanical pulling, this includes around docks and lifts, followed with chemical treatment (s) as necessary. Pulling can start in early June in the shallow areas. Chemical treatments can be used to augment the pulling and can vary depending on needs and personnel preferences. Depths greater than 4 feet in depth- chemically treat with two treatments. The first chemical treatment will be early in the season and the second treatment about one month later. An additional treatment can occur later that year or early the next year.

Our consultants have reviewed and agreed with this protocol.

Zebra Mussel Sampling Plates

Again this year the KLA Board had 10 zebra mussel sampling plates placed on docks around the lake. The good news, no evidence of zebra mussels was found. Thanks to Dick and Carol Johnson who checked them weekly throughout the summer and to those who allowed us to locate the devices on your docks.

Lake Koronis Tours

Over the past month several lake tours of elected officials and others have taken place on Lake Koronis. The purpose of the tours has been to observe the impact of Starry Stonewort to the shore owners as well as the impact to others that recreate in Lake Koronis. Hopefully, we have gained support for our projects and increased awareness for all the lakes across the state to Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. We have had three state senators, three state representatives from the House, Commissioners from Stearns, Meeker, Kandiyohi and Pope counties along with members of the county AIS committee from Otter Tail County.
President’s Letter from page 2

donations. This shows how important the issue is with our lake residents. Please see Kevin Farnum’s articles (Starry Stonewort Project Update and 2018 AIS Pilot Project report) for further details on these topics.

2. Annual Meeting –
The Koronis Lake Association Annual meeting was held at the Koronis Regional Park Main Shelter on July 23. Presentations were made by the KLA board members, Paynesville Township, and the North Fork Crow River Watershed. We had a nice turnout – thanks to all for attending!

3. Membership – I would like to report that our regular memberships were about the same as 2016 (43%). However the total membership dollars were up 13%. Our business memberships were up slightly, but not at the level that I would like to see. Our overall goal is “always 50%”. We had great ad participation from businesses in our newsletter. If you have not joined please give serious thought to being a member. Thanks to all for supporting us this year!

4. Starry Stonewort Weed Harvester Campaign – This year the KLA Board felt that part of our strategy for managing the Starry Stonewort infestation was to pursue purchasing a mechanical puller/harvester, similar to the one that has been used on our pilot project the last two years. Harvesting of the SSW weeds, particularly around docks (no permit from the DNR is required to harvest 2500 square feet of shoreline) and shallow areas has demonstrated to give immediate and short term relief. The KLA board felt that having our own machine would relieve us from being tied to the schedule’s of commercial companies and would allow us to properly manage the SSW. The board is in the process of working with a general contractor, who is also a Lake Koronis resident, to purchase this harvester. Operation/start-up costs will be the responsibility of KLA. Our goal is to have a harvester purchased and ready to operate for the 2018 lake season. Enclosed in the newsletter is a donation form. Please consider supporting this project. It will allow us to better control the weeds and let our lake residents use the lake without combating the weeds.

Please read the articles in this issue to stay informed and up-to-date on our activities. Enjoy the Fall and remember there “is no place like Lake Koronis.”

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Announcing
An Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program
for Stearns County Lake and River Shore Owners

Will you be selling a dock? A boat lift? A raft?
Or any other water-related equipment (excluding a boat, pontoon or trailer)?

Did you know that Minnesota law prohibits you from moving equipment with aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached? And that you are required to leave the equipment out of the water for 21 days?

Stearns County Aquatic Invasive Species Committee has a REWARD program for YOU. If you leave the equipment that is sold out of the water for 31 days we will reward you with

$200.00

Go to the Stearns County website to find the application or call 320-656-3613 to find out how to apply. This program will be discontinued when all the funds are expended.

http://www.co.stearns.mn.us/Environment/WaterResources/AquaticInvasiveSpecies

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New food boat sets sail on Lake Koronis

by Michael Jacobson

17 owners launch boat as community enhancement

The Koronis Kafe has set sail on Lake Koronis. The food boat will sell angus burgers, brats, hot dogs, fish sandwiches, and chicken sandwiches, with chips. They will also have pop, water, ice cream and popsicle treats, popcorn, and five pounds bags of ice (if someone needs some for their cooler).

“Fifty years ago, people started talking about having a place to eat on Lake Koronis. And they talked about it and talked about it. Skip forward 20 years, they said the same thing. Ten years ago, they said the same thing,” said owner Leo Louis, who described the boat as community building.

“This is a community-building enterprise,” echoed owner Steve Peterson, another one of the 17 boat owners. “It’s been that already. It amazes me the creativity and ingenuity of the community. Out here, people do the work and don’t love the recognition.”

The main objective is not to make money but to make Paynesville a better place, Peterson added. “What the world needs is to get to know each other better,” said Peterson. “This is a little way to do it. I love that.”

The idea was hatched, according to Peterson, at a dinner in March with Mike Arnold, another owner, who suggested putting a food truck on a boat. “That’s brilliant,” thought Peterson. “I got excited about it.”

A week later, at another dinner, he repeated the idea, and had five investors. “Getting people to put money into it was the easiest part of the deal,” said Peterson.

The boat was capitalized with $50,000, with Arnold capturing the remodeling work. Owners of Koronis Kafe are Mike and Ronda Arnold; Kella and Paul Bugbee; George Edmondson; Mary and Tom Hendrickson; Carol and Dick Johnson; Leo and Lou Louis; Mike Meyer; Geri and Harlan Palm; Peterson; and Jim and Vicky Torborg.

Via Craig’s List, they bought a homemade house boat, built in the late 1980s by a Stillwater industrial arts teacher, which had been based on the St. Croix River. The boat is 40-feet long and 14-feet wide, with the cabin being 24-feet long.

The remodeling included a total gutting of the cabin, with new glass board walls, a stainless steel kitchen with new appliances, all new wiring and plumbing, and new flooring.

The boat was approved by the Minnesota Department of Health on Monday, Aug. 14. The owners hoped to have the boat in the water by the Fourth of July, as the remodeling and licensing took a longer than planned. “I can’t believe how many people have asked me about it,” said Peterson.

On weekends, depending on the weather, Koronis Kafe will be out on Lake Koronis. On Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays they hope to beach on Second Island (Winther Island) for lunch, say from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If anchored, the boat has cleats for other boats to hook onto. They are hoping the boat will be cashless. It is equipped with an iPad and a credit card reader.

This summer, the owners are planning to staff the boat themselves, as they do a trial run of the boat. Next year, they hope to hire staff, maybe a seasoned person as the captain and a couple younger workers.

If successful, the owners could add a webpage (to take email orders), they could acquire a liquor license, and other ideas in the future.

Article courtesy of the Paynesville Press
Weed Harvester Fund Raising

As many of you already know, the KLA Board unanimously voted to purchase our own mechanical harvester to harvest the Starry Stonewort that is spreading in Lake Koronis. Since the Starry Stonewort is an algae weed that cannot be eliminated, the harvesting of the algae/weed will be a long-term effort which will require a financial expenditure each year. The lowest cost effort the KLA Board can offer for such an on-going program is to have a dedicated machine that only attends to the needs of Lake Koronis. The harvesting period is limited to about 2 ½ months. The harvesting machine will be fully utilized harvesting during those months.

The cost of such a program is about $50,000 per year based on a 4-year amortization of the machine and the labor to own and operate the machine. We are in negotiations with a general contractor, who is also a Lake Koronis resident, to own the machine and be the project operative.

We have raised $27,000.00 so far and need your help in getting to our goal of $50,000.00. We thank those who have already contributed to this effort.

For those who have not contributed, please consider supporting this project. Enclosed in the newsletter is a donation form.
“The KLA Board would like to thank the Lake Koronis residents, families, businesses and organizations listed below who contributed to our association for 2017.”

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Felling, Jim & Becky
Ferrell, Gary & Anne
Fishbach, Scott & Michelle
Fisher, Grant & Rita Ward
Franta, Michael
Freaking, Gene & Marge
Friederichs, Greg & Ann
Fuchs, Richard & Sandra
Fuchs, Virgil Farms
Gaspard, Dale & Terri
Gerlach, Pat
Getzel, Joan
 Gilles, Thomas & Lois
Grages, Donald & Mandonna
Grimsgard, Eric & Melissa
Grotto, Guggisberg, Mark
Haag, Paul & Sheila
Haagenson, Dean & Debbie
Haagenson, Steve & Kris
Habben, Alan & Ellen
Haines, Robert & Dee
Hammer, David & Cheryl
Handt, Mary
Hansen, M. H.
Hansen, Steve & Chris
Hansen, Wayne & Pat
Hanson, Calvin & Nancy
Haselhorst, Dave & Shelle
Havemeier, Brad & Jenny
Havemeier, Ken
Heitke, Shari
Hendrickson, Dorothy
Hendrickson, Richard & Jean
Hendrickson, Tom
Herfindahl, Grant
Hess, Jim & Margie
Hess, Ken & Lynnae
Hess, Roger & Sharon
Hofmann, Jeff & Kathy
Holm, Jim & Terre
Houk, James
Hunter, Gerald & Donna
Huselid, Boyd & Kathy
Ingalsbe, Dave & Barb
Jacobson, Peter & Lynne
Jarvis, Dan & Deb
Jensen, Bart & Valerie
Johnson, Dick & Carol
Johnson, Lois
Johnson, Roger & Geri
Johnson, Russ & Susan
Johnson, Tom
Jones, Jerome & Beverly
Kahle, Wayne & Peggy
Keller, Bill & Diane
Kent, Darcy & Jill
Klein, John & Deanna
Kodet, Diane
Kosel, Gary & Carol
Lammers, Thomas
Langmo, Greg & Karen
Langmo, Keith
Larson, Howard
Larson, John & Marcia
Laubach, Priscilla
Lehman, Don & Helen
Lien, Lonnie
Lindbloom, Tim & Bev
Lindeman, Dr. Ray & Mary Lou
Lindmeyer, Jean
Lindseth, Michael
Lokkesoe, Brian & Kay
Loenmos, Jim & Betty
Lopez, Manuel & Lillian
Losleben, James
Louis, Leo & Luella
Lura, Paul & Carol
Martinson, Dorothy
Masog, Paul & Michelle
Mason, Darrol & Diane
Massmann, Herman & Jacqueline
Mathiowetz, Brian & Ronda
Mathiowetz, Mary Lou
Mattson, Ronald
Mayer, Louis
Merrill, John
Meyer, Dale & Shirley
Meyer, Mike & Kelly
Michalski, Willard & Debra
Minar, Cushman
Minette, Arnold
Moldschel, Charles & Lucille
Mor, John & Donna
Murphy, Kathy
Nehring, Wes & Lois
Nelson, Chuck & Pat
Neyens, Eugene & Carol
Nieden, Mary & Margaret
Nielsen, Phyllis
Nolte, Bruce & Mary Ann
Nonnweiler, Gene & Ann
Nordstrom, Leonard
Ohman, Mike & Kathy
Olmscheid, Duane & Shannon
Olmscheid, Lee & Melissa
Olmscheid, Mary
Olmscheid, Rich & Kathy
Olsen, Jay & Sandra
Olson, Kathleen
Opdahl, Clark & Cindy
Osley, David & Karen
Paezniczak, Dan & Day
Papel, Darwin & Marcia
Palm, Harlan & Jerri
Parkin, Dave
Paynesville Motor & Transfer
Pederson, Bob & Susan
Peichl, David DDS
Pelzel, Robert & Mcedes
Peters, Jamie & Jean
Peterson Ron & Rosalie
Peterson, Neoma
Peterson, Steve & Mary
Pietzsch, Brandon & Elizabeth
Pietzsch, Don
Pflath, Helen
Quigley, Tim & Pam
Ram, Angela
Reineke, Randy
Revier, Charles
Ringquist, David
Rittenhouse, Art
Roback, Robert & Lois
Rome, Dave & Jan
Sager, John & Marilyn
Salzal, Gary & Vicki
Savage, Brian & Alycia
Sayre, Grover
Schafer, Randy & Susan
Schmidt, Judy
Schmidt, Shannon & Greg Jansen
Schmit, Howie & Barb
Schmit, Jim
Schmitt, Penny & Kris
Schupp, Timothy & Megan
Schueller, Jerry & Stacy
Schwarz, William & Elizabeth
Seler, Wayne & Jill
Seim, Ken & Nancy
Setterberg, Carol
Setterholm, Glen & Carol
Shaw, Tom & Linda
Slack, David & Mary
Smith, Gary & Evie
Sniezek, Greg
Solum, Allan & Pat
Sonstedt, Olean family
Staloch, Ted
Stanley, Burt & Karen Berg
Stone Point
Strate, Betty
Strate, Richard
Stricherz, Dom & Nancy
Sullivan, Steve & Arlene
Teigen, Greg & Rishelle
Thielen, Harry & Pat
Thompson, Jim & Rosanne
Thompson, Judith
Thornman, Richard & Karen
Thyen, Wally & Darlene
Tibbits, Jason & Sara
Tiffany, Delbert
Toop, Carol
Torborg, Dan & Rita
Torborg, Jim & Vicky
Truwe, Todd & Shelby
Ulflers, Donna
Untiedt, Jerry & Susan
Vagis, Virgil & Pat
Vanderpool, Elaine
Venenga, Larry & Audrey
Virtan, Bill & Jeanne
Wagner, Dave & Blair
Warner, Susan
Weatherfax, Faye
Webb, Ed & Kathy
Weinzel, Jim
Welter, Carolyn
Wendroth, Loren & Robyn
Wendroth, Lyle & Cindy
Wertsinger, Barb
White, Mary
White, Richard
Wilson, Linda
Winston, Andy & Bev
Wrums, Douglas
Ziegler, Dan & Wendy

2017 Businesses/Organizations

Continued on page 10

Members

A & C Farm Service
Amundson & Johnson PA
Anderson Insurance Agency
Ark Agency
Bug-Bee Hive Resort
Central Minnesota Insurance
Central MN Credit Union
Crystal Hills Assembly
Haines Electric
Koronis Ministries
Louis Industries
M & M Lumber
Paynesville Sportsmans Club
Perennial Bank
Sandy Point Park
Teal’s Market - Paynesville
Voss Plumbing & Heating
West Central Sanitation
North Fork Crow River Watershed District Inspection Program Update

by Kevin Farnum

Complete data from this year’s inspection is not in for inclusion, but as a preliminary report. We have completed 2127 inspection hours on Lake Koronis at all three launch- es, and 1298 inspection hours on Rice Lake at both launches. We had many hours of inspection furnished by DNR and we received an inspection grant on Lake Koronis that gave us 336 hours at a reduced rate. Once the final report has been received from the watershed we will publish the full report in the newsletter.

KLA with funding from Meeker County and Stearns County mechanically pulled in the access area and in the channel that leads out into the main lake. We also purchased rakes to remove floating vegetation around the launches. All of these activities were to help reduce the potential of Starry Stonewort from leaving the lake and moving with transient boats to other lakes. We also gain an internal benefit by reducing the spread of chopped up pieces around Lake Koronis.
NFCRWD Stream Monitoring

Stream sites are monitored for water level, velocity, clarity and several quality parameters including temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), conductivity, turbidity, total phosphorus (TP), E. coli, nitrogen content and the amount of suspended solid (TSS) material contained in the water.

Samples are collected every two weeks from spring snow melt through fall freeze-up. Samples are also collected after significant runoff-causing rain events. The results show the summer averages for the various parameters versus flow in cubic feet per second (cfs). This data can help us better understand areas in the watershed which contribute to water quality impairments and focus districts resources to help us reach the Rice Lake TMDL goals.

NFCRWD Lake Monitoring

Lake sites are monitored monthly May-September. Lake monitoring is accomplished through a cooperative effort between lake association volunteers and NFCRWD staff. A measure used to quantify these results is Carlson’s Trophic Status (TSI), which is a benchmark for lake water quality. The graph to the right shows the TSI averages for the 2016 lake monitoring sites.

What are the Current TSI Trends? (2005-2016)

Grove: No significant trend exist
Koronis: No significant trend exists.
Pirz: Mean TSI is decreasing, which indicates improving water quality (90% confidence)
Rice: No significant trend exists.

Carlson’s Trophic Status (TSI)

Eutrophic (TSI 51-70): Decreased transparency, lack of oxygen in the lower levels during the summer, weed problems evident, warm-water fisheries only.
Mesotrophic (TSI 41-50): Water moderately clear; some probability of no oxygen in the lowest levels during summer.

All water monitoring data is entered into the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency database. The data is used for water quality assessment. Link to NFCRWD sites are available on nfcrwd.org.

Thank you to the lake associations and their members who assisted with water quality monitoring this year. Also, thank you to those who submitted rainfall data, served on district committees, and contributed to other district projects.
“An Association formed to promote the protection and improvement of Lake Koronis”

The KLA Board of Directors does not endorse any of the products or services advertised by businesses in the KLA Newsletter.

“The views and opinions in this newsletter are those of the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or positions of the Koronis Lake Association.”
KLA Board of Directors Business Strategy for harvesting Starry Stonewort in Lake Koronis

Early results with the Starry Stonewort Project indicate that a multiple pronged approach to managing the SS will be necessary. It doesn’t look like a "silver bullet" will exist and hasn’t been found anywhere. A component of that is the need to have our own mechanical puller/harvester, which has been demonstrated to give immediate but short term relief from the overabundance of this invasive species.

The KLA Board is in the process of discovery for working with a general contractor to purchase a mechanical weed harvester to be used for removing weeds in Lake Koronis with Starry Stonewort harvesting being the prime use. The KLA Board will enter into a written agreement with a chosen contractor to own, operate, and maintain the machine. A written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be established and agreed upon documenting the relationship between KLA and the contractor(s) including the work to be performed and on an agreed upon schedule.

1) This, of course, will require a significant amount of money for payment to the contractor over an (now estimated) four-year contract. The estimated initial cost of the harvester and transport trailer is $85,000.00

2) The estimated annual harvesting cost per year will be $50,000.00

Item 2 is the estimated amount of money KLA will have to spend each year for the harvesting process. The KLA Board expects to be awarded some monies from Grants and the rest from private donations for initial start-up.

With that in mind, please consider the following and decide to support this project with a donation (be as generous as you can):

$50.00 _______ $100.00 _______ $150.00 _______ $250.00 _______ $500.00 _______

$1,000.00 _____ $ Other ______

Call with any questions ... Jim Losleben Land Line: 651 686-9547, Cell 612 868-3031

E-mail: leben815@aol.com

Please forward your donation in attached envelope to the attention of:

Karen Langmo - President
Koronis Lake Association
60436 260th Street
Litchfield, MN 55355
Phone: 320 333-0122
Do I need a permit for my dock?*

No permit is needed to install, construct, or reconstruct your dock on shoreline property you own if you comply with the following:

- A dock is a narrow platform or structure extending toward the water from the shoreline. A dock may provide access to moored watercraft or deeper water for swimming, fishing, and other recreation.
- The structure, other than a watercraft lift or watercraft canopy, is not more than 8 feet wide and is not combined with other similar structures so as to create a larger structure.
- The dock is no longer than needed to achieve its intended use, including reaching navigable water depth.
- The structure is not a hazard to navigation, health, or safety.
- The structure will allow the free flow of water beneath it.
- The structure is not used or intended as a marina.
- The structure is consistent with the guidelines of the local unit of government.
- Docks placed on rock-filled cribs are located only on waters where the bed is predominantly bedrock.

Restrictions on docks and other structures

You may not place a dock or other structure in public waters if the structure:

- obstructs navigation or creates a hazard;
- is detrimental to fish or wildlife habitat or is placed in a posted fish spawning area;
- is intended to be used for human habitation;
- includes walls, a roof, or sewage facilities; or
- is located on property you do not own or have rights to use.

If you have questions concerning the contents of this brochure, contact your DNR Area Hydrologist. See contact information on reverse side.

*Based on Minnesota Rules, Chapter 6115.0210 and 6115.0211.

What you should know about docks and other water access structures

Docks and watercraft lifts are commonly used access structures on Minnesota lakes and rivers. If you own waterfront property, a temporary structure that provides access to a lake or river is preferred to a permanent structure. Permanent structures are more likely to sustain ice damage, and a snow-covered structure over the ice poses a hazard to recreational vehicle users.

The blue box to the left lists installation guidelines for docks and access structures like boat lifts. These guidelines are intended to minimize impacts on water resources and shoreline habitat. If you follow these guidelines, no permit is needed from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Local units of government may have additional dock rules related to public safety and other local issues and should be contacted.

A shoreline owner may request a permit to install a dock wider than 8 feet. The permit applicant must show a specific need and show that the wider dock represents the minimal impact solution to that need. Docks serving single-family homes or residential planned unit developments generally will not need a dock wider than 8 feet. Public docks and mooring structures that are otherwise not serving as a marina may need to be a wider structure and will be reviewed individually. Docks that have no permit and that exceed the 8-foot-wide limit are subject to enforcement action, including a citation, an order to remove the dock, and fines for both the landowner and the dock installer.

Design and locate your dock and boat lift to avoid interfering with your neighbor’s use of the water. Docks and boat lifts should be placed so that mooring and maneuvering of watercraft can normally be confined within the property lines if they were extended into the water.

General Permit 2008-0401

A general permit was issued in 2008 to allow a modest platform at the lake end of a dock under certain conditions. This general permit allows a single, temporary platform up to 120 square feet measured separately from the access dock, or 170 square feet including the area of the adjacent access dock, if the following conditions exist: the access dock must be 5 feet or less in width and the dock must be on a lake with a shoreland classification of General Development or Recreational Development. See typical dock configurations on the next page. Refer to General Permit 2008-0401 at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/docks.html for more details.
If buying, selling or moving a dock from one body of water to another, owners should make sure all zebra mussels, vegetation or other invasive species are removed and let dry for a minimum of 3 weeks before placing in another water. When using a business to place or remove your dock, make sure that they have a valid Lake Service Provider permit and the staff have an aquatic invasive species training certificate. For more information see: mndnr.gov/invasives

The removal or destruction of aquatic plants is a regulated activity under the DNR Aquatic Plant Management Program. If your shoreline plans include removal of aquatic vegetation, please contact a regional DNR Fisheries office because a permit may be required. Removal of native plants may provide open space for invasive species to take hold.

Intensive shoreland development causes deterioration of a lake’s ecosystem. Dock installations and their associated uses are factors in this deterioration. Studies of lakes in the Midwest show that docks and boat lifts may shade out important aquatic plants and eliminate critical habitat where fish spawn, feed, grow, and find shelter from predators. Shoreline views may also suffer when large dock systems are installed. Also, there is a growing concern about the private use of the water surface if docks and associated structures extend too far, cover too much surface area, or span the entire owned frontage. The proliferation of dock configurations and dimensions is a concern to the DNR, lake associations, anglers, lakehome owners, and others. Finding the appropriate balance between reasonable access and resource protection requires collaboration by all interests.

Another issue of concern is any attempt to control access to a lake bed or water surface. Even when land ownership extends into the lake bed, all who own land abutting the water or gain legal access have the right to use the entire surface of the water. For this reason, a dock configuration should never close off part of the lake to other users.

If the dock is designed and used for access to navigable water depth, a DNR permit will rarely be needed. A dock does not need a permit if it is no more than 8 feet wide, is designed to simply meet the need of reaching navigable depths, and follows the other guidelines on the front of this brochure.