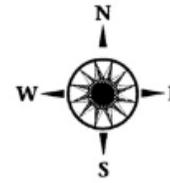


NORTH & SOUTH TWIN LAKES

RIPARIAN ASSOCIATION



FEBRUARY, 2016

WWW.NSTLRA.COM

P.O. BOX 163, PHELPS WI, 54554

Special Edition

Your NSTLRA Board of Directors has continued to meet and aggressively work to address the further encroachment of EWM (milfoil) in North and South Twin Lakes.

In November your board approved submitting an application to the DNR to update our Lake Management Plan that didn't reflect our more current and challenging experiences with EWM as well as other areas of concern by the DNR.

In December we voted to submit an application for a whole lake treatment effort on South Twin and spot treatment at the previously identified locations on North Twin under the 2016 DNR grant program.

In January, the Board reviewed the final 2015 lake survey report which noted new EWM colonies along the western shore of North Twin near the Lakota Landing. This new information prompted the Board to expand the scope of the lake treatment program application and to commit approximately \$50,000 towards the treatments total cost (\$90,000+).

The NSTLRA funding commitment is significant because it represents 60% of our cash savings. In making this funding commitment, the Board is applying for a 50% match from the DNR (rather than the traditional 35% match) and hopes this increased local funding level will improve our DNR grant ranking score.

In addition to the above, NSTLRA Treasurer Joe Fritzsche did a financial analysis reviewing historic AMEN contributions (which have provided our matching funds for EWM treatment programs) and projected costs for current and future lake treatment programs. With the advent of EWM on North Twin's western shore Joe needed to update his financial analysis. Based on Joe's analysis it was obvious that without significant funding from the DNR NSTLRA did not have the financial capacity to do the required treatment programs.

In response to the financial analysis, and in consideration of the on-going requirement for periodic treatment of the lakes, the board asked NSTLRA director Michael Wade (a second generation North Twiner) to lead the research relating to forming a lake district. Part of that effort was reaching out to Twin Lakes property owners by surveying their attitudes and concerns.

What follows are the results of that survey ...

NSTLRA Lake District Survey Data ...

Survey Name: NSTLRA Lake District Feedback Survey

The NSTLRA Board has approved the exploration of formulating a North and South Twin Lake District in an effort to combat Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). In addition to developing a separate financial analysis NSTLRA has also elected to conduct a Lake District Survey among our members and non-members of our community. Each member of NSTLRA who has provided an email address to the association was emailed a copy of this survey. Members not contributing email addresses were mailed a copy of this survey, along with a mailed copy to a random sampling of our non-member population. The Board understands that while this survey does not represent 100% of the lake ownership community, it is a qualified representation and reflective of a reasonable response rate in a survey environment

Email Survey Statistics

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total NSTLRA Member Emails Sent | 205 |
| Total NSTLRA Member Emails “Bounced” (Note: Either incorrect email address or “Greylisted” by individual email service provider) | 26 |
| Effective NSTLRA Member Emails Sent | 179 |
| Total Survey Responses | 107 |
| Total Completed Surveys | 92 |
| Total Partial Surveys | 15 |
| Total Survey Completed Percentage | 85.98% |
| Total Survey Response Percentage | 59.78% |

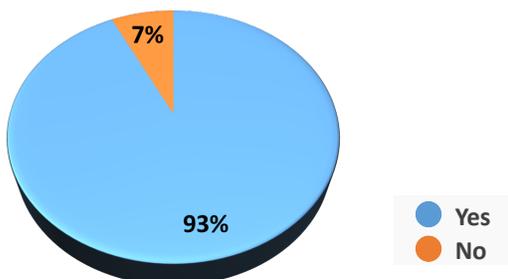
Mailed Survey Statistics

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total NSTLA Member Mailed Surveys | 47 |
| Total Non-Member Mailed Surveys Sent | 53 |
| Total Mailed Surveys Sent | 100 |
| Total Mailed Surveys Undeliverable | 1 |
| Total Surveys Successfully Sent | 99 |
| Total Surveys Received | 30 |
| Total Completed Surveys | 29 |
| Total Partial Surveys | 1 |
| Total Survey Completed Percentage | 29.29% |

The following reflects the results of this survey. Each question was designed to develop a knowledge base of initial responses before any further consideration of a North and South Twin Lake District may be pursued.

Our initial question asks whether you believe that the costs incurred for lake quality management efforts should be shared across all of our North and South Twin property owners ...

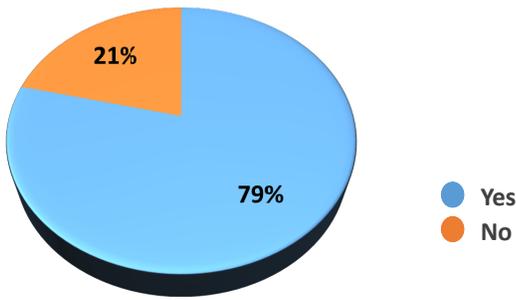
1. Do you believe that the costs for lake quality management should be shared by all of our North and South Twin Lakes property owners?



As you can see ... **93 %** of the property owners on both lakes feel that the costs of lake quality management activities should be shared across the property owner community.

Our next question states a key fundamental principle, “Will the property owners of both North and South Twin Lakes support the establishment of a Lake District?” ...

2. Will you support the establishment of a North and South Twin Lake District?

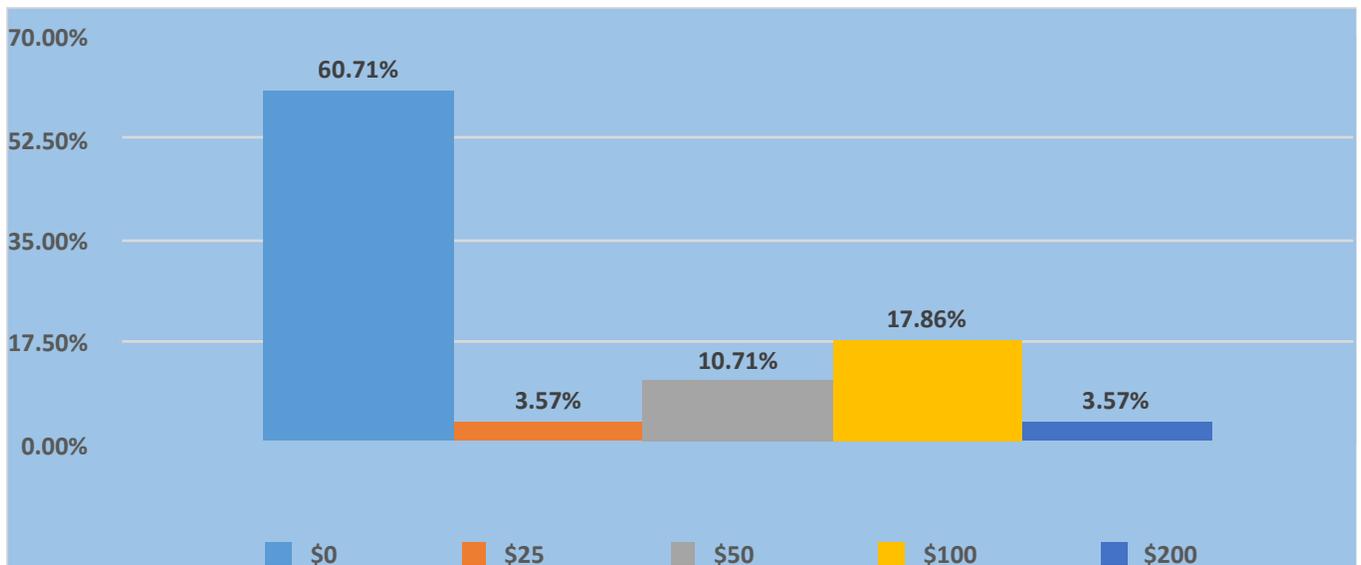


As you can see ... **79%** of the property owners on both lakes are willing to support a North and South Twin Lake District.

NSTLRA monetary donations are the life blood of our organization and our primary source of funding for current lake quality management efforts. Our next question contemplates the future without a Lake District and poses the question to our community “How much will you personally pledge annually to support lake quality management activities on both North and South Twin Lakes?”

3. If a Lake District is not supported by a vote of 51% of the property owners in the predetermined district, how much will you personally pledge annually to support lake quality management activities on the Twin Lakes?

Annual Personal Contributions

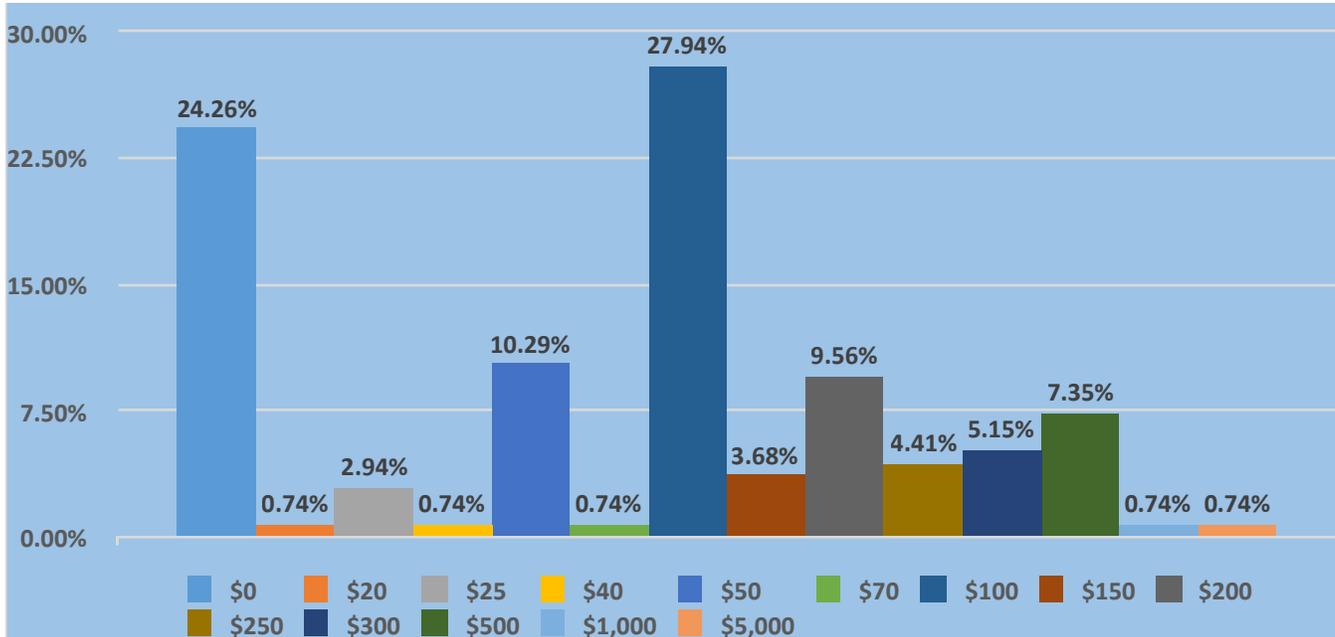


The voluntary donations range from **\$25-\$200** with an estimated total sum collection from the survey respondents of **\$875**. Estimated whole lake chemical treatments for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) can be as much as **\$100,000**. **60.71%** of the respondents chose to contribute “**0**” dollars with **17.86%** of the respondents choosing to contribute “**\$100**” dollars.

This question is an extension of our NSTLRA monetary donation efforts. It poses the question “If grants are not available from the Wisconsin DNR, how much money will you personally pledge for the 2016 whole lake Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) treatment of South Twin Lake?” ...

4. If the grants are not attainable, how much will you personally pledge for the 2016 whole lake EWM treatment of South Twin?

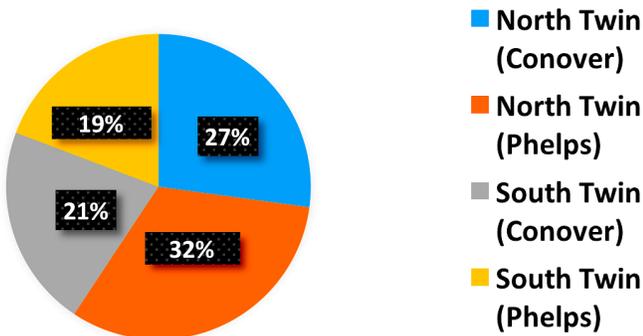
Personal Contributions for 2016 Whole Lake Treatment of South Twin



The voluntary donations range from **\$20-\$5,000** with an estimated total sum collection from the respondents of **\$22,680**. As we have mentioned previously, estimated whole lake chemical treatments for EWM can be as much as **\$100,000**. Approximately over **24%** of the respondents chose to contribute “**0**” dollars with approximately **28%** of the respondents choosing to contribute “**\$100**” dollars.

The last question is one of a very simple nature. It merely asks the survey participant’s lake location and town name ...

5. Where is the lake location and town name of your property?



As you can see, **40%** of the responses reside on South Twin Lake and **59%** of the responses reside on North Twin Lake

Discussion Points on Comments made to the NSTLRA Board:

Many of our NSTLRA members offered numerous introspective, thoughtful comments and ideas to help our efforts in managing the lake quality and eradicating Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)/Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) from our waters. Some may be simple to implement, but other ideas are not practical at this time and require government intervention to make them happen.

- Many members suggested collecting launch fees at our boat landings. While this may appear to be a natural vehicle to generate dollars for our AIS fight, the State of Wisconsin will not allow these fees to be used for anything other than the operation and maintenance of the actual boat launch.
- Others expressed concern that EWM is a state/federal issue and that governmental bodies should do more to control invasive species. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) already has some elements of a comprehensive AIS strategy in place, but funding for these efforts is woefully inadequate. Current demands on the WDNR far exceed available resources. The majority of these funds are distributed to eligible applicants through the state's AIS Grants. Financially stable organizations fundamentally excel in the AIS grant application process. These funds do not provide for the amount of economic effort necessary to adequately address Wisconsin's AIS problems in our inland waters.

There are concerned, organized groups who have made recommendations to the state government to implement new funding sources for Wisconsin AIS. These options include increasing boater registration fees, adding an invasive species surcharge to boat registrations, and implementing utility trailer and non-motorized boat registrations, etc. Surrounding states do utilize similar fees to fund their fights against AIS. However, these solutions are not "quick fixes" and take exceptionally long periods of time to be adopted by your state legislature.

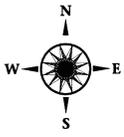
Please rest assured your voices have been heard and this board is working hard to execute a collective solution that will address the challenges we face on our beautiful waters.

Summary and Future Direction:

The survey reflects clearly that the majority of our North and South Twin Lakes respondents feels that lake quality management expenses should be shared across all property owners (**92.75%**), that our North and South Twin Lakes property owners are in favor of the formation of a Lake District (**78.83%**), annual monetary donations for the continued cost of lake quality management projects is deficient and that our respondents will rise to the occasion with generous monetary donations to a lake in crisis (**\$22,680**).

It is important for our community to understand that the estimated cost of EACH whole lake treatment for EWM can be as much as \$100,000.

Generally speaking the survey was extremely positive, but there should be a serious reflection on funds accumulation towards future lake quality management projects. It becomes clear that annual voluntary contributions will not be adequate to address our future lake quality goals and needs as we move forward into the future and continue our fight against AIS.



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