

KORONIS LAKE ASSOCIATION

Box 333 • Paynesville, MN 56362

"An association formed to promote the protection and improvement of Lake Koronis".

Spring 2019

Greetings to all friends of Lake Koronis! It is that time of the year that we begin thinking of warm weather, sunshine, opening up the cabin and putting in the dock. Enjoying all the recreation opportunities, beauty and peacefulness that Lake Koronis provides will also be here soon.

Meanwhile the Koronis Lake Association board has been hard at work planning for a successful 2019. Part of that plan is to begin collecting annual association dues. Your neighbors and all who love Lake Koronis appreciate your support! Your KLA membership will allow continued work on water quality, erosion/shoreline restoration projects, community involvement and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). I have highlighted some of our primary projects below and their plans.

2019 Starry Stonewort Management (SSW)

Since Starry Stonewort was first discovered in Lakes Koronis August of 2015, the Koronis Lake Association has been working tirelessly with experts around the country in developing and implementing a very comprehensive SSW Management Plan. To date KLA has received public grants totaling \$700,000, from the Initiative Foundation (these monies are from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund), county funds and the MN State Legislature, to fund the SSW Pilot and current Management plan. Here is what we learned from our 3 years of treatment/management:

- SSW can be managed below a nuisance level in relatively large areas, especially shallow areas, through mechanically pulling, mechanically pulling with chemical treatments or just chemically treating.
- KLA continues to consult with outside experts from Clemson University, the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) and MN DNR regarding our results and future SSW management planning. Lake Koronis continues to lead the nation with some of its work on SSW.
- For 2019 we will proceed with our management protocol that has been used from 2016-2018, of mechanically pulling and chemically treating. We will be expanding our treatments around the lake to 9 more infested areas along with a maintenance chemical treatment on the 250 acres in the southeast bay of the lake.
- Our operational partnership with Mathiowetz Solutions LLC of Sleepy Eye will again be utilized to combat the SSW. KLA thanks the Mathiowetz family for their support and dedication.
- Protecting and preventing our lake from invasion of other Aquatic Invasive Species like Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Milfoil will again be the key components of our 2019 AIS Boat Inspection program that will be in its 7th season of operation.

Please refer to the 2019 SSW Management Plan insert for more details.

KLA SSW/AIS Long Term Management Plan

Future ongoing management of SSW on Lake Koronis will continue to be a priority for the future. The grant funds that KLA received to treat and manage SSW in 2016 will be fully used by 2020. The association feels that a sustainable funding source is imperative to continue proper management. In 2018 KLA spent \$273,000. The board feels

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that \$200,000 annually is needed going forward starting in 2021 to properly manage the SSW. As a result the Watershed Petition Project committee was formed in 2018 to determine a long range plan for the management and overall improvement of water quality for Lake Koronis. The committee has explored different forms of future funding and has recommended that KLA pursue a Watershed Project Petition (WPP), which is part of MN State Statute 103D.705. The Watershed Project Petition is a very common funding mechanism that is used by many Minnesota Lake Associations and Watershed Districts. The special assessments collected allow the lake associations to maintain a consistent source of funding to properly manage their lake. KLA believes this approach will provide the following:

- Sustainable funding for the future
- Leverage an existing funding authority and government structure
- Allow management to be done by KLA through a partnership with the North Fork Crow River Watershed District (NFCRWD).
- Taxes would only be collected from Koronis Lake shore owners.
- Ensuring Lake Koronis property values and recreation opportunities remain strong. A more detailed summary of this plan has been included please refer to the insert for more information.

Water Quality Projects

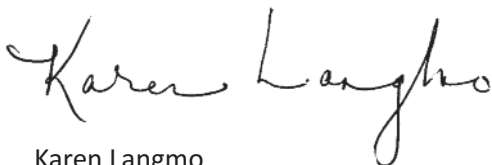
The Water Quality Improvement Committee has been working on several projects since 2018. Here are highlights from the projects:

- KLA appropriated \$12,000 to be used to pay for the partial cost of constructing Rock Inlets on the field side of the buffer strips. While the buffer strips are a great help with filtering water, there are numerous field tiles running under these buffers which allow unfiltered water to enter ditches and the Crow River. This project is a cooperative effort between KLA, North Fork Crow River Watershed District and Stearns County Soil & Water.
- KLA will again be partnering with the North Fork Crow River Watershed District to hire a summer intern to study/help with Water Quality within the watershed district. This is our 4th summer with this program.

There will be a more detailed summary of their year and future plans in the Spring KLA newsletter.

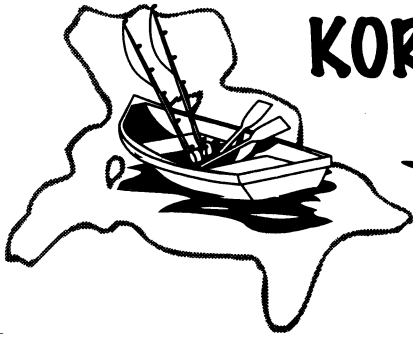
More than ever your membership is crucial to protecting, enhancing and restoring our lake. Please keep this in mind as you consider your 2019 membership. With your generous support, we can protect and improve our lake for future generations!

Thank you for your support!



Karen Langmo

KLA President



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2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Check here if city/state/zip, phone, lake and permanent addresses, email and delivery are unchanged from last year. If there are changes, please note changes only.

Street Address (Permanent): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____

Additional Phone (_____) _____

Lake Address (if not permanent residence)

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email (please print): _____

Additional Email: _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by: Website Email Hard Copy

• *If you selected hard copy and prefer delivery to the lake address section above, please check here*

Yes, I want to help protect and improve the water quality and beauty of Lake Koronis with a regular membership.

\$50 \$100 \$200 Other \$ _____

Yes, I would like to support fireworks also.

\$25 \$ 50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Yes, I would like to support AIS.

\$25 \$ 50 \$75 Other \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please return form with your check payable to Koronis Lake Association to:
Koronis Lake Association
P.O. Box 333
Paynesville, MN 56362

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Listed below are a few opportunities to get involved in KLA. Please indicate the projects you are interested in so KLA Board members can contact you. I/We would like to support the Association by volunteering my/our time in the following way:

- Serve on the KLA Board
- Serve on a committee (AIS, Community Involvement/Awareness, Lake Quality Improvement, Lake Assessment, Membership/Dues, Shoreline Restoration and Stormwater Mgmt Grant (see website for more committee Duties)
- Work on the newsletter
- Help with the annual meeting
- Help with 4th of July Boat parade and/or Fireworks
- Help/work with website
- Other _____

If you have any suggestions/comments please let us know below. Thanks!



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Koronis Lake Association Starry Stonewort Pilot and Management for MN Lakes

In 2017 and 2018 data confirmed that both mechanical pulling, mechanically pulling with chemical treatment, or just chemical treatment can effectively manage, for at least three years, with chemical sustainability treatments, relatively large areas of Starry Stonewort infestation below a nuisance level, especially in shallow areas.

In 2018 we used two chemical treatments to sustain the work we had accomplished in previous years. In 2019 we will try to reduce this to one treatment, after consulting with our experts.

Chemical treatments alone were very effective in maintaining the low level of Starry Stonewort growth in the 2016 and 17 treatment areas and continued to reduce the biomass of the Starry Stonewort. The 2018 data was consistent with what was observed in 2017 and 16 with the most dramatic results in the area that was both pulled and chemically treated. In some of the areas where Starry Stonewort was very prevalent we observed some early year growth of several native plant species.

With the help of a locally owned dedicated to Koronis mechanical harvester and a local dedicated operation crew we were able to remove approximately 800,000 lbs. of Starry Stonewort mass over the summer. We implemented our protocol over 200 acres mostly in the Southeast bay of the lake. We were also able to impact the Starry Stonewort growing in one of the marinas on the lake.

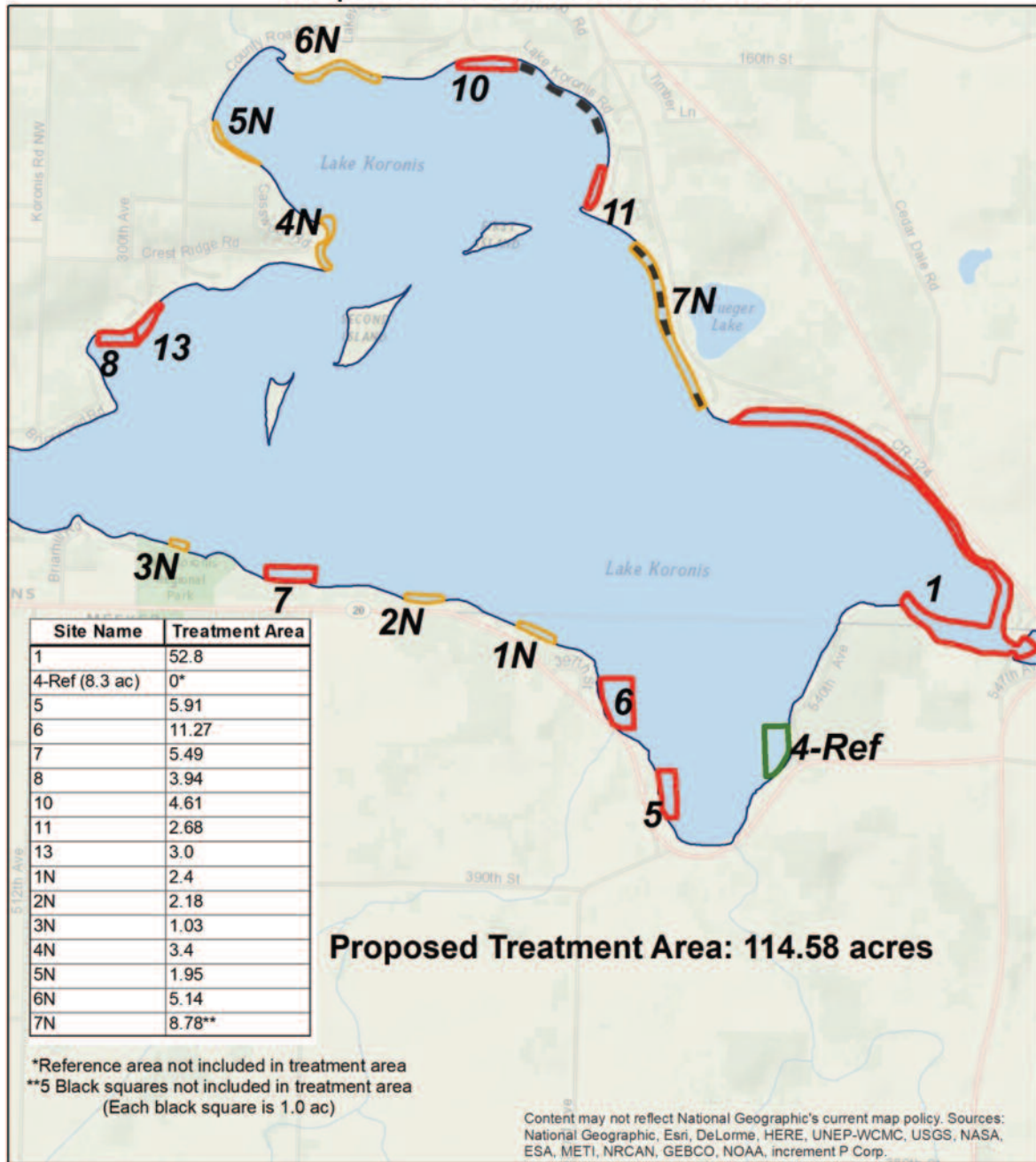
After review of this information with the University of Minnesota, MN DNR, and our consultant from Clemson University we are prepared to move forward in 2019 with our management project on Lake Koronis for Starry Stonewort. Our plans for the next year is to take advantage of the integrated approach developed, use mechanical pulling and chemical treatment where it is most beneficial and cost effective and use chemical treatment where and when it will deliver the best results.

With new data from a well-timed vegetation survey we have a more thorough picture of Starry Stonewort growth areas. We are planning on expanding our 2018 protocol into farther around the lake impacting several more infested areas in 2019.

In 2019 the major infested area, first discovered and delineated by DNR in 2015 as 250 plus acres of infestation will be chemically treated at least one time in the shallow areas to sustain the previous work in this area and the other 9 areas treated in the past. An additional 7 areas will be added for treatment in 2019. As many of these areas as possible will be mechanically pulled prior to chemical treatment. This continues our efforts to apply the best practices to the different environments throughout the lake and not just treat the lake without a thought process. Recall that the areas around the lake can be managed by different factors through the year, such as different depths, areas around docks and lifts, temperatures, time in the year, personal preferences for or against chemicals, costs, etc. These areas demonstrated that not one management protocol will fit all situations. As a result of this an integrated protocol can be used with several of the different management factors, some of which also yield other ecological benefits to native species. With an integrated approach we can take advantages of creating environments that improve survival of native plants and animals.

Below is a map of Lake Koronis showing the areas that possibly would be treated, either mechanically pulled, chemically treated, or both.

Lake Koronis Starry Stonewort Proposed Treatment Areas 2019



Lake Koronis ID: 73020002



1 centimeter = 297 meters

UTM NAD 1983
Blue Water Science
Map Made Feb. 18, 2019

Koronis Lake Association (KLA)
Starry Stonewort/AIS Long Term Management Plan

In late 2018 a new KLA Committee, the Watershed Petition Project committee (WPP), was established to determine a long-range plan for managing Starry Stonewort and improving Lake Koronis. To date, KLA has received public grants of \$700,000 funding the Pilot and Management Plan since 2015. The grant funds will be fully used in 2020 requiring a sustainable long-term funding plan. A summary of this plan is outlined below.

Background:

- Since the confirmation of starry stonewort in 2015, KLA has become a national and state leader in the treatment of starry stonewort. Funding for this effort has come from various grants secured by KLA. Grant funds received will be used up in 2020 and these sources will not be sustained in the future.
- KLA has explored multiple forms of future funding listed below:
 - Grants
 - Foundations (philanthropy)
 - Lake Improvement Districts (LID)
 - Watershed Project Petitions (WPP)
- KLA believes the WPP is the best source of sustainable funding for the ongoing management of starry stonewort in Lake Koronis. This approach leverages an existing funding authority and government structure. The WPP is fair since taxes would only be collected from Lake Koronis property owners. The WPP could be managed by KLA in partnership with the North Fork Crow River Watershed District (NFCRWD), so no new organizations would be formed.

The Plan:

- KLA is petitioning the NFCRWD to act as fiscal agent for a project managed by KLA to treat and manage aquatic invasive species (e.g. starry stonewort) in Lake Koronis over the next 10 years and beyond.

Why this is important:

- The plan insures Lake Koronis property values and healthy recreation.
- Lake-wide treatment is the only effective way to treat starry stonewort.
- Lake-wide WPP funding is most cost effective and fair to all property owners.

WPP Terms and MN State Law: MN Statute 103D.705

- The purpose of the KLA WPP would be to improve water quality in Lake Koronis but specifically to manage starry stonewort. The WPP scope would be all Koronis lake shore property owners. The project plans to generate approximately \$200,000 annually.
- WPP establishment requires the approval of the NFCRWD Board plus signed petitions from at least 25 percent of Lake Koronis property owners through a process outlined in MN Statute 103D.705,

Next Steps:

- File petition with NFCRWD
- Communicate plan to all property owners via mail and public meetings this summer
- Get petition signatures from 30% of property owners by summer's end.
- Submit signed petition to NFCRWD

Please contact me with any question (see contact information below)

Steve Peterson, WPP Committee Chair P: 612-747-7961 E: stevenpeterson1958@gmail.com