

A

APPENDIX A

Public Participation Materials



Buffalo Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District



**Buffalo Lake
Lake Management Planning Project
Kick-off Meeting
July 11, 2015**



Brenton Butterfield
Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning

Presentation Outline

- Onterra, LLC
- Why Create a Management Plan?
- Elements of this Lake Management Planning Project
 - Data & Information
 - Planning Process
- Project Deliverables



Onterra, LLC

- Founded in 2005
- Staff
 - Four full-time ecologists
 - One part-time ecologist
 - Two field technicians
 - Four summer interns
- Services
 - Science and planning
- Philosophy
 - Promote realistic planning
 - Assist, not direct



Why create a lake management plan?

- Onterra assisted in the creation of comprehensive management plan in 2006
- Studies indicated high occurrence of EWM & CLP
- Indications that fall 2012-spring 2014 drawdown significantly reduced EWM & CLP
- Considering these large changes, Ted Johnson (WDNR) recommended that the management plan be updated
- District membership voted to proceed on that course



Why create a lake management plan?

- To create a better understanding of lake's positive and negative attributes.
- To discover ways to minimize the negative attributes and maximize the positive attributes.
- To foster realistic expectations and dispel myths.
- To create a snapshot of the lake for future reference and planning.



Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Elements of an Effective Lake Management Planning Project

Data and Information Gathering

Environmental & Sociological

Planning Process

Brings it all together



Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Data and information gathering

- Study Components
 - Water Quality Analysis
 - Watershed Assessment
 - Aquatic Plant Surveys
 - Fisheries Data Integration
 - Shoreline Assessment
 - Stakeholder Survey



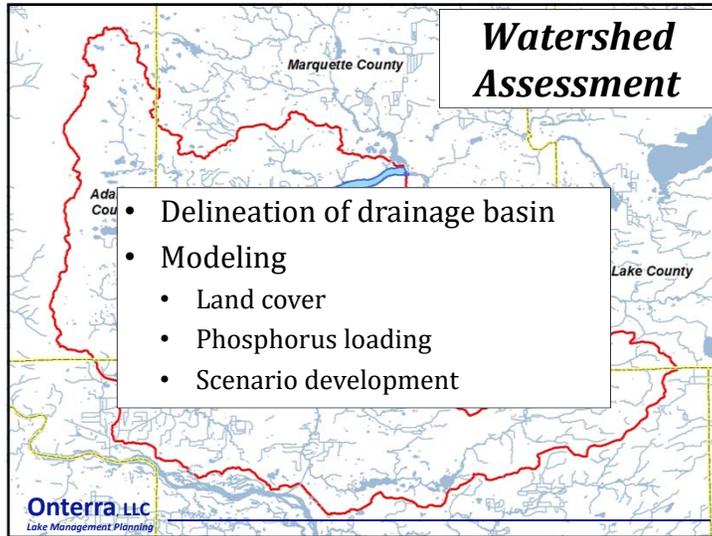
Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Water Quality Analysis

- General water chemistry (current & historic)
 - Citizens Lake Monitoring Network & Professional
- Nutrient analysis
 - Lake trophic state (Eutrophication)
 - Limiting plant nutrient
- Supporting data for watershed modeling



Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning



Aquatic Plant Surveys

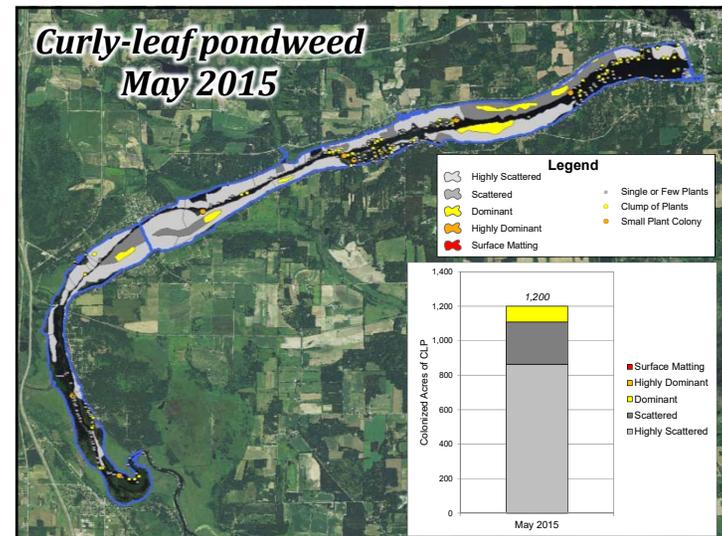
- Concerned with both native and non-native plants
- Multiple surveys used in assessment
 - Early Season AIS Survey (May 28th, 2014)

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Non-native Aquatic Plants

Curly-leaf Pondweed
(Present in 1982 survey)

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

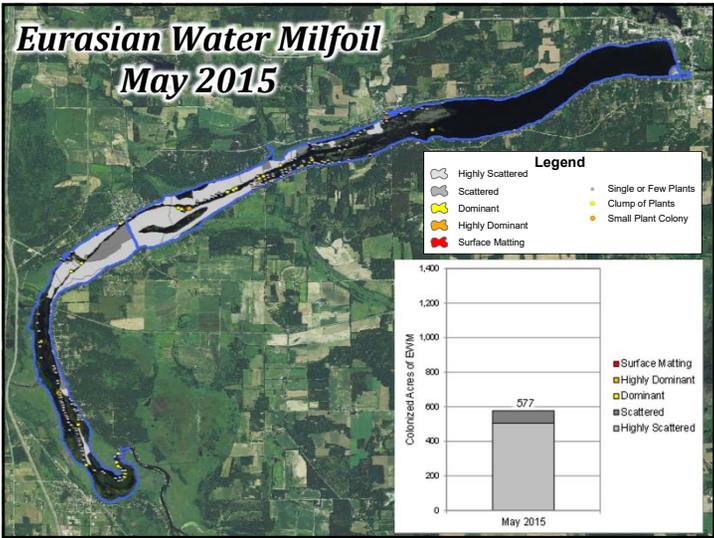
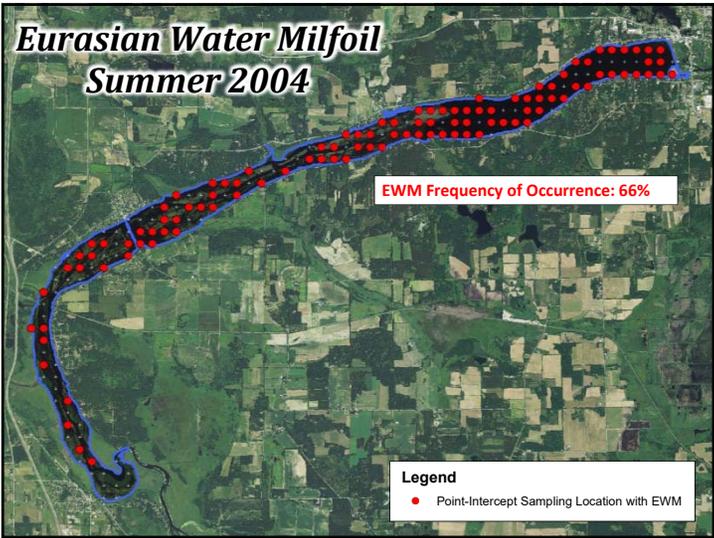


Non-native Aquatic Plants

Eurasian Water Milfoil (First Documented 1991)



Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning



Non-native Aquatic Plants

Brittle Waternymph (Discovered in 2014)



Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Aquatic Plant Surveys

- Concerned with both native and non-native plants
- Multiple surveys used in assessment
 - Early Season AIS survey
 - Point-intercept survey

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Buffalo Lake
100-meter resolution
907 total points

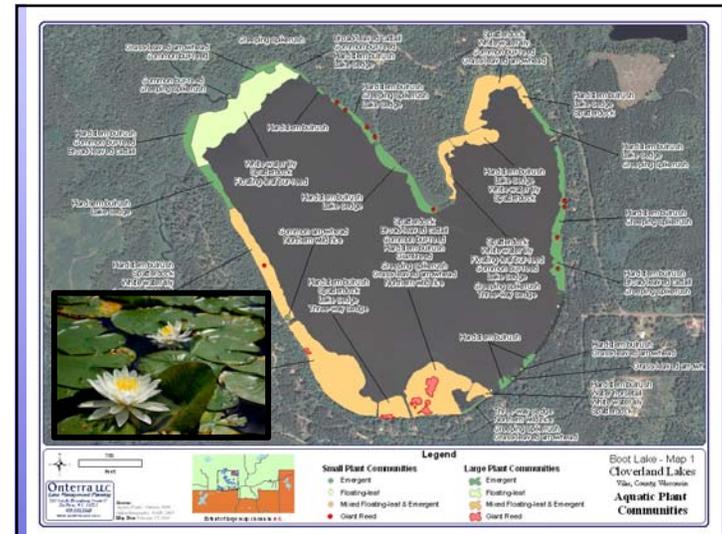


Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Aquatic Plant Surveys

- Concerned with both native and non-native plants
- Multiple surveys used in assessment
 - Early Season AIS survey
 - Point-intercept survey
 - Aquatic plant community mapping

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning



Shoreland Assessment

- Shoreland area is important for buffering runoff and provides valuable habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.
- It does not look at lake shoreline on a property-by-property basis.
- Assessment ranks shoreland area from shoreline back 35 feet

Urbanized



Natural



Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Fisheries Data Integration

- No fish sampling completed
- Assemble data from WDNR, USGS, USFWS
- Fish survey results summaries (if available)
- Use information in planning as applicable



Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Stakeholder Survey

- Standard survey used as base
 - Planning committee develops additional questions and options
 - Must not lead respondent to specific answer through a “loaded” question
- Survey must be approved by WDNR



Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Planning Process

Planning Committee Meetings

Study Results (including a stakeholder survey)
Conclusions & Initial Recommendations

- Management Goals
- Management Actions
- Timeframe
- Facilitator(s)

Implementation Plan



Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Planning Process Timeline

- Growing Season 2015/Winter 2016: Studies Completed
- Fall 2015/Winter 2016: Data Analysis & Draft of Results Created
- Spring 2016: Planning Committee Meetings
 - Presentation of Results
 - Development of Implementation Plan
- Summer 2016: Submittal/Approval of Final Plan
- Fall 2016: Project Wrap-up Meeting

Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning

Thank You

Many of the graphics used in this presentation were supplied by:



Wisconsin
Lakes
Partnership



Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning

Buffalo Lake Management Planning Project

December 2015 Update

Submitted by: Brenton Butterfield, Onterra, LLC

With a Lake Management Planning Grant totaling \$25,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) awarded to the Buffalo Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (BLPRD), a project is underway to create a lake management plan for Buffalo Lake (Figure 1). Following the water level drawdown between the fall of 2012 and the spring of 2014 to reconstruct the lake's dam, anecdotal reports indicated that the aquatic invasive plant species Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*; EWM) and curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*; CLP) declined significantly.



Figure 1. Buffalo Lake, Marquette County, Wisconsin.

While this project is reassessing aspects of the lake studied as part of the 2006 management plan (e.g. water quality and watershed), the primary focus of this project is to assess changes to the lake's aquatic plant community following the water level drawdown and develop a plan to prevent EWM and CLP from increasing to pre-drawdown levels. In addition, the health of the lake's immediate shoreland zone was also assessed, a study which had not been completed in the past. The lake management plan will contain historical and current data from the lake as well as provide guidance for its management by integrating stakeholder perceptions and goals with what is ecologically beneficial for the lake.

Most of the field studies have been completed on Buffalo Lake with the exception of winter water quality sampling scheduled for February of 2016. This project update is intended to provide Buffalo Lake stakeholders with a preliminary look at some of the initial observations and results from the scientific studies conducted in 2015 as well as a timeline for the remaining actions that will be taken as part of this project. While the data collected are still being analyzed, some study highlights that are available are discussed below.

Water Quality Studies

Onterra staff has so far visited Buffalo Lake six times (spring, June, July, August, October) to collect water quality samples to analyze parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, and nutrients. Samples were also collected from three locations around the lake to be analyzed for the presence of zebra mussel veligers, their free-floating larval stage. One more water sampling event is scheduled for February of 2016 through the ice. These data provide ecologists with an idea of what nutrient dynamics are like within the lake over the course of the year as well as which nutrients (phosphorus or nitrogen) are driving plant production. In addition, historical data will also be analyzed to determine if Buffalo Lake's water quality is changing (for better or worse) with time. The analysis of these data is not yet complete, but initial results from the open water season of 2015 indicate chlorophyll-*a* concentrations (a measure of algal abundance) were lower than most available historical records. A full analysis of the lake's current and historical water quality will be available in spring.

Aquatic Plant Studies

All of the aquatic plant surveys were completed as scheduled, with the first being conducted on May 28, 2015 to complete the Early-Season Aquatic Invasive Species (ESAIS) Survey. The primary aim of this survey is to visually survey the entire lake and map locations of invasive plants that either reach their peak growth at this time or are flowering and are readily visible. These include CLP, which reaches its peak growth in late-spring before beginning to die back in early summer, and pale-yellow iris, which typically flowers in late-May through June. While EWM does not reach its peak growth until mid- to late-summer, it can often be mapped early in the summer also because it generally begins growing before many of our native plants.

The whole-lake point-intercept survey was completed on July 21-23 by Onterra ecologists. This is a grid-based survey designed to quantify which aquatic plant species are most abundant within the lake and where they are located. The data collected during this survey also allow for the quality of Buffalo Lake’s native aquatic plant community to be compared to the quality of plant communities of other lakes within the region and the state. The aquatic plant community mapping survey was also completed at this time, the goal of which is to delineate areas of floating-leaf and emergent aquatic vegetation such as American lotus and bulrushes. The final aquatic plant survey, the EWM Peak-Biomass Survey, was completed on August 27-28, 2015 to reassess areas of EWM that were mapped in late-spring.

Curly-leaf pondweed and EWM were found growing throughout Buffalo Lake; however, neither species was overly abundant with most areas containing areas of *scattered* or *highly scattered* plants. In fact, the point-intercept survey indicates that the occurrence of EWM in Buffalo Lake has declined by approximately 83% since the last survey completed in 2004 prior to the water level drawdown. A small population of the submersed, non-native plant brittle naiad (*Najas minor*) was also located, along with the invasive shoreland plants pale-yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and giant reed (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*).

Twenty-eight native aquatic plant species were located during the point-intercept survey with coontail and common waterweed being the most abundant (Figure 2). Eurasian water milfoil and CLP comprised approximately 5% and 2% of the plant community, respectively. The dominance of the plant

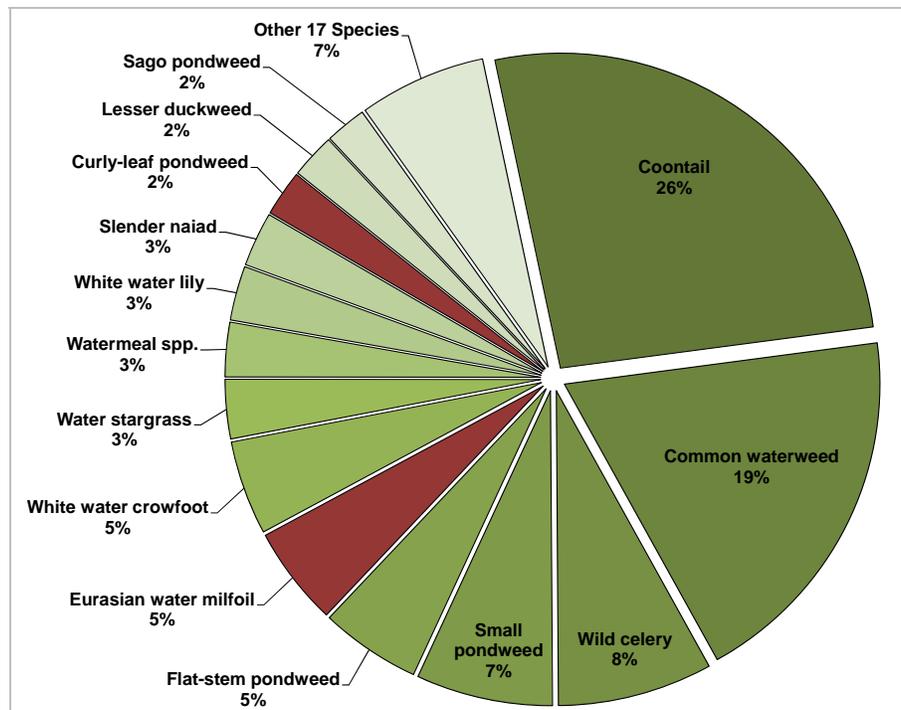


Figure 2. Relative frequency of occurrence of aquatic plant species in Buffalo Lake. Non-native species indicated with red. Created using data from 2015 whole-lake point-intercept survey.

community by coontail and common waterweed is an indicator of the high-nutrient conditions present within the lake. The 2015 aquatic plant data will continue to be analyzed to determine how it has changed since the water level drawdown, and Onterra ecologists will work with the Buffalo Lake Planning Committee to develop management strategies for the aquatic invasive species in Buffalo Lake.

Additional Lake and Lake Stakeholder Studies

In addition to water quality and aquatic plant studies, Onterra has completed surveys to assess the lake's shoreline development, examine its watershed, and evaluate fish habitat potential. Finally, an anonymous survey was sent to all Buffalo Lake stakeholders to assess their use of the lake, perceptions of historical and current water quality, concerns for the lake ecosystem and more. These results will be integrated into the management plan.

Remaining Steps

In summary, all project components are on schedule and proceeding as planned. Onterra is currently examining the study results in preparation for a spring meeting with the Buffalo Lake Planning Committee. The meeting will be held to discuss the results and begin creation of management goals and actions the BLPRD will pursue in order to manage their lake in both a recreationally enjoyable and ecologically sound manner. These management goals and an entire project summary will be presented to the general public during a project Wrap-up meeting, likely to be held in the summer of 2016.

Buffalo Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Buffalo Lake
Management Planning Update Project
Planning Meeting I
May 23, 2016

Brenton Butterfield
Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning

Presentation Outline

- Lake Management Planning Project Overview
- Study Results
 - Water Quality
 - Watershed
 - Shoreland
 - Drawdown Effects (Ted Johnson)
 - Aquatic Plants
 - Fishery
- “Big Picture”
- Next Steps

} Stakeholder Survey



Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning

Management Planning Project Overview

- Initiated to assess changes to aquatic plant community following drawdown
- Update management strategies for aquatic plants
- Collect & analyze data – completed
 - Technical & sociological
- Construct long-term & useable plan



Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning

Summary of Project Results

Water Quality

- Unchanged since drawdown
- Phosphorus concentrations *poor*, but chlorophyll-*a* & water clarity *good*
- Complex story – lake becomes nitrogen-limited by early summer

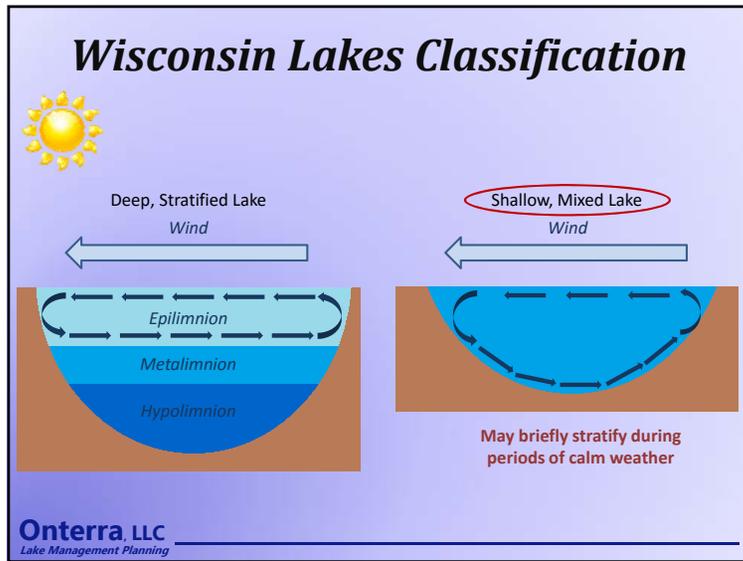
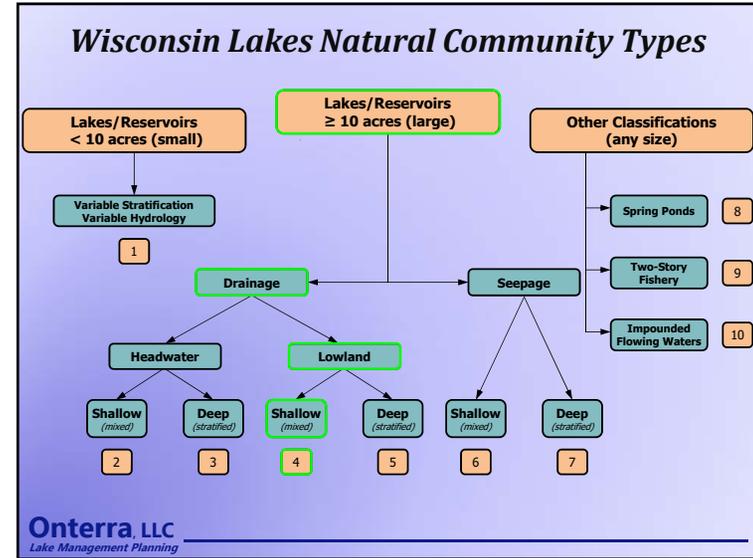
Watershed & Immediate Shoreline

- Large portion of watershed in agriculture
- Majority of immediate shoreland zone comprised of undeveloped shoreline

Aquatic Plant Community

- Significant changes between 2004 & 2015
- Large decline in Eurasian water milfoil
- Increase in native aquatic plant species
- Overall plant community is now healthier

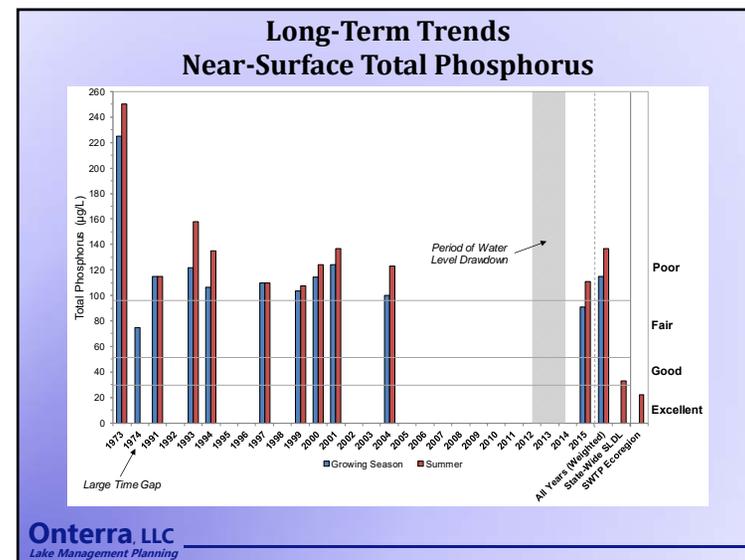
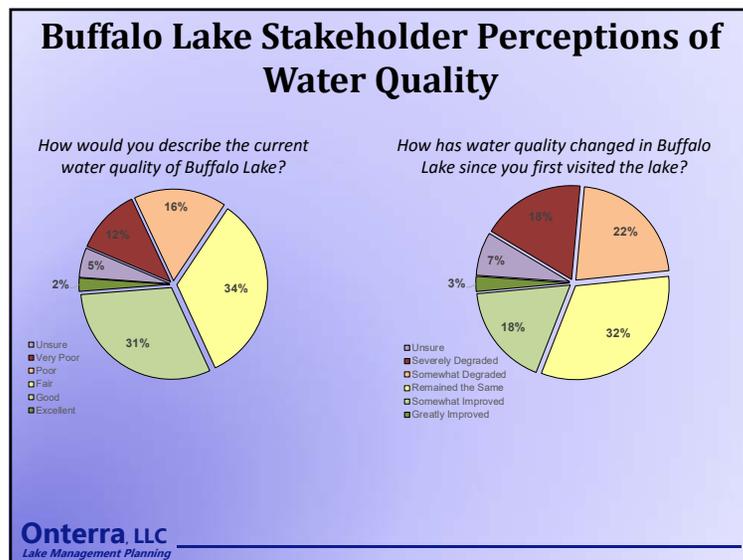
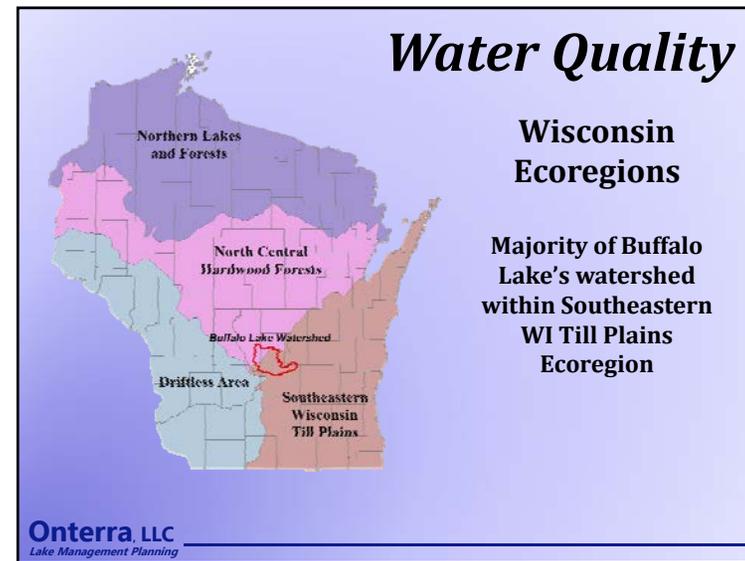
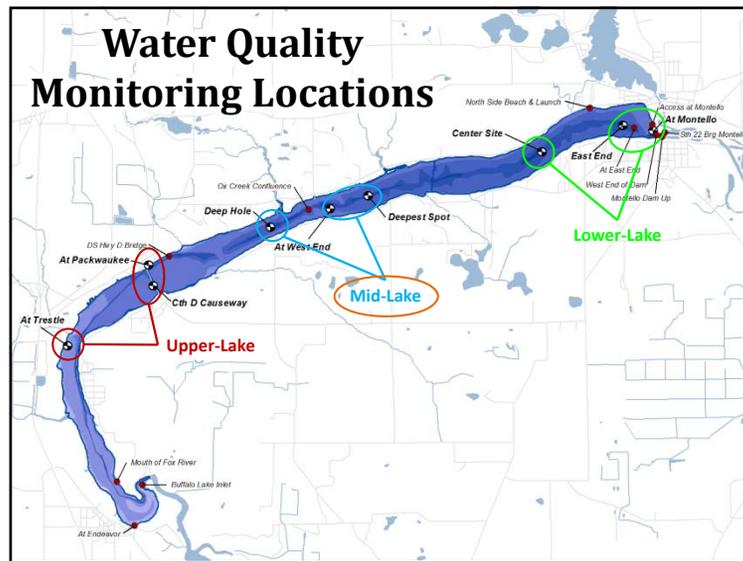
Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning

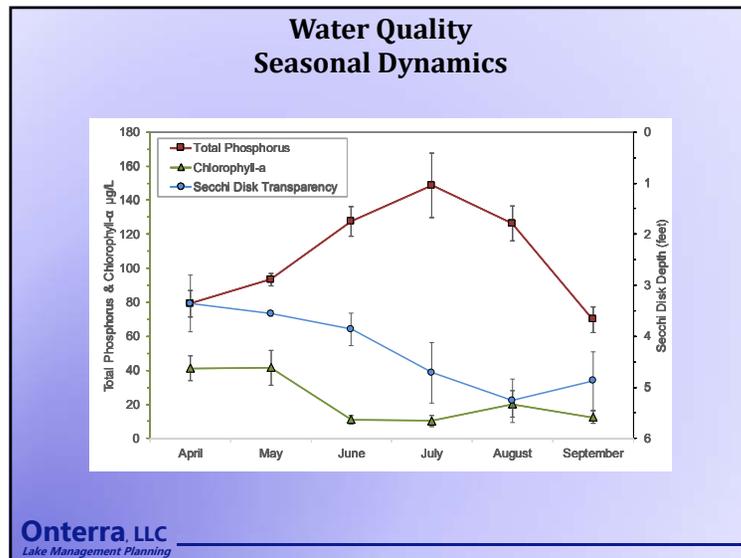
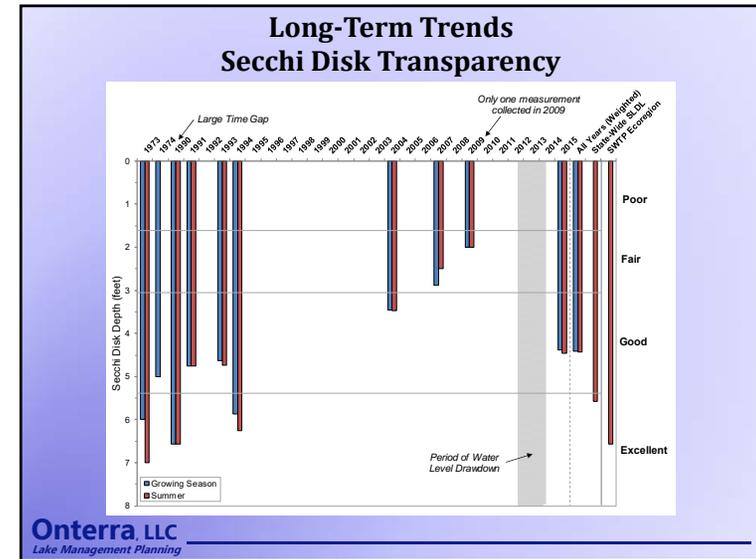
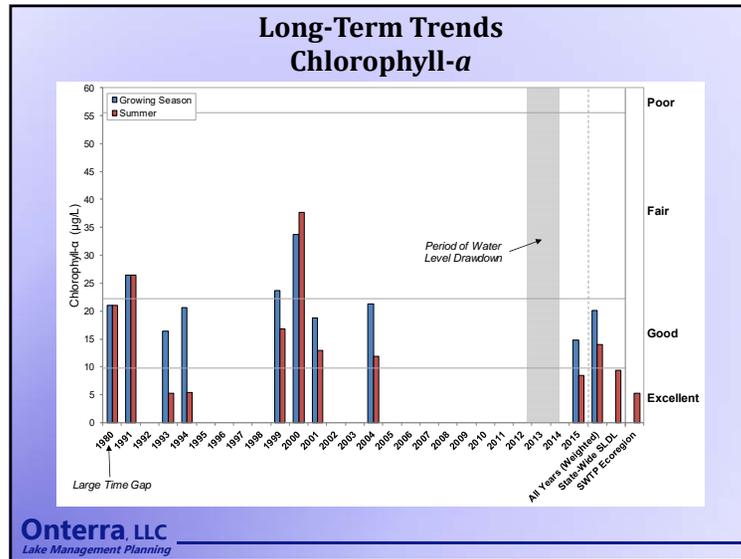


Introduction to Lake Water Quality

- ↑ Phosphorus**
 Naturally occurring & essential for all life
 Regulates phytoplankton biomass in **most** WI lakes
 Most often 'limiting plant nutrient' (shortest supply)
 Human activity often increases P delivery to lakes
- ↑ Chlorophyll-a**
 Pigment used in photosynthesis
 Used as surrogate for phytoplankton biomass
- ↓ Secchi Disk Transparency**
 Measure of water clarity
 Measured using a Secchi disk

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning





Water Quality Seasonal Dynamics

Why do phosphorus concentrations increase in summer?

- Likely due to *internal nutrient loading*
 - Release of sediment-bound phosphorus into the overlying water
 - 2 Primary Processes
 - Anoxia (lack of oxygen)
 - Elevated pH (>9.0)
 - Driven by dense growth of rootless & shallowly-rooted aquatic plants (i.e. coontail, waterweed, EWM)
 - Restricts water movement & mixing
 - High rates of photosynthesis may elevate pH
- CLP senescence also likely contributor
- Sediment resuspension minimal (low summer TSS)

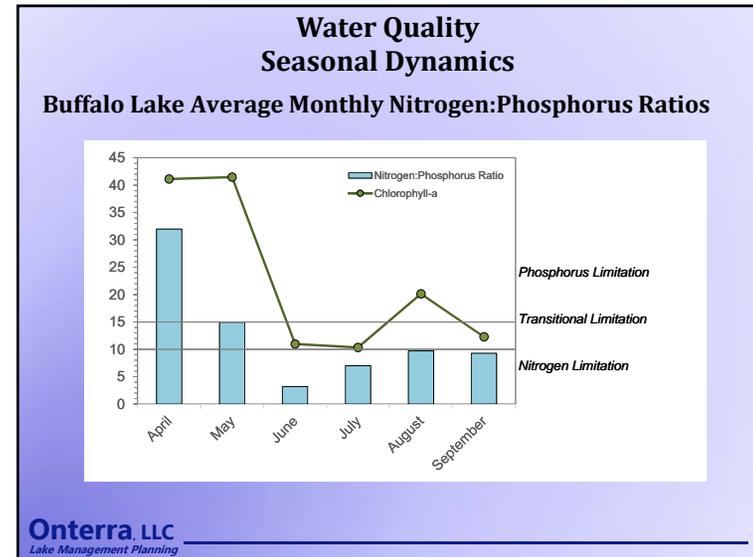
Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning

**Water Quality
Seasonal Dynamics**

Phosphorus increases during the summer; why not chlorophyll-a?

- Based on summer P concentrations, predicted chl-a = 84 µg/L
- Actual summer chl-a = 14 µg/L
- Something other than P is limiting phytoplankton growth
- Nitrogen: second to P in importance
 - Look at nitrogen:phosphorus ratio to determine which nutrient is limiting

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning



**Water Quality
Seasonal Dynamics**

While P increases in summer, N declines at a greater magnitude

- Same processes that facilitate P release from sediments also facilitate *denitrification*
 - Conversion of nitrate to nitrogen gas
 - Nitrogen gas is lost to the atmosphere
 - Wetlands likely also contribute to nitrogen reduction

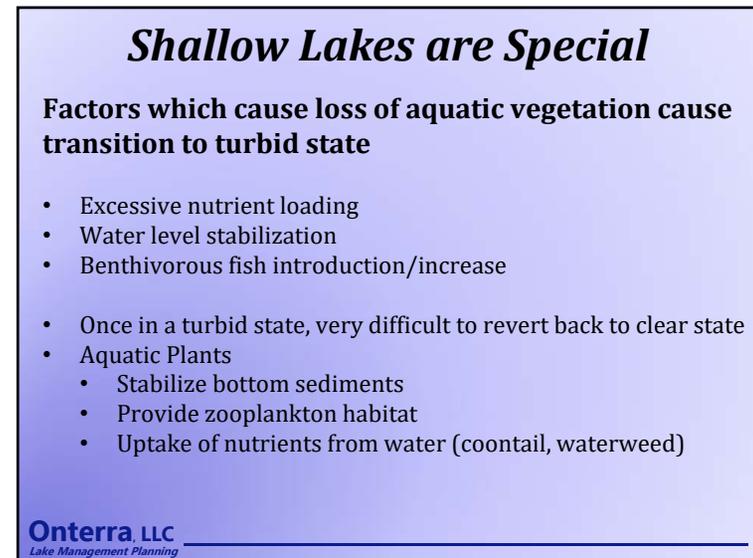
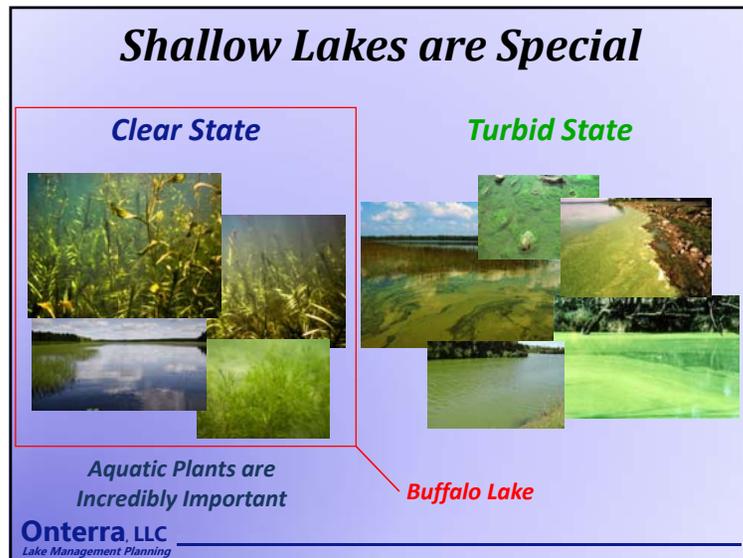
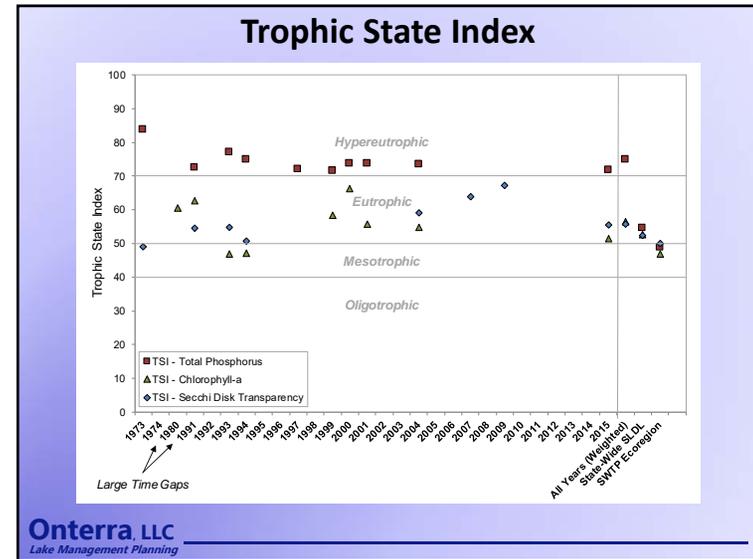
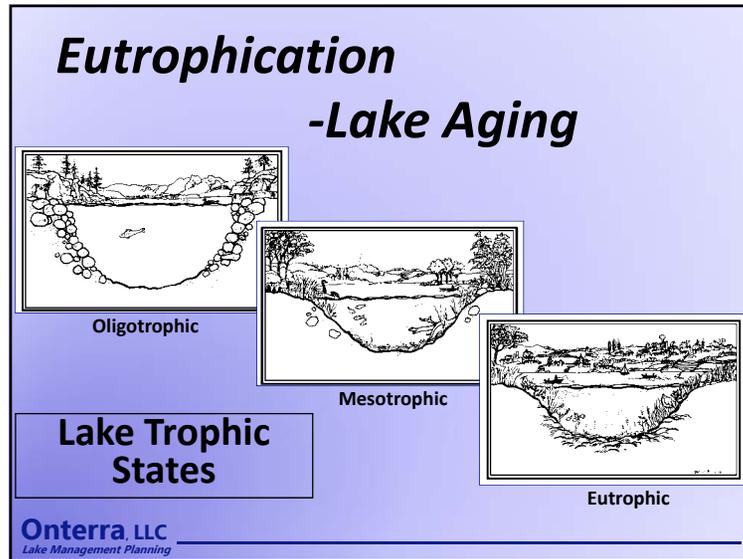
Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

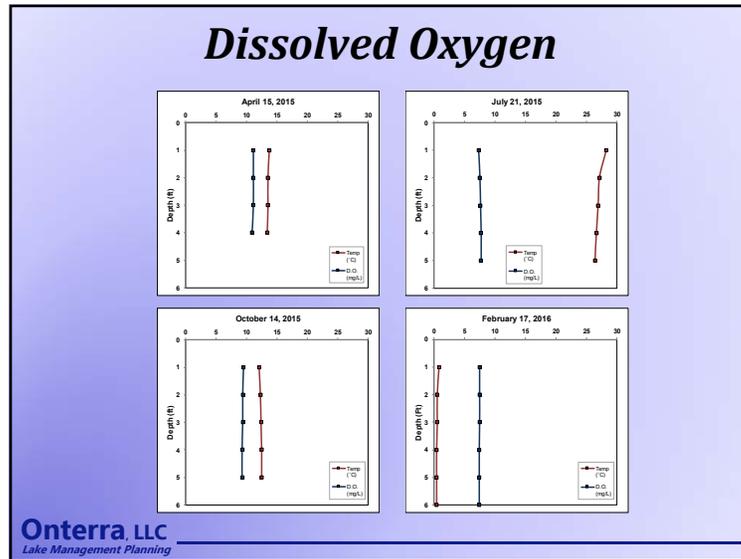
**Water Quality
Seasonal Dynamics**

Nitrogen limitation has been shown to favor growth of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

- Cyanobacteria capable of utilizing atmospheric N
- Why are they not prolific in Buffalo Lake?
- Zooplankton community likely regulates growth of blue-green algae

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning





Additional Water Quality Parameters

Alkalinity - capacity to resist fluctuations in pH

- 161 as mg/CaCO₃ in 2015

Calcium

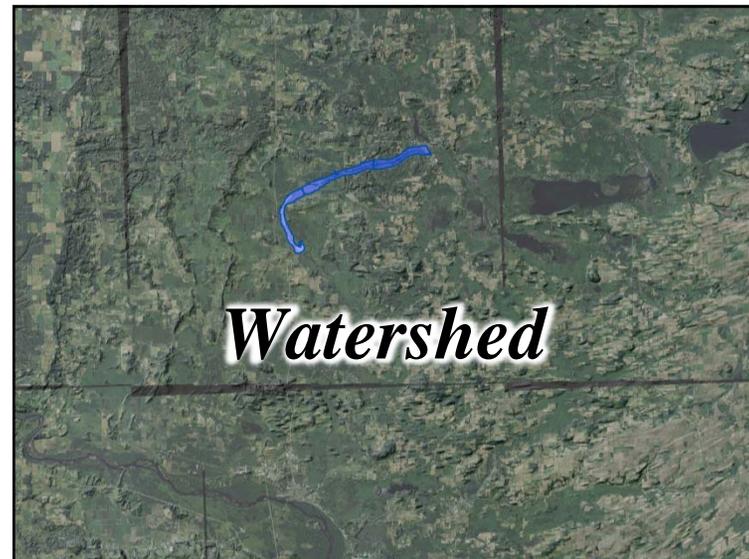
- 37.1 mg/L in 2015
- Along with pH (7.0-9.0), indicates water quality is suitable for zebra mussels
- Zebra mussel *veliger* samples were negative in 2015
- No adult zebra mussels observed

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Water Quality Results Summary

- Phosphorus concentrations are *poor* for WI SLDL, but...
- Chlorophyll-*a* & Secchi disk transparency are *good*
- No detectable trends occurring over time
- Despite increases in phosphorus in summer, reductions in nitrogen limit phytoplankton growth
 - Growth also likely regulated by zooplankton
- Aquatic plants essential for maintaining current water quality conditions (clear-state)

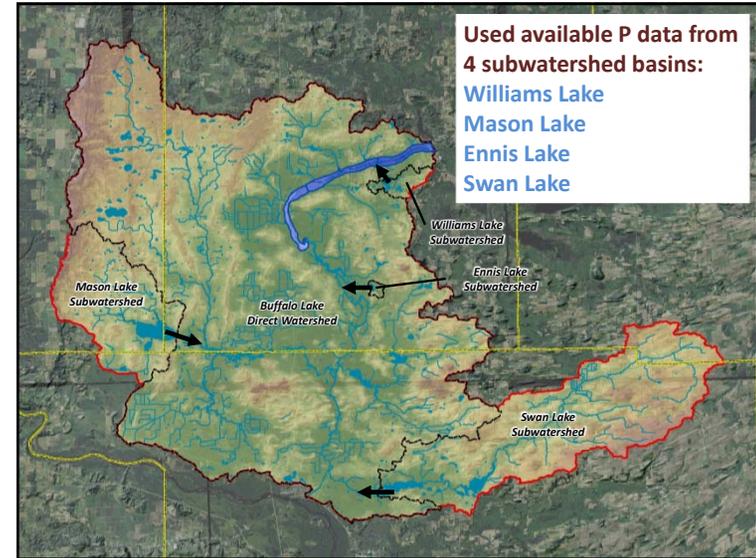
Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning



Watershed Assessment Procedure

Determine Watershed Area and Boundaries

Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning



Watershed Assessment Procedure

Determine Watershed Area and Boundaries

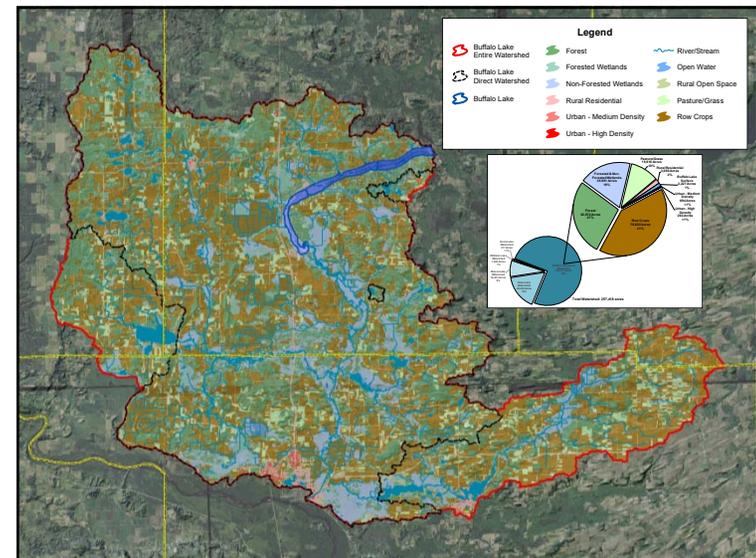
Determine Land Cover Types and Acreages

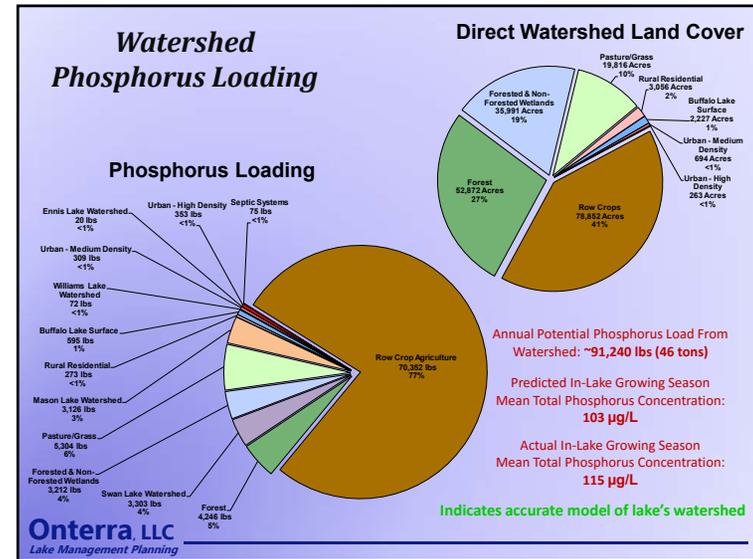
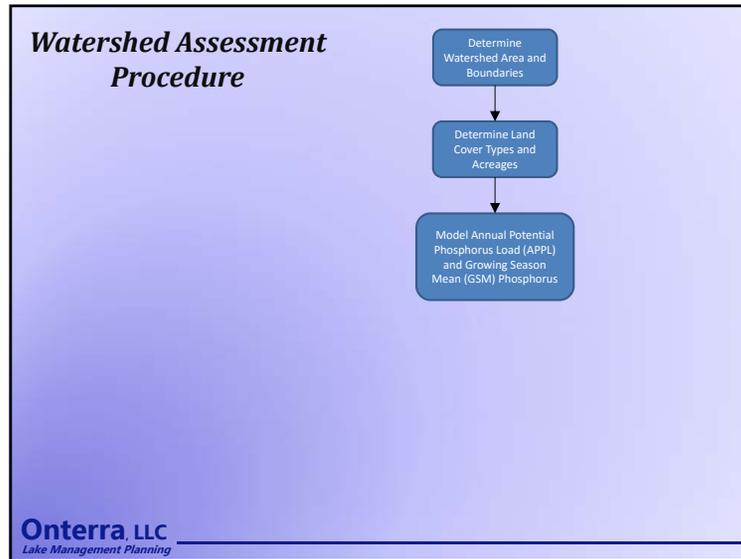
Greater Phosphorus Export/Acre

- Urban - High Density
- Row Crops
- Urban - Med Density
- Pasture/Grass
- Open Water
- Rural Residential
- Wetlands
- Forest

Less Negative Impact on Lake

Onterra LLC
Lake Management Planning

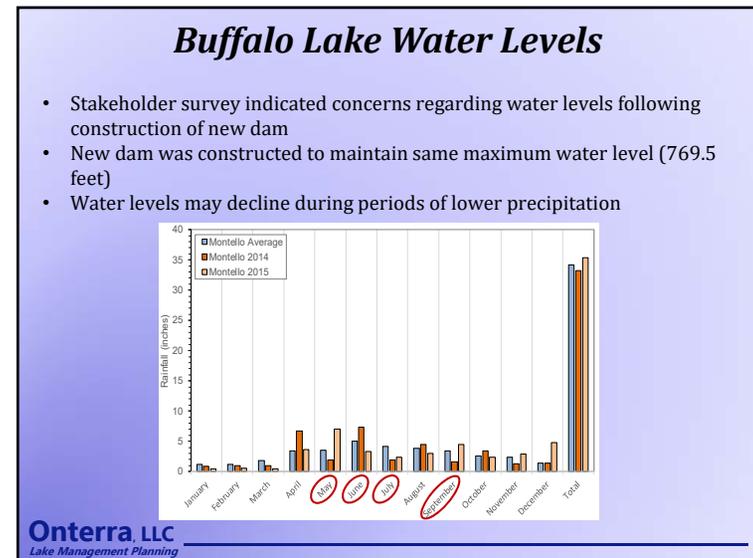




Buffalo Lake Watershed

- WiLMS modeling focuses on phosphorus, but nitrogen regulates phytoplankton growth in summer
- Don't have a good method for modeling nitrogen
- Summer P would need to be reduced to <50 µg/L to reduce current level of phytoplankton growth
- While coontail obtains most nutrients from water, other plants (Crowfoot, EWM, CLP) obtain nutrients from sediment

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning



Buffalo Lake Water Levels

- Concerns regarding high-capacity wells in Buffalo Lake's watershed
- High-capacity well: approved pump capacity of 70 or more gallons/minute
- Studies have indicated areas with high concentrations of HCW have seen a reduction in the groundwater table
- Obtained HCW data within Buffalo Lake's watershed from 2011-2014 (cannot legally publicize well locations)
 - Reporting wells ranged from 68 (2011) to 111 (2014)
 - Annual water withdrawn ranged from 1.5 billion (2011) to 1.9 billion gallons in 2013

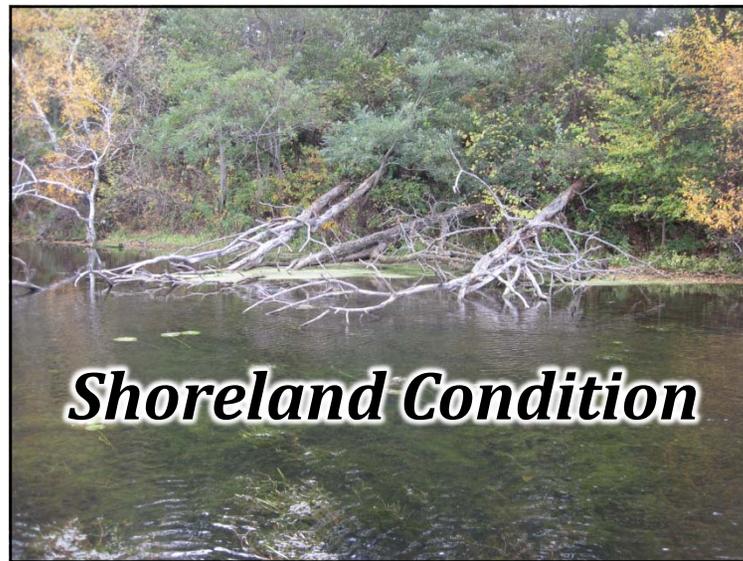
Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

Buffalo Lake Water Levels

- Buffalo Lake 2014 estimated hydraulic load & high capacity well withdrawal
- Do not have flow/lake elevation data
- Given HCW withdrawals are small relative to total loading, highly unlikely having an impact on water levels

Month	2014 High Capacity Well Reported Withdrawal (Billions)	2014 Estimated Hydraulic Load (Billions)
January	1.5	1.5
February	1.8	1.8
March	1.8	1.8
April	13.0	13.0
May	3.8	3.8
June	14.5	14.5
July	3.8	3.8
August	8.8	8.8
September	3.2	3.2
October	6.8	6.8
November	2.5	2.5
December	2.8	2.8

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning



Shoreland Assessment

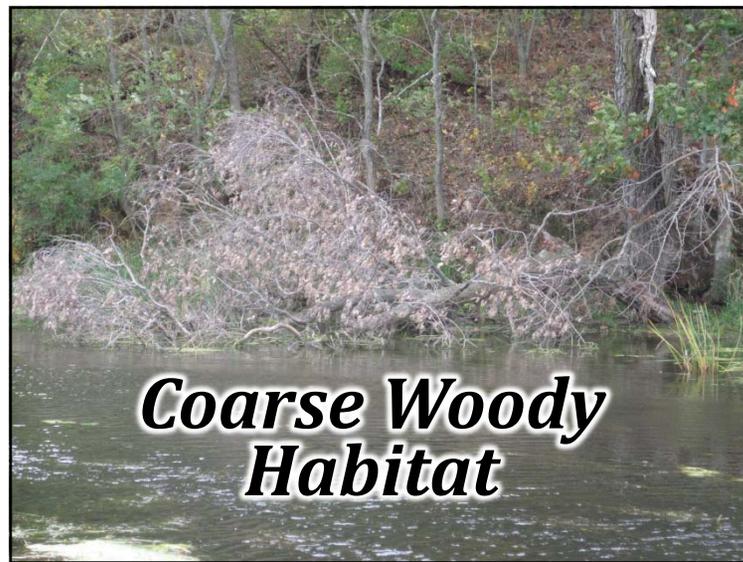
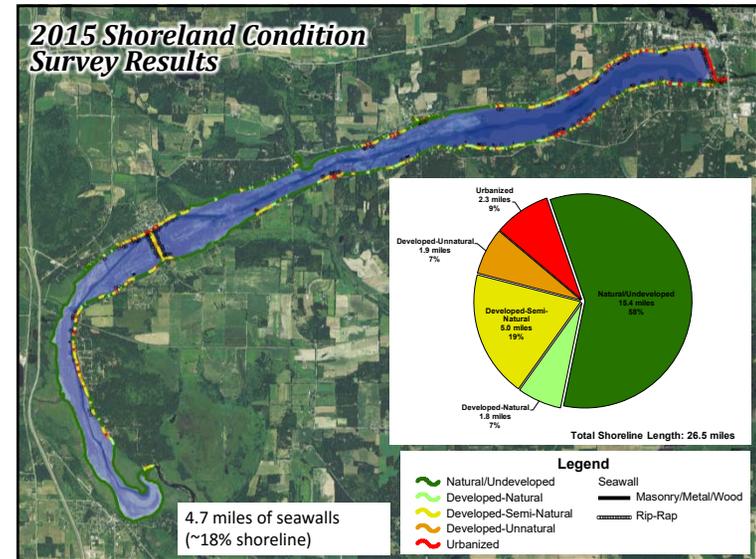
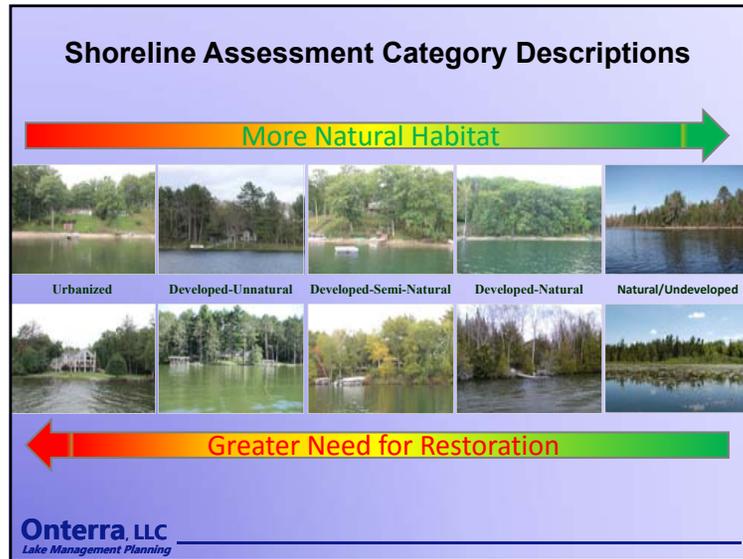
- Shoreland area is important for buffering runoff and provides valuable habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.
- EPA National Lakes Assessment results indicate shoreland development has greatest negative impact to health of our nation's lakes.
- It does not look at lake shoreline on a property-by-property basis.
- Assessment ranks shoreland area from shoreline back 35 feet

Urbanized

Range →

Natural

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

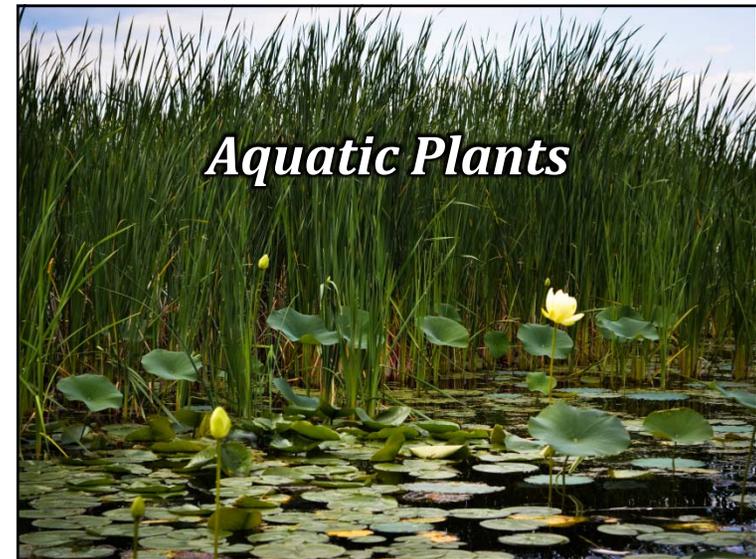
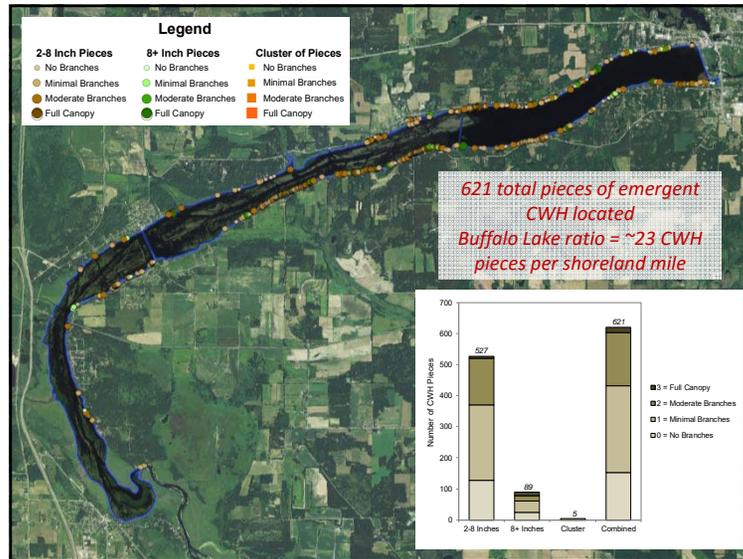


Coarse Woody Habitat

- Provides shoreland erosion control and prevents suspension of sediments.
- Preferred habitat for a variety of aquatic life.
 - Periphyton growth fed upon by insects.
 - Refuge, foraging and spawning habitat for fish.
 - Complexity of CWH important.
- Changing of logging and shoreland development practices = reduced CWH in Wisconsin lakes.
- Survey aimed at quantifying CWH in Buffalo Lake



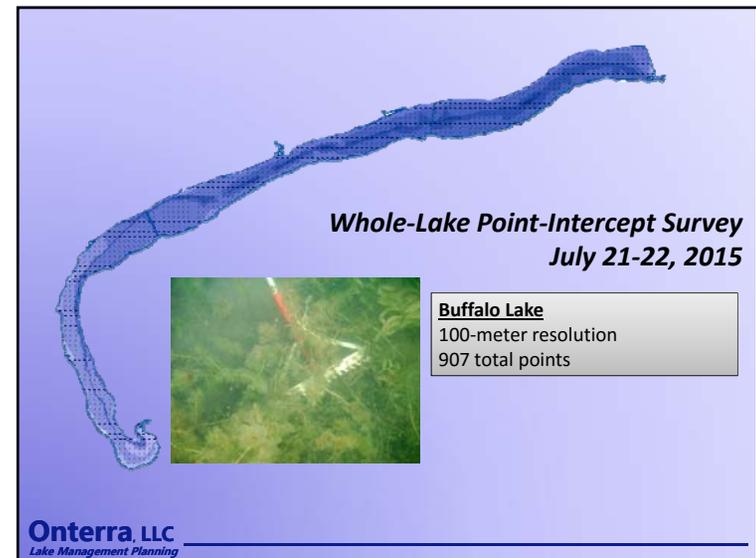

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

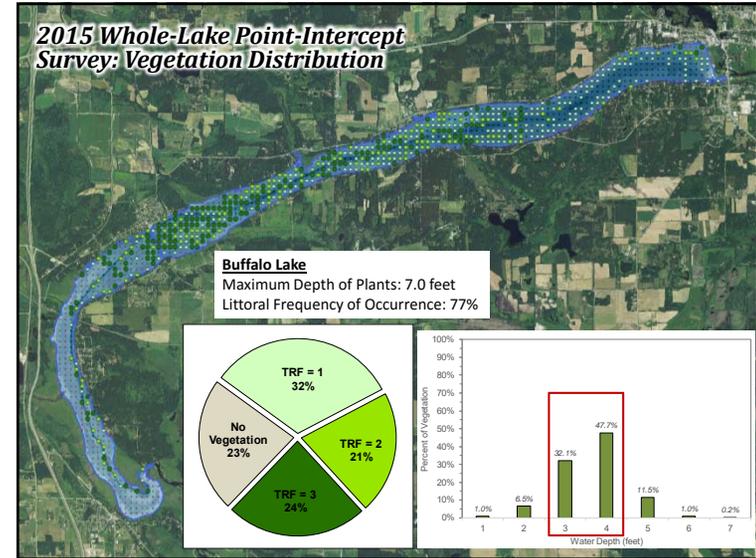
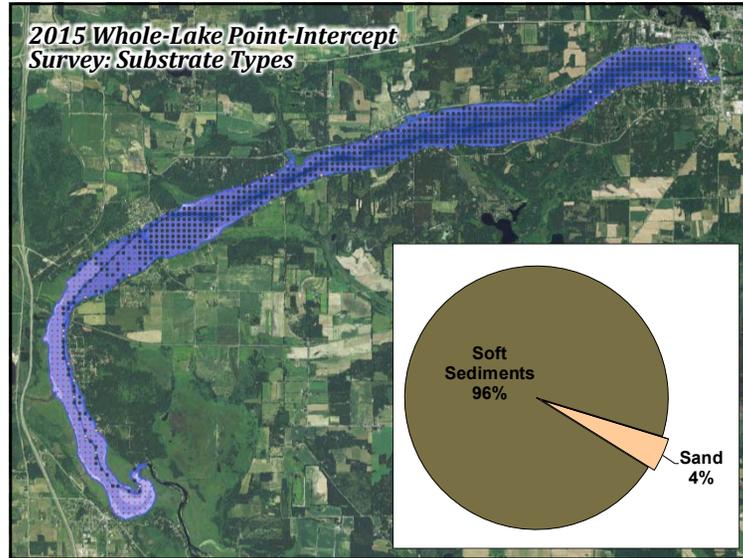


Aquatic Plant Surveys

- Determine changes in plant community between 2004 and 2015
- Assess both native and non-native populations
- Numerous surveys completed in 2015
 - Early-Season AIS Survey
 - Whole-Lake Point-Intercept Survey
 - Emergent/Floating-Leaf Community Mapping Survey
 - EWM Peak-Biomass Survey

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning





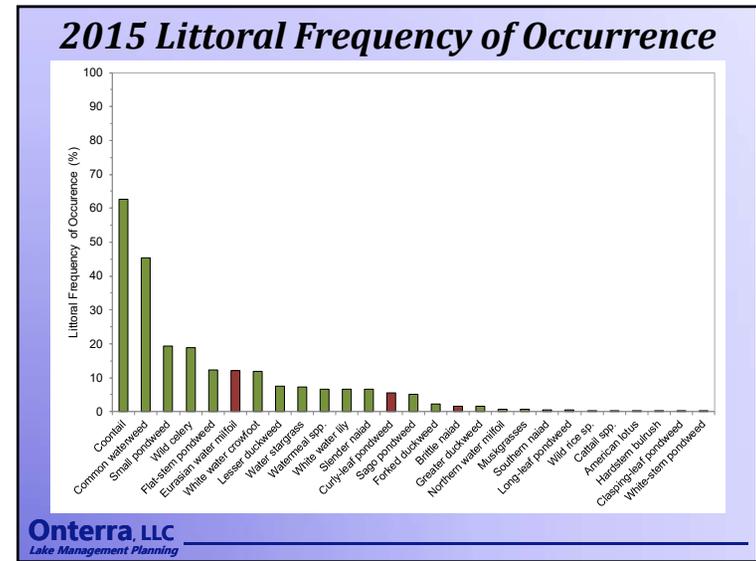
Aquatic Plant Species List

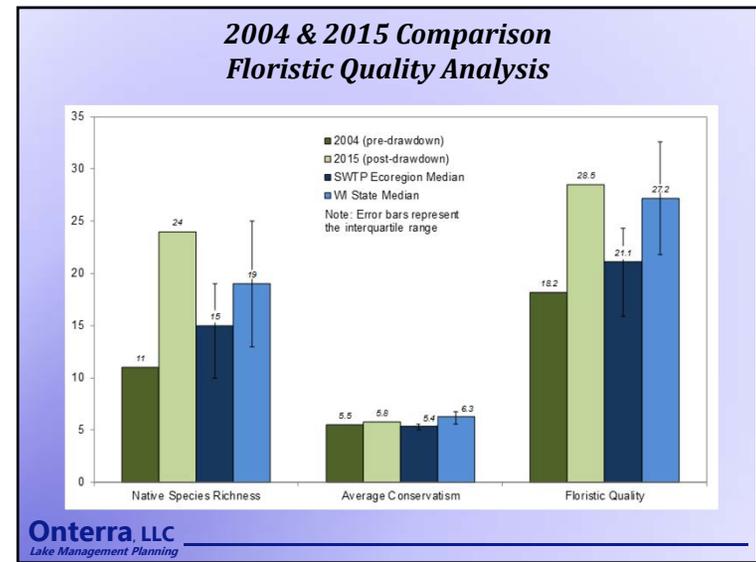
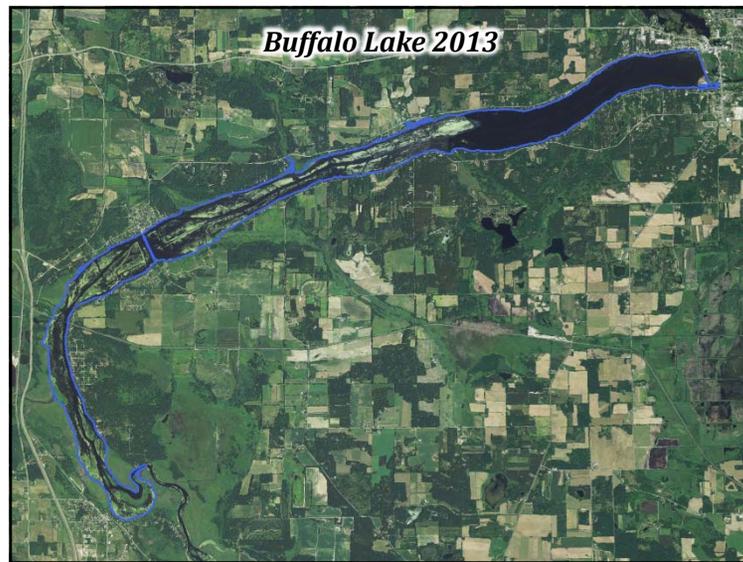
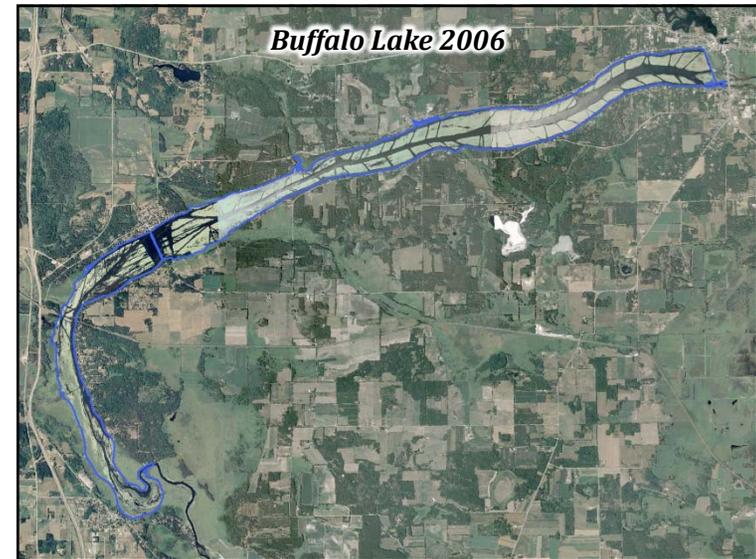
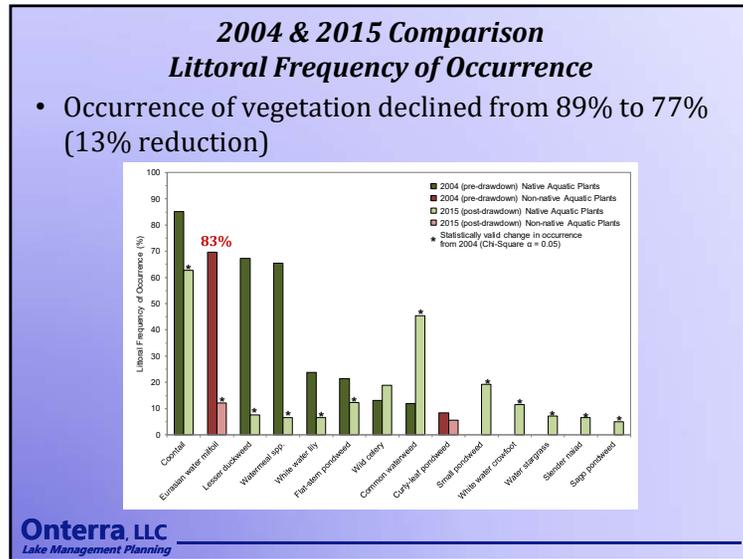
32 Native Species
7 Non-Native Species

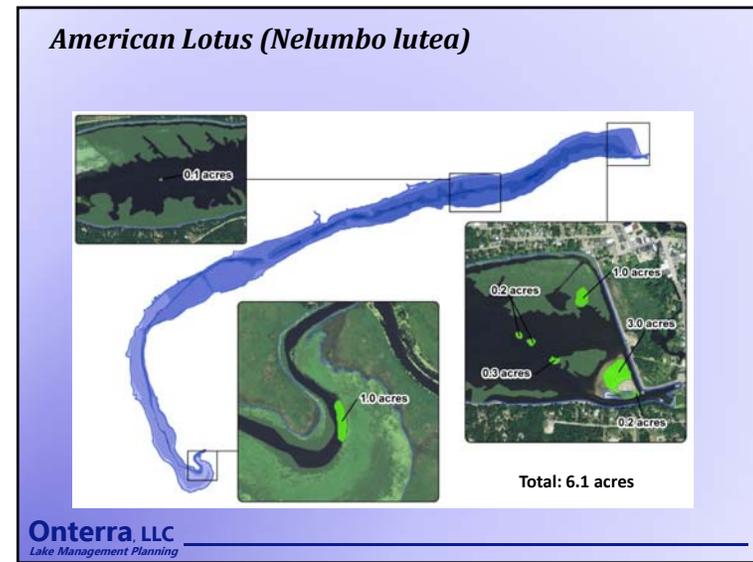
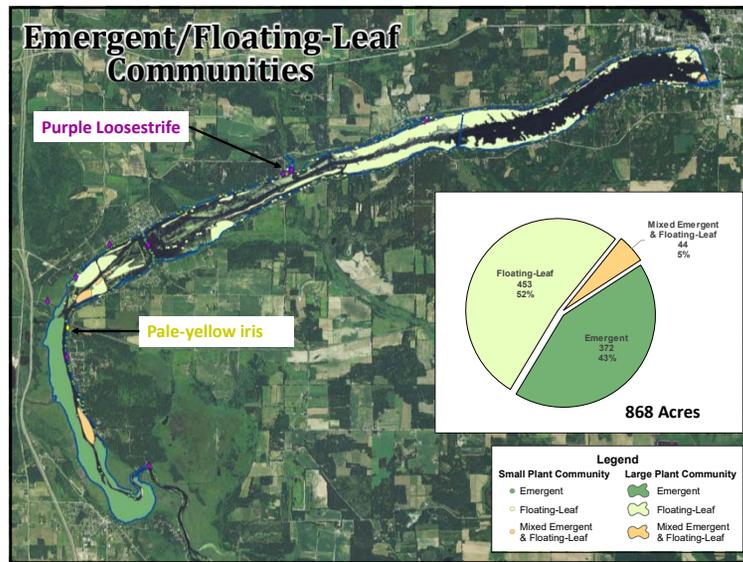
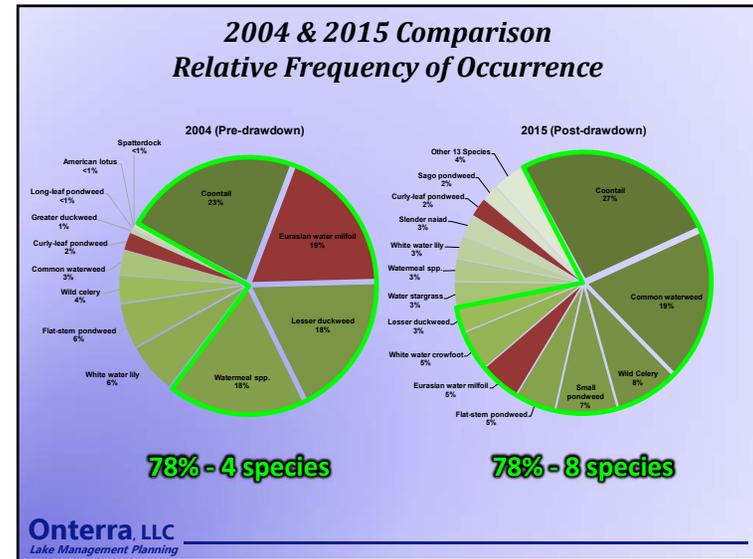
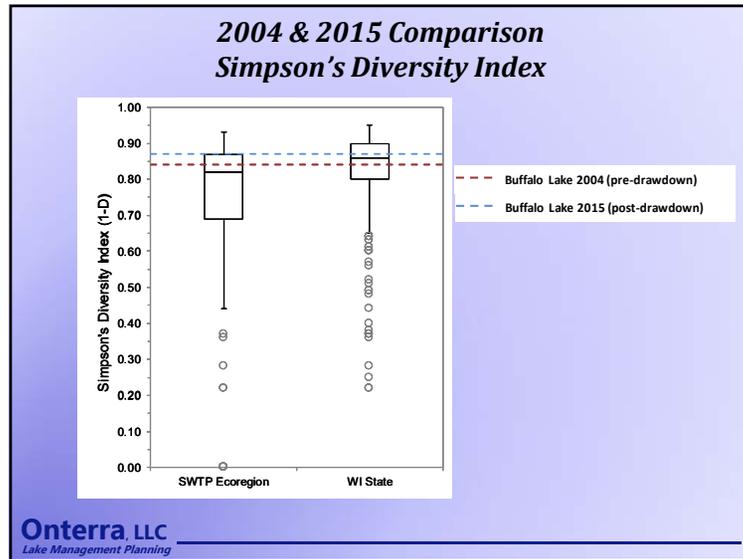
Pale-yellow iris
Purple loosestrife
Hybrid water milfoil
Eurasian water milfoil
Brittle naiad
Curly-leaf pondweed
Curly-leaf hybrid

Growth Form	Scientific Name	Common Name	Coefficient of Conservatism (C)	2004 (Onterra)	2015 (Onterra)
Emergent	<i>Bobolichia fluitans</i>	River bulrush	5		I
	<i>Carex comosa</i>	Birdy sedge	5		I
	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Pale-yellow iris	Exotic		I
	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Northern blue flag	4	I	I
	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush	4		I
	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	Exotic		I
	<i>Phragmites australis</i> subsp. <i>americanus</i>	Common reed	5		I
	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	Common arrowhead	3	I	I
	<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>	Helmetstem bulrush	5		I
	<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>	Softstem bulrush	4	I	I
	<i>Spergularia angustifolium</i>	Common burdock	5		I
	<i>Typha</i> spp.	Cattail spp.	1	I	X
<i>Zizania</i> spp.	Wild rice sp.	8	I	X	
FL	<i>Najas variegata</i>	Spatterdock	6	I	
	<i>Najas octonata</i>	White water fly	6	X	X
	<i>Peltandra amphibia</i>	Water smartweed	5	I	
EL	<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>	American lotus	8	X	X
Submerged	<i>Chara</i> spp.	Muskgrasses	7	X	X
	<i>Carotophyllum demersum</i>	Coottail	3	X	X
	<i>Eelodea canadensis</i>	Common waterweed	3	X	X
	<i>Heteranthera dubia</i>	Water stargrass	6	I	X
	<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	Northern water milfoil	7		X
	<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i> X <i>spicatum</i>	Hybrid water milfoil	Exotic		I
	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian water milfoil	Exotic	X	X
	<i>Najas flexilis</i>	Stender reed	5		X
	<i>Najas guadalupensis</i>	Southern naiad	Exotic		X
	<i>Najas minor</i>	Brittle naiad	1		X
	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curly-leaf pondweed	Exotic	X	X
	<i>Potamogeton nodosus</i>	Long-leaf pondweed	5	X	X
	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>	White-stem pondweed	5		X
	<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	Small pondweed	7		X
	<i>Potamogeton schrebleri</i>	Chaquoy-leaf pondweed	5		I
	<i>Potamogeton x undulatus</i>	Curly-leaf X White-stem pondweed	Exotic		I
	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	White water crowfoot	8	X	X
<i>Sparganium angustifolium</i>	Sage pondweed	3	I	X	
<i>Valisneria spiralis</i>	Sparganium	5		X	
<i>Valisneria spiralis</i>	Wild celery	6	X	X	
FF	<i>Lemna italica</i>	Forked duckweed	6	X	X
	<i>Lemna minor</i>	Lesser duckweed	5	X	X
	<i>Spirodela polyrrhiza</i>	Greater duckweed	5	X	X
	<i>Wolffia</i> spp.	Watermeal spp.	NA	X	X

FL = Floating Leaf; FLE = Floating Leaf and Emergent; FF = Free Floating
X = Located on lake during point-intercept survey; I = Incidental Species

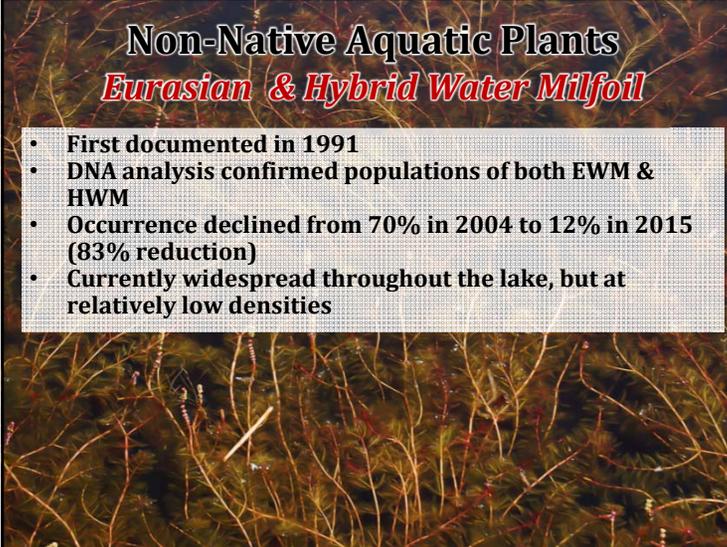
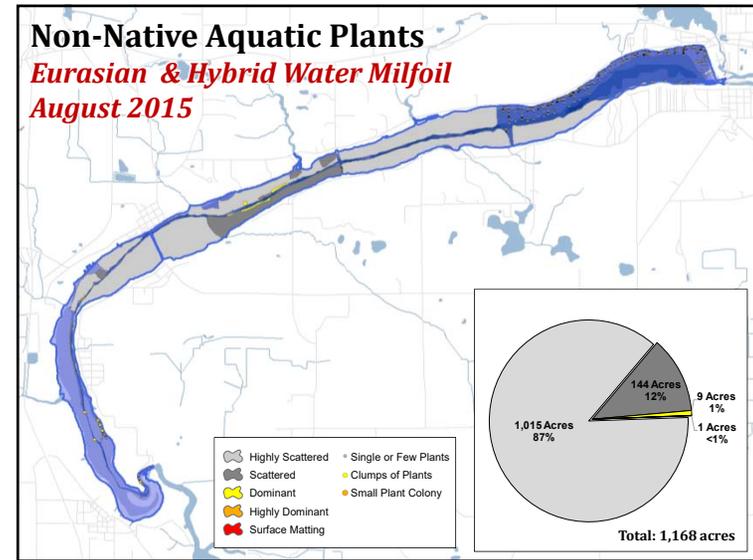






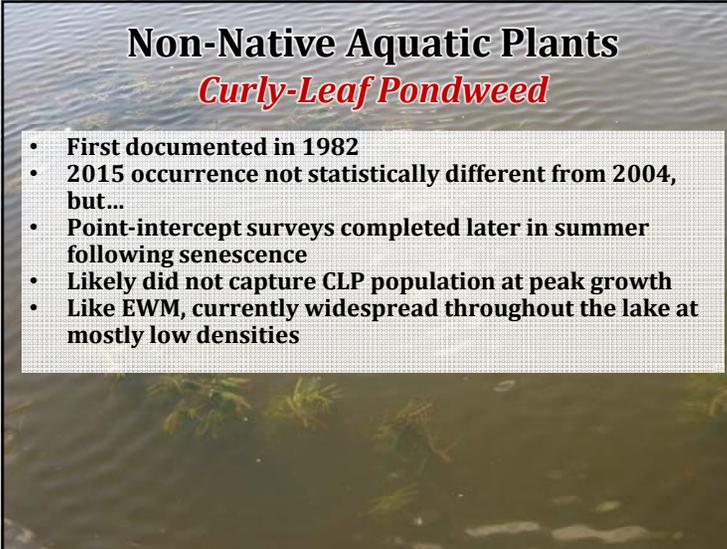
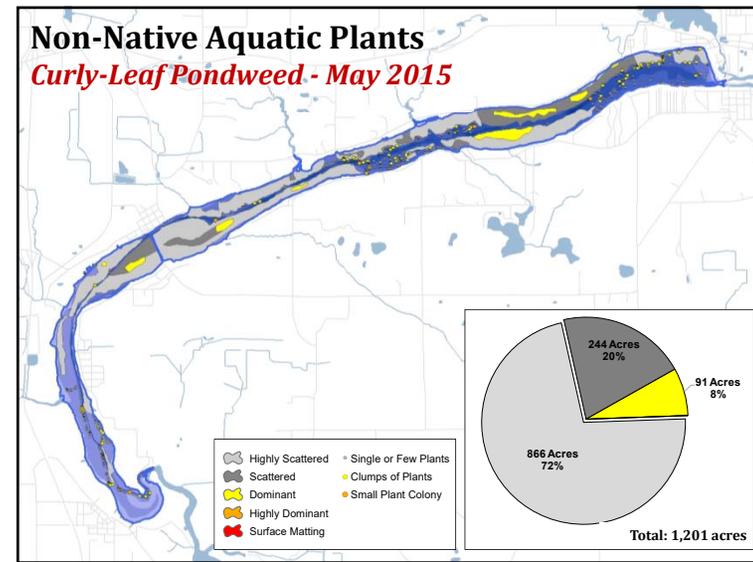
Non-Native Aquatic Plants *Eurasian & Hybrid Water Milfoil*

- First documented in 1991
- DNA analysis confirmed populations of both EWM & HWM
- Occurrence declined from 70% in 2004 to 12% in 2015 (83% reduction)
- Currently widespread throughout the lake, but at relatively low densities

Non-Native Aquatic Plants *Curly-Leaf Pondweed*

- First documented in 1982
- 2015 occurrence not statistically different from 2004, but...
- Point-intercept surveys completed later in summer following senescence
- Likely did not capture CLP population at peak growth
- Like EWM, currently widespread throughout the lake at mostly low densities

Non-Native Aquatic Plants

Curly-Leaf Pondweed X White-Stem Pondweed (P. X undulatus)

- Identified based on morphology
- DNA analysis necessary for true ID confirmation
- Distribution in WI unknown
- Found in Puckaway & Madison area lakes
- So far, doesn't appear to be aggressive
- Very small population in Buffalo Lake
- Not a concern at this time

Curly-leaf pondweed



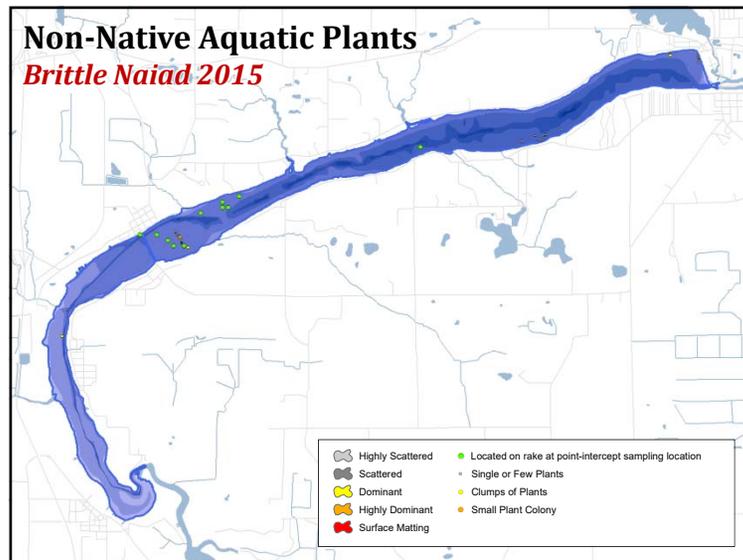
P. X undulatus



Non-Native Aquatic Plants

Brittle Naiad

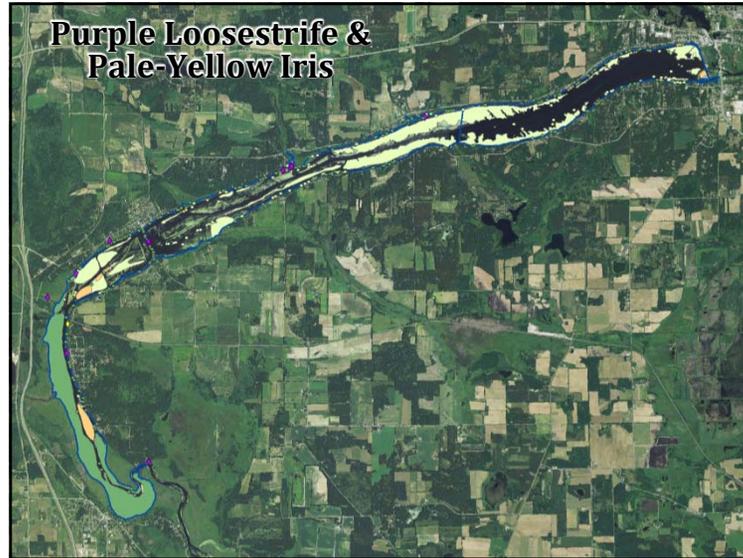
- First documented in 2014
- 2015 littoral occurrence of 1.6%
- Difficult to map as it grows relatively low and is often not visible from the surface
- Overall, population is still small in Buffalo Lake

Non-Native Aquatic Plants

Purple Loosestrife & Pale-Yellow Iris



Nuisance Aquatic Plant Growth

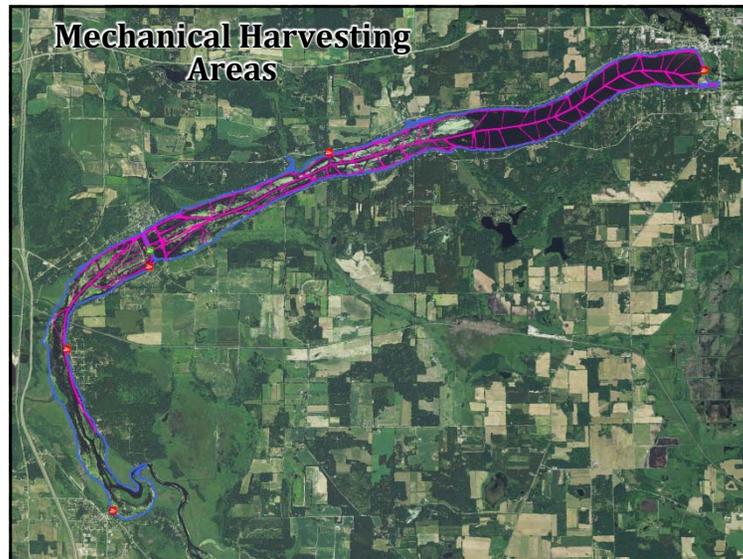
- Primarily caused by native aquatic plants in 2016
 - Coontail, waterweed, water crow-foot, white water lily
- Lake's shallow nature, nutrient-rich water & sediment, high water clarity are ideal for abundant growth
- Currently harvesting ~350 acres of navigational lanes

How often does aquatic plant growth, including algae, negatively impact your enjoyment of Buffalo Lake?

Frequency	% of Respondents
Always	35
Often	38
Sometimes	18
Rarely	5
Never	2

Do you believe aquatic plant control is needed on Buffalo Lake?

Response	% of Respondents
Definitely yes	75
Probably yes	18
Unsure	5
Probably no	2
Definitely no	2



Conclusions

Water Quality

- Overall good for shallow lowland drainage lake
- Phosphorus is high, but phytoplankton limited by nitrogen in summer – chlorophyll-*a* & water clarity good
- Dense aquatic plant growth likely cause of increase in P and decline in N in summer
- Zooplankton likely reduce occurrence of blue-green algae
- Water quality appears unchanged after drawdown (expected)
- Aquatic plants essential for maintaining current conditions (clear-state)

Conclusions

Watershed

- Majority of direct watershed (46%) comprised of forests & wetlands
- 41% comprised of row crop agriculture
- ~77% of annual P budget estimated to originate from row crop agriculture within direct watershed
- ~7% of P originates from Swan, Mason, Ennis, & Williams Lakes subwatersheds
- Given N-limitation in summer, P concentrations would need to be reduced by >66%, or 75% of watershed converted to forest

Immediate Shoreland Zone

- ~58% of shoreland undeveloped – focus areas for protection
- ~ 16% highly developed – focus areas for restoration
- Coarse woody habitat ratio of 23:1

Conclusions

Aquatic Plants

- Significant changes between 2004 and 2015
- ~13% reduction in overall occurrence of vegetation
- Large reduction in EWM (and likely CLP)
- Significant increase in native species richness & diversity
- Abundant growth due to lake’s shallow nature, nutrient-rich water & sediment, & higher water clarity
- Essential for maintaining water quality

Next Steps – Planning Meeting II

- How did the drawdown impact fisheries?
- Dave Bartz at next meeting
- How can we prevent AIS from increasing to pre-drawdown levels & also maintain native aquatic plant community?
- Data indicate winter water level drawdown an effective management tool
 - How often would these need to be done (frequency)?
 - How quickly does AIS increase following drawdown?
 - What is the trigger or threshold for initiating a drawdown?
 - Need to understand impact to fishery
 - Impacts to winter recreation & economy

Implementation Plan Example

- **Management Goal: Maintain Buffalo Lake's Current Water Quality Conditions**
 - Management Action: Initiate annual water quality monitoring through the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network Program.



Thank You

Many of the graphics used in this presentation were supplied by:



Wisconsin
Lakes
Partnership



LEVER
Extension



WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Onterra, LLC
Lake Management Planning

B

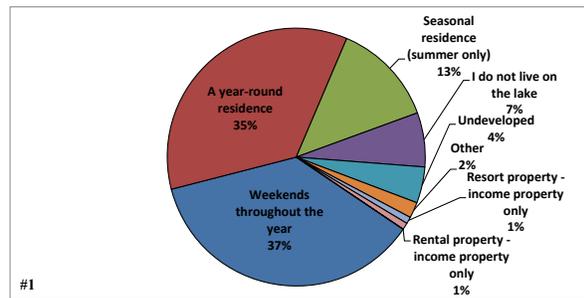
APPENDIX B

Stakeholder Survey Response Charts and Comments

Returned Surveys	354
Sent Surveys	770
Response Rate (%)	46.0

#1 How is your property on Buffalo Lake utilized?

	Total	%
Weekends throughout the year	129	36.5
A year-round residence	125	35.4
Seasonal residence (summer only)	46	13.0
I do not live on the lake	24	6.8
Undeveloped	16	4.5
Other	7	2.0
Resort property - income property only	3	0.8
Rental property - income property only	3	0.8
I am a renter and do not own the property	0	0.0
	353	100.0



#2 How many days each year is your property used by you or others?

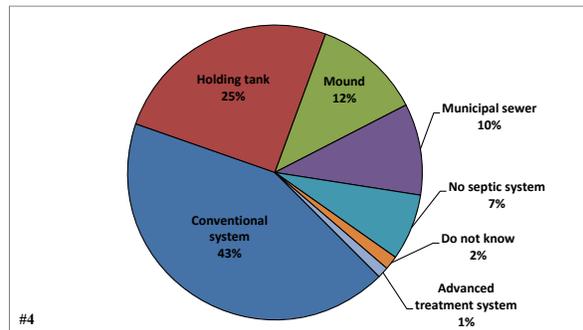
Answered Question	310	
Average	174.7	Days
Standard deviation	145.4	

#3 How long have you owned or rented your property on or near Buffalo Lake

Answered Question	331	
Average	17.8	Years
Standard deviation	13.9	

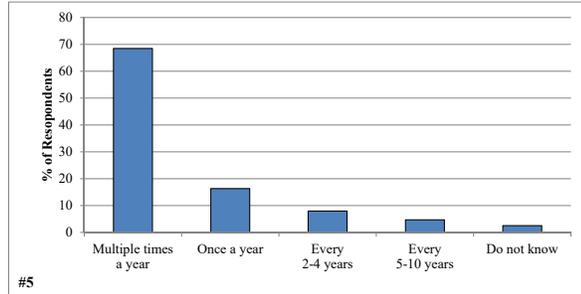
#4 What type of septic system does your property utilized

	Total	%
Conventional system	141	42.9
Holding tank	83	25.2
Mound	39	11.9
Municipal sewer	33	10.0
No septic system	24	7.3
Do not know	5	1.5
Advanced treatment system	4	1.2
	329	74.8



#5 How often is the septic tank on your property pumped?

	Total	%
Every 2-4 years	189	68.5
Once a year	45	16.3
Multiple times a year	22	8.0
Do not know	13	4.7
Every 5-10 years	7	2.5
	276	100.0



#6 How many years ago did you first visit Buffalo Lake?

Answered Question	348
Average	23.6
Standard deviation	16.6

#7 Have you personally fished on Buffalo Lake in the past five years?

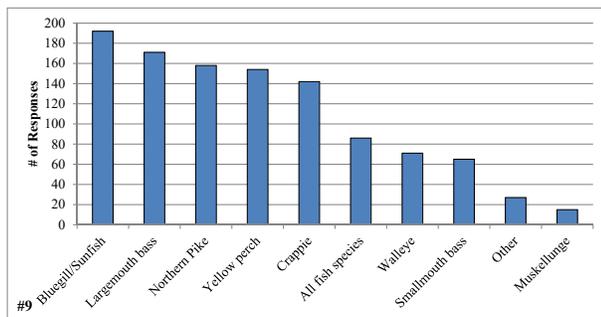
	Total	%
Yes	287	81.1
No	67	18.9
	354	100.0

#8 For how many years have you fished Buffalo Lake?

Answered Question	284
Average	20.5
Standard deviation	14.9

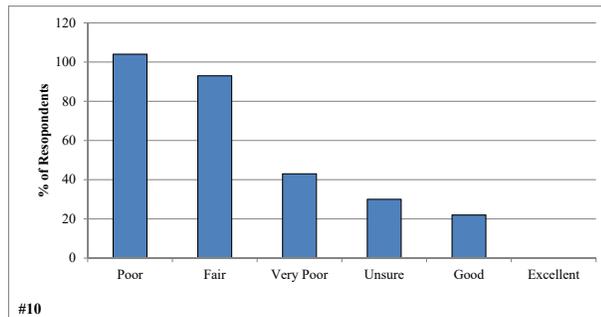
#9 What species of fish do you like to catch on Buffalo Lake?

	Total
Bluegill/Sunfish	192
Largemouth bass	171
Northern Pike	158
Yellow perch	154
Crappie	142
All fish species	86
Walleye	71
Smallmouth bass	65
Other	27
Muskellunge	15



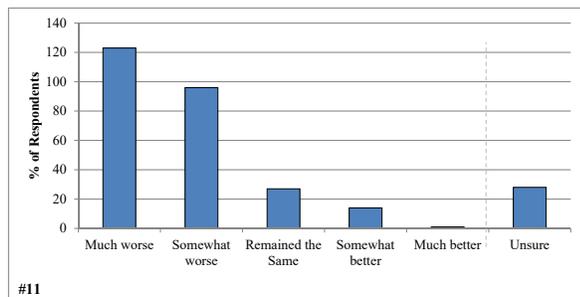
#10 How would you describe the current quality of fishing on Buffalo Lake?

	Total	%
Poor	104	35.6
Fair	93	31.8
Very Poor	43	14.7
Unsure	30	10.3
Good	22	7.5
Excellent	0	0.0
	292	100.0



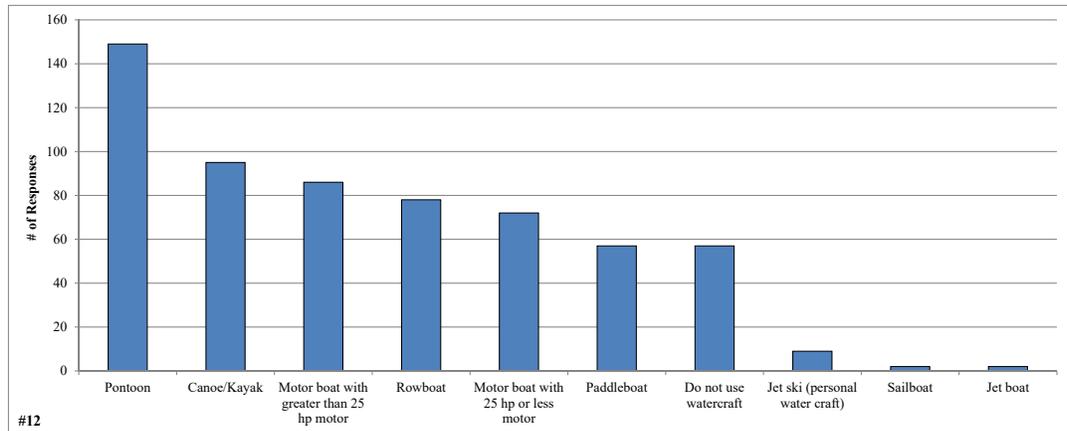
#11 How has the quality of fishing changed since you started fishing on Buffalo Lake?

	Total	%
Much worse	123	42.6
Somewhat worse	96	33.2
Remained the Same	27	9.3
Somewhat better	14	4.8
Much better	1	0.3
Unsure	28	9.7
	289	100.0



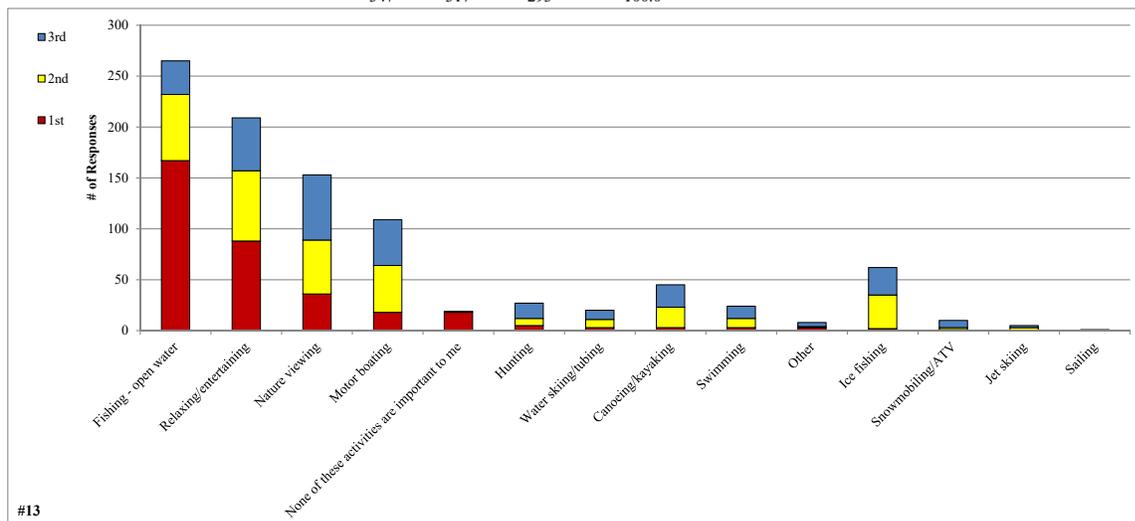
#12 What types of watercraft do you currently use on Buffalo Lake?

	<u>Total</u>
Pontoon	149
Canoe/Kayak	95
Motor boat with greater than 25 hp motor	86
Rowboat	78
Motor boat with 25 hp or less motor	72
Paddleboat	57
Do not use watercraft	57
Jet ski (personal water craft)	9
Sailboat	2
Jet boat	2



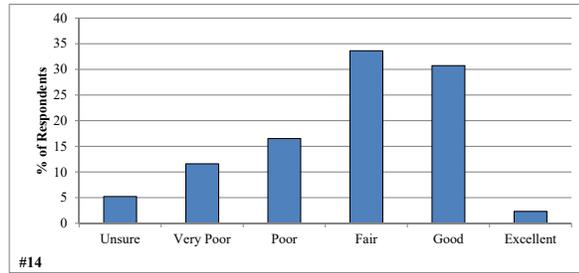
#13 Please rank up to three activities that are important reasons for owning your property on or near Buffalo Lake.

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>% ranked</u>
Fishing - open water	167	65	33	27.7
Relaxing/entertaining	88	69	52	21.8
Nature viewing	36	53	64	16.0
Motor boating	18	46	45	11.4
None of these activities are important to me	18	1	0	2.0
Hunting	5	7	15	2.8
Water skiing/tubing	3	8	9	2.1
Canoeing/kayaking	3	20	22	4.7
Swimming	3	9	12	2.5
Other	3	1	4	0.8
Ice fishing	2	33	27	6.5
Snowmobiling/ATV	1	2	7	1.0
Jet skiing	0	3	2	0.5
Sailing	0	0	1	0.1
	347	317	293	100.0



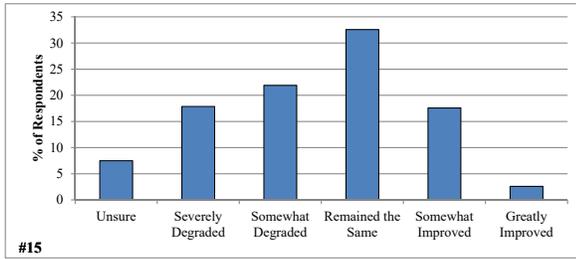
#14 How would you describe the current water quality of Buffalo Lake?

	Total	%
Unsure	18	5.2
Very Poor	40	11.6
Poor	57	16.5
Fair	116	33.6
Good	106	30.7
Excellent	8	2.3
	345	100.0



#15 How has the water quality changed in Buffalo Lake since you first visited the lake?

	Total	%
Unsure	26	7.5
Severely Degraded	62	17.9
Somewhat Degraded	76	21.9
Remained the Same	113	32.6
Somewhat Improved	61	17.6
Greatly Improved	9	2.6
	347	100.0



#16 Have you ever heard of aquatic invasive species?

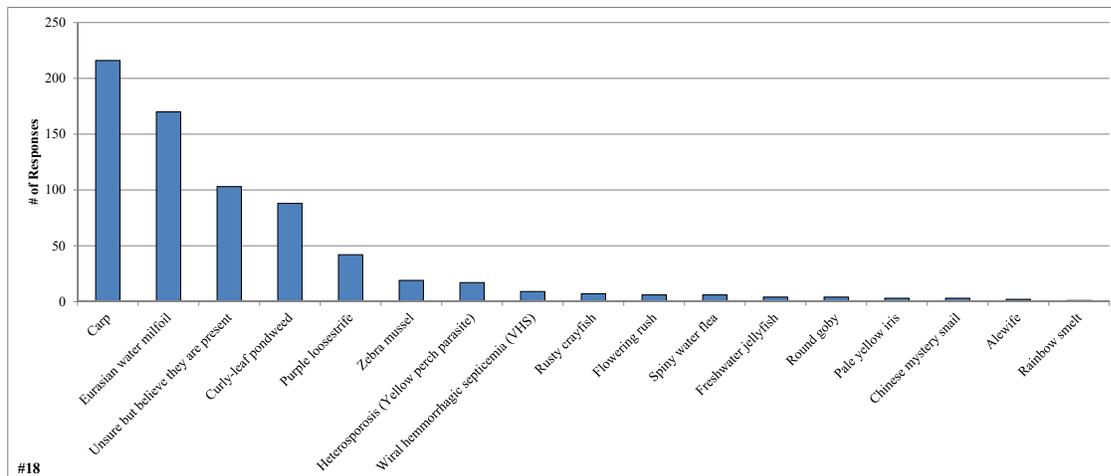
	Total	%
Yes	319	93.0
No	24	7.0
	343	100.0

#17 Are you aware of aquatic invasive species in the lake?

	Total	%
Yes	293	93.9
No	19	6.1
	312	100.0

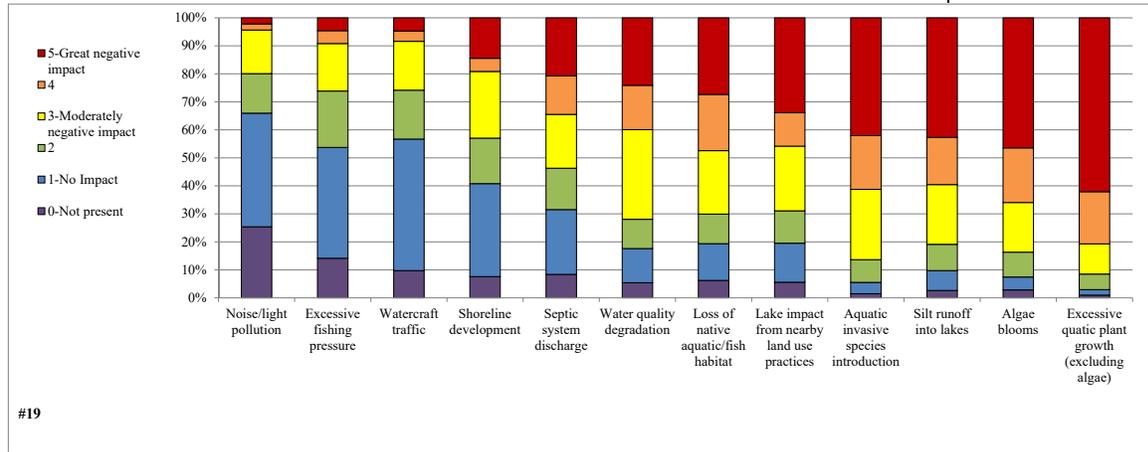
#18 Which aquatic invasive species are you aware of in the lake?

	Total
Carp	216
Eurasian water milfoil	170
Unsure but believe they are present	103
Curly-leaf pondweed	88
Purple loosestrife	42
Zebra mussel	19
Heterosporosis (Yellow perch parasite)	17
Wiral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS)	9
Rusty crayfish	7
Flowering rush	6
Spiny water flea	6
Freshwater jellyfish	4
Round goby	4
Pale yellow iris	3
Chinese mystery snail	3
Alewife	2
Rainbow smelt	1
Other	18



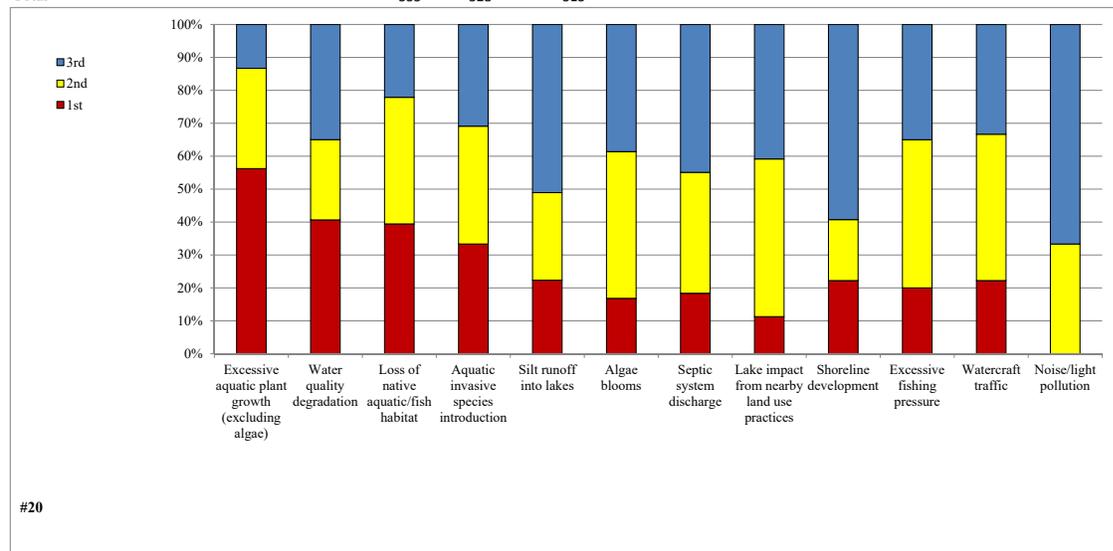
#19 To what level do you believe each of the following factors may currently be negatively impacting Buffalo Lake?

	0-Not present	1-No Impact	2	3-Moderately negative impact	4	5-Great negative impact	Unsure	Total	Average
Noise/light pollution	70	112	39	43	6	6	43	276	1.4
Excessive fishing pressure	40	112	57	48	13	13	38	283	1.7
Watercraft traffic	29	140	52	52	11	14	23	298	1.7
Shoreline development	21	92	45	66	13	40	43	277	2.3
Septic system discharge	17	47	30	39	28	42	121	203	2.7
Water quality degradation	15	34	29	89	44	67	41	278	3.1
Loss of native aquatic/fish habitat	17	36	29	62	55	75	46	274	3.2
Lake impact from nearby land use practices	14	35	29	58	30	85	74	251	3.2
Aquatic invasive species introduction	4	11	22	68	52	114	47	271	3.8
Silt runoff into lakes	7	19	25	57	45	114	59	267	3.7
Algae blooms	8	13	25	50	55	131	42	282	3.9
Excessive aquatic plant growth (excluding algae)	3	6	17	33	57	190	24	306	4.3
Other	1	1	0	1	4	18	25	25	4.4



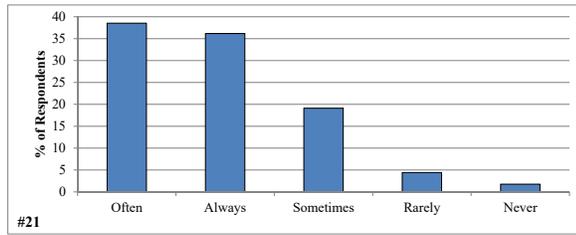
#20 From the list below, please rank your top three concerns regarding Buffalo Lake.

	1st	2nd	3rd	% Ranked
Excessive aquatic plant growth (excluding algae)	131	71	31	23.9
Water quality degradation	50	30	43	12.6
Loss of native aquatic/fish habitat	41	40	23	10.7
Aquatic invasive species introduction	41	44	38	12.6
Silt runoff into lakes	21	25	48	9.6
Algae blooms	17	45	39	10.3
Septic system discharge	9	18	22	5.0
Lake impact from nearby land use practices	8	34	29	7.3
Shoreline development	6	5	16	2.8
Excessive fishing pressure	4	9	7	2.0
Watercraft traffic	2	4	3	0.9
Noise/light pollution	0	1	2	0.3
Other	5	2	12	1.9
Total	335	328	313	



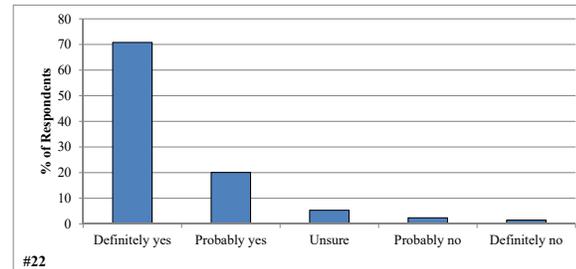
#21 During open water season how often does aquatic plant growth, including algae, negatively impact your enjoyment of Buffalo Lake?

	Total	%
Often	131	38.5
Always	123	36.2
Sometimes	65	19.1
Rarely	15	4.4
Never	6	1.8
	340	100.0



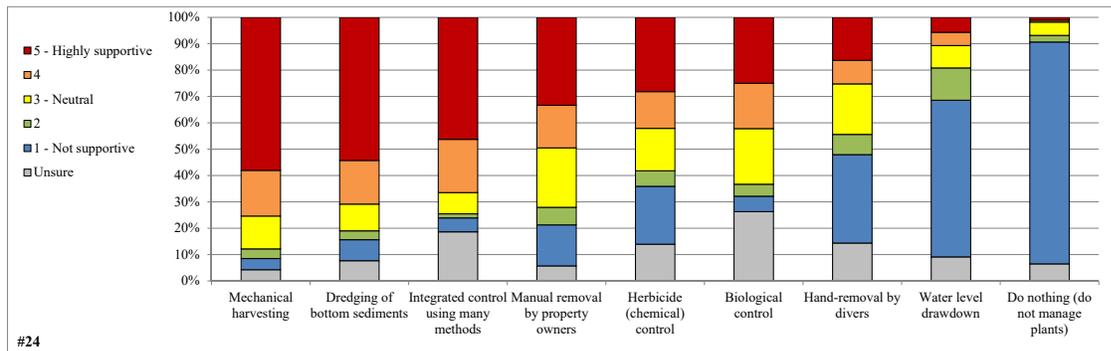
#22 Considering your answer to the question #21, do you believe aquatic plant control is needed on Buffalo Lake?

	Total	%
Definitely yes	240	70.8
Probably yes	68	20.1
Unsure	18	5.3
Probably no	8	2.4
Definitely no	5	1.5
	339	100.0



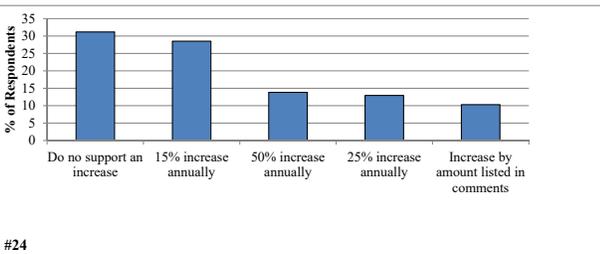
#23 Aquatic plants can be professionally managed using many techniques. What is your level of support for the responsible use of the following techniques on Buffalo Lake?

	1 - Not supportive	2	3 - Neutral	4	5 - Highly supportive	Unsure	Total	Average
Mechanical harvesting	14	12	41	57	191	14	315	3.4
Dredging of bottom sediments	26	11	33	54	177	25	301	4.3
Integrated control using many methods	17	5	26	65	149	60	262	0.2
Manual removal by property owners	49	21	71	51	105	18	297	4.0
Herbicide (chemical) control	71	19	52	45	91	45	278	3.7
Biological control	18	14	65	53	77	81	227	1.2
Hand-removal by divers	105	24	60	28	51	45	268	1.5
Water level drawdown	189	39	27	16	18	29	289	0.5
Do nothing (do not manage plants)	234	7	14	2	3	18	260	0.5



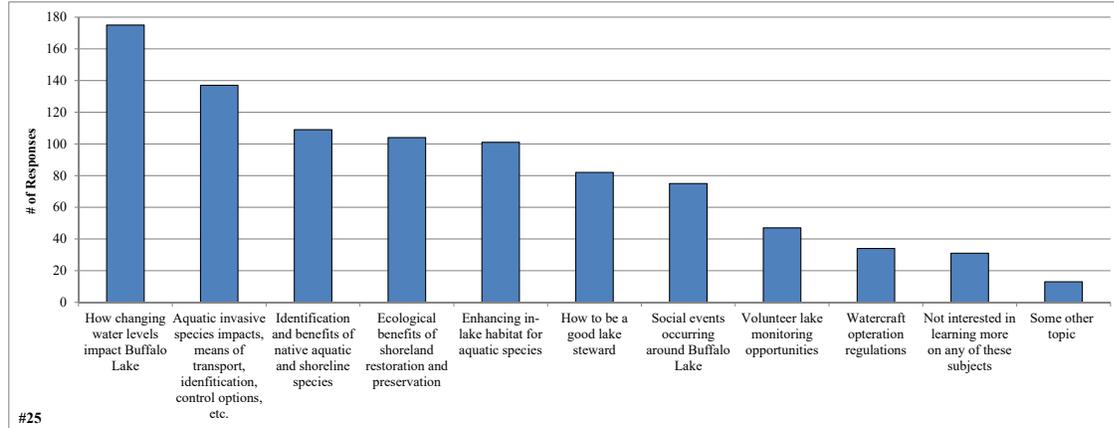
#24 During open water season how often does aquatic plant growth, including algae, negatively impact your enjoyment of Buffalo Lake?

	Total	%
Do no support an increase	106	31.2
15% increase annually	97	28.5
50% increase annually	47	13.8
25% increase annually	44	12.9
Increase by amount listed in comments	35	10.3
	329	96.8



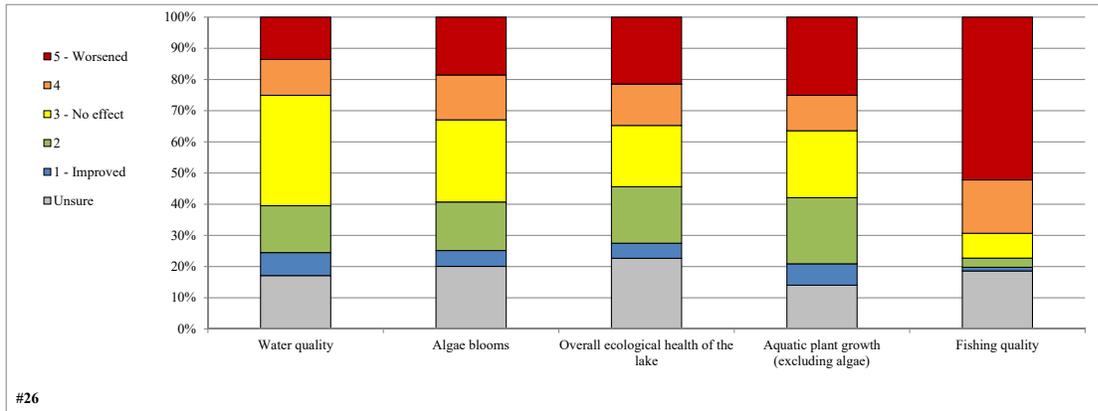
#25 Which of these subjects would you like to learn more about?

	Total
How changing water levels impact Buffalo Lake	175
Aquatic invasive species impacts, means of transport, identification, control options, etc.	137
Identification and benefits of native aquatic and shoreline species	109
Ecological benefits of shoreland restoration and preservation	104
Enhancing in-lake habitat for aquatic species	101
How to be a good lake steward	82
Social events occurring around Buffalo Lake	75
Volunteer lake monitoring opportunities	47
Watercraft operation regulations	34
Not interested in learning more on any of these subjects	31
Some other topic	13



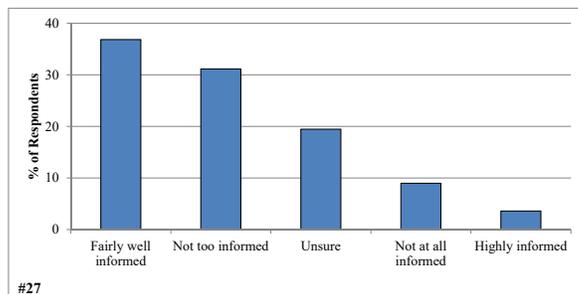
#26 What is your opinion of the drawdown's impacts on the health of Buffalo Lake

	1 - Improved	2	3 - No effect	4	5 - Worsened	Unsure	Total	Average
Water quality	25	51	120	39	46	58	281	3.1
Algae blooms	17	52	88	48	62	67	267	3.3
Overall ecological health of the lake	16	60	65	44	71	75	256	3.4
Aquatic plant growth (excluding algae)	23	71	72	38	84	47	288	3.3
Fishing quality	4	10	27	58	177	63	276	4.4



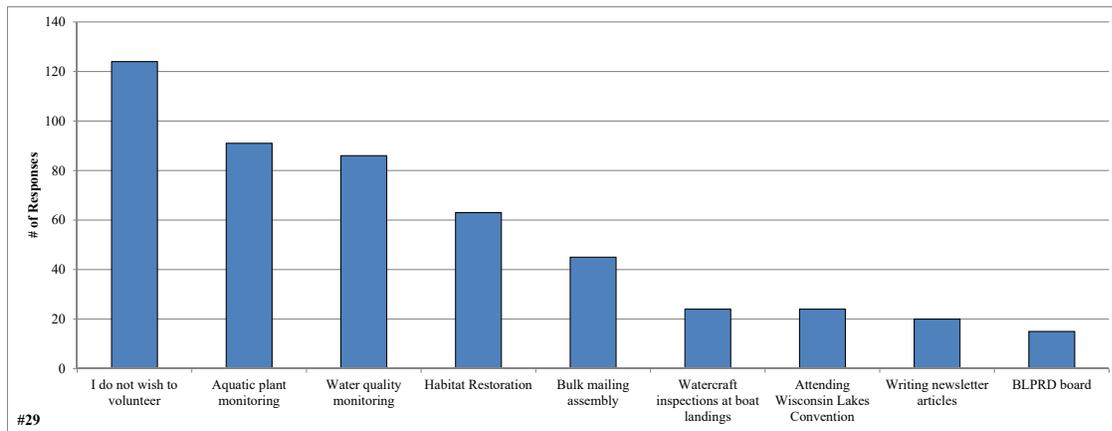
#28 How informed has the Buffalo Lake Lake Association kept you regarding issues with the lake and its management?

	Total	%
Fairly well informed	123	36.8
Not too informed	104	31.1
Unsure	65	19.5
Not at all informed	30	9.0
Highly informed	12	3.6
	334	100.0



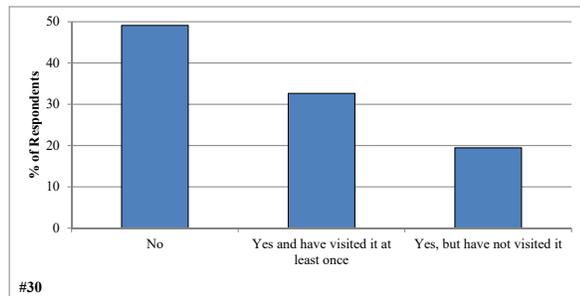
#29 Please circle the activities you would be willing to participate in if the BLPRD requires additional assistance.

	Total
I do not wish to volunteer	124
Aquatic plant monitoring	91
Water quality monitoring	86
Habitat Restoration	63
Bulk mailing assembly	45
Watercraft inspections at boat landings	24
Attending Wisconsin Lakes Convention	24
Writing newsletter articles	20
BLPRD board	15
Other	28



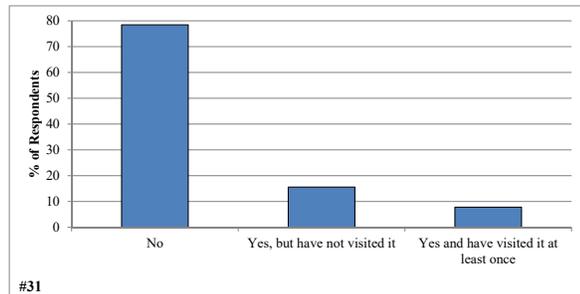
#30 Are you aware that the BLPRD maintains a District website?

	Total	%
No	164	49.1
Yes and have visited it at least once	109	32.6
Yes, but have not visited it	65	19.5
	338	101.2



#31 Are you aware that the BLPRD maintains a Facebook page?

	Total	%
No	262	78.4
Yes, but have not visited it	52	15.6
Yes and have visited it at least once	26	7.8
	340	101.8



Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
1				
2			Shooting Clays	Unsure
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25	At present visit occasionally			
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				
36				
37				
38				

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
1			
2		Poor Management	Already pay too much for property owned, set fees from visitors.
3			
4		Lake is completely useless	No that's why Im moving!!
5			
6			
7			DNR restrict my use of my land to 30%. I am unable to make a chanel for my boat - can not cut bushes or trees. DNR should pay 70% of any cost. They control lake property.
8			
9			
10			
11	Require (?) seasonal people -		None - We do not
12			The people around this lake have had their guts full of fees! The water level has to be brought up! And dredged out like it was done in the 1920!
13			10% annually for 3 years
14			Would need more info but not opposed to increase.
15			or \$20.00
16			
17			
18			\$50 -\$75 Bu must see improvement of water and weeds. We need some weeds but not so thick you could walk across the lake on them.
19			
20			depends on what technique - in general aquatic weeds don't bother us. We don't support herbicide control of weeds. Various mechanical control is OK but not necessarily that effective. It's always going to be a shallow weedy lake unless its dredged in a major way. That's probably not cost effective. Drawdowns might help periodically.
21			We pay \$200 and only seen the weed eater once.
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27	Mint Farm does not dredge setaling (?) pond		Mechanical harvesting would do a better job if the harvester wer not driven so fast while cutting, moving fast pushes weeds over and don't cut the weeds. Please check with equipment maker. DO DNOT ASK THE PEOPLE RUNNING THE HARVESTER. THEY DON'T HAVE COMMON CENTS.
28			
29			We don't feel our \$200 is used properly as it is.
30			You can drain for all I care. Rivers are nice.
31			
32	Wild Rice		One time assessment
33			100 % increase - lake is so choked with weeds that recreational usage is almost impossible.
34			
35			if shown something would work, I would be willing to spend a little more.
36			
37			I pay \$200 now & never fish or boat for 7 years.
38			

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
1		Comments from neighbors suggest the fishing has suffered	
2		Cannot afford license. Going from local comments and fishing activity on the lake.	
3			
4		You people ruined the lake it is now a swamp turned into a nasty stinky sespool	
5			
6			
7		I use to ice fish and catch limit in 1 - 2 hours now nothing. Also did some fishing from shore at one time very good now nothing.	
8			
9		Very poor fishing. Channel not marked clearly or kept free of weeds. Laterals not done.	
10			
11			None
12		Come on people! Where is your head in the sand! The lake is about 17" to 24" lower than it was!	
13		The compaction of silt was loosened up after filling up. The lake is shallower than before. I don't care what anyone says, it is shallower. This sucks.	
14		The fishing dropped off but seems to be coming back.	In future but not now,
15			
16			
17			
18		By next year the fishing should get better, it always takes about 3 years. Does anyone on the board remember the drawdown in 1970? The weeds were not bad this year. How will they be next year	
19			Don't live there
20			Not around enough to volunteer
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27		A. Why were the large perch taken from Buffalo Lake and ut in Lake Delton by the DNR? B. we didn't have wild rice.	
28			
29		Of course the drawdown affected fishing. But the restocking has already brought it back up. Also the fish bridge helps bring fish in. It helped with bad weed growth and algae but this past summer weed are coming back and are starting to get very bad again.	
30			
31			
32		Could not navigate lake in boat due to plant growth. Water was stagnant. Fishing poor because could not even get through lake undesirable to look at	
33		lost usage o lake for almost 2 years and once lake returned to normal level (which I believe is too low) the weeds have been out of control making boating terrible - even pontoon boats have a terrible time navigating.	
34			
35		fishing quality left when water did- may have removed some weeds but have new ones to replaced those removed	
36			
37		Doesn't sem to be any large fish coming out of the lake now	
38			

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
1	
2	
3	I am hopeful that the lake will recover from the drawdown. A worsening of conditions can be expected for the first few years.
4	I think everyone is overtaxed for living on a swamp!!
5	
6	
7	I own 200' on Buffalo Lake. It is a swamp unable to use it. I can not make a channel for my boat. DNR controls 70% of shoreline they should contribute to any and all expenses.
8	
9	
10	
11	We are back lot - no lake access yet you assess dues
12	It won't matter what I say! You will do what you do, which in my opinion is nothing! There is only 3 things to save this lake! 1. Dredge out as was done in 1920! 2. Spray the weeds from an airplane. 3. Start to address the septic tank run off also! The muck farms and buffalo shit run off in spring! (I have been their and seen that)
13	I feel dredging of the lake & make small islands with the sentiment would greatly increase the use of Buffalo Lake. With a deeper channel better flow of water to keep it clear of weeds in the channel then manage the rest of the lake as needed. This would bring many more tourists to our area to help support all businesses.
14	District needs to maintain channels for navigation. West of the causeway they seem to move channel hopefully with draw down they have identified the natural channel and will mark the same each year. This year the channel on the north shore did not get cleared to the west end then back to RR bridge channel. People want to be able to navigate w/o constantly getting bogged down with weeds.
15	We truly enjoyed being involved in organizing the district. I'm too old to get involved now! I appreciate all your group does for the lake.
16	Wasted manpower. Hiring people not familiar with the lake.
17	Maintenance on the lake is poor. Channels along the shore were poorly maintained.
18	The weeds were not bad this year. We cannot let them get a strong foothold back in the lake.
19	
20	We generally enjoy fishing, kayaking and viewing nature. None of that is particularly hurt by a weedy lake. We would concentrate on maintaining a healthy weed population with possible harvesting to enable boat access to shore and whatever non-herbicide control might be needed to deal with excessive algae or invasive weeds.
21	Have no computer.
22	
23	
24	Haven't been there enough to respond
25	Whether I keep or sell family home the beauty of the lake is a treasured asset. Due to current problems can only reside on lake a few weeks each year! Thank you for this survey.
26	Water level too low
27	Poor weed harvesting - DNR will remove fish but will not restock the lake. Will not enforce no wake near property
28	I think weed cutting and removal needs to improve
29	We as well as everyone we've talked to think the way the weed cutting system has been handled is very poor. The person/persons in charge of this are doing a very poor job. Our monies should be used more adequately regarding this.
30	
31	
32	Very frustrated with condition of lake - no fun anymore
33	I would like to see the lake become a beautiful mostly weedless body of water that is not just a fishing habitat. However, I would hate for it to turn into a crowded "Lake Geneva" type area.
34	
35	websites do not keep stakeholders up to date on information
36	It was a good idea to widen the causeway but because of the big rocks or culvert(?) I can no longer fish from shore due to my age and balance.
37	
38	I came to Buffalo Lake because it was an amazing fishery and a quiet and safe lake. I believe the fishing will return to pre-drawdown levels and it remains a safe and peaceful boating environment.

Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
39		Catfish		
40				
41				
43				
44				
45				
46				
47				
48				
49				
50	Vacation Home	bullhead		
51				
52				
53				
54				
55				
56				
57				
58				
59		catfish, bullheads		
60				
61				
62				lots of weeds but don't know all of them.
63				
64				
65				Rough fish coming up new ladder
66				
67				
68				
69				
70				
71				
72				
73				
74	All year every other week			
75				
76				
77				
78		unknown		
79				
80				

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
39			100 - 200 %
40			
41			Why do we pay dues at all. Why were dues paid during recent period of draw down.
43			Cattail growth at shoreline where we never had them before - very pervasive
44			
45			Pan fish are hard to find
46			I would be in support of an increase if there was an actual improvement over \$400 per year for nothing so far!
47			
48			
49			
50			
51			
52			\$15 per household if we no something is really going to be done, otherwise I would not support an increase in dues
53			
54			
55			
56			
57			
58			
59	tourism	tourism	
60			
61			
62			
63	Too shallow.	No fish after drained	Water use stickers for boats for people who use it.
64			
65			
66			
67			
68			
69			
70	Lawn Fertilizer		
71			
72	Muck farming		
73			
74			
75			
76			
77			
78			
79			
80			

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
39		Fish and fish sizes are down but seem to be rebounding	Establish a sewer district
40			
41		Destroyed all fishing - Fed the seagulls very well for 4 months.	
43			
44			
45			
46			
47			
48			
49			
50			
51			
52		They should have removed all the silt on the bottom of the lake before filling the lake and weed control. I would not swim in that lake! We want it to be a lake to be proud of.	
53			
54			
55		Fishing is significantly worse. Weed growth seems to have not improved	
56			
57			
58			Might help at fundraisers if available.
59	tourism limits		
60		Fishing is horrible last couple years but hopeful for good improvement in the next few years. We expected it.	
61		Due to health circumstances have not been at the cabin much this summer.	
62		We lost a lot of fish especially large mouth bass, bluegills and perch. We need to stock more.	
63		More weeds everywhere on south side of causeway.	
64	Aeration		I'm 88
65		Fewer "good" days - no fall "good" trips Fall = Sept 1 - Nov 1	Fundraisers
66			
67			
68		Rice	
69		Ruined the fishing	
70			
71			
72		Poor fishing and more rough fish	
73			
74		Fishing was very good now it is spotty. Natural bass habitat like water lilies is minimal at best. Weed cutters seem to stir things up. Would like to know the benefit of cutters.	Hard to do when not a full time resident.
75		Water seems to be a lot lower, weeds are worse than before. Water smells from some of the weeds like a city sewer. I heard that our lake is called "Plastic Dump" from visitors.	
76		Weeds are terrible can not even run your boat motor w/o clogging up prop causing csusing damage to the water pump	
77		We use to swim in lake now way now, over growth of plants	
78		The first summer the lake was back, the weeds were not nearly as bad, but of course the fishing was terrible. This past summer, the weeds seem about as bad (in our Area) as before the draw down. I also do not think the orange weed harvesters did a very good job this past summer (2015) in our area.	
79		have not been on the lake this year so don't know the condition of open lake. However, I have noticed an increase of "beneficial" plants within 20 - 30' of shoreline. I had no plants before.	
80		After the lake was drawn down it seems the part by endeavor to Packwaukee is more like a river and less like a lake. Huge spot in the lake with tall grass etc. So you need to be in the channels and can't cut across the lake - from Packwaukee (?) to Montello it's more like a lake.	

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
39	I feel the best way to improve the quality of the lake and increase property values is to establish and maintain a sewer district on both sides of Buffalo lake.
40	
41	
43	
44	
45	I think the DNR should do more towards the restocking of fish in Buffalo Lake, and this should be an ongoing effort (by Then) until fishing returns to normal
46	No change in plant life amounts - I can't even put my dock in since water levels dropped 7 or 8 years ago! Fix it! Property values not going up, no one wants to come here do to lake issues. Tourists would flock here if the lake was better. It is a wasted resource. This is my second home and people around me have heard of Buffalo Lake and won't go because they can't use boats/jetskis. What a shame.
47	
48	
49	Lived on the lake 25+ years - it is what it is! It's too bad the DNR allowed draining all the wetland around the lake. This has left a lot of muck into Buffalo Lake. Shame on the DNR!
50	
51	
52	
53	
54	I had my septic pumped out once in 30 years. Now the state says I have to have it pumped every 3 years, never had a problem. I think every 3 years is too much. I don't have a computer.
55	Fishing is much worse. Weed growth and cutting of these is bad. Cut weeds float in surrounding piers & boats making it difficult to get into lake and channel area. Essential to movement of water craft.
56	
57	
58	
59	I view the tourist from Illinois as the greatest negative impact on the lake and property values
60	We still love it!
61	
62	The weed harvesting (cutting) has been terrible. There is a great need for better & more cutting. Weeks go by in summer and there is no or very minimal cutting. The cutting plan or its execution is not at all satisfactory.
63	Needs fish for people to come. Needs more cutting in grassy areas, not enough paths.
64	
65	
66	
67	
68	
69	Website is almost useless, not kept up to date. Machine operators did a poor job of cutting weeds this past year. My pier and shoreline were socked in all year long. I thought services were to get better, not worse
70	
71	
72	I feel that dredging would have a positive impact on fishing and water quality
73	
74	I really enjoy the lake but it seems the fishing is worse after the drawdown and that fish habitat was ruined.
75	Owners who have been on the lake for years talk about how clear it was that a person could swim from north to south, the water was so good. Now you can't even swim in it and its hard to take boats out because of the weeds. There are chemicals to kill weeds that will not hurt the fish.
76	Weeds are out of control (see Q #27) Weed cutters did a very poor job this year and are a waste of time. Need to control weeds via herbicide. Supply/sell to owners for their dock areas.
77	We need to make the lake better so we can sell when we have to and get our money back
78	The DNR needs to let us address the weed problem much more aggressively and frequently. The DNR should also assist more in terms of restocking the lake.
79	
80	I don't feel that people should have to pay a fee to launch their boats if they are already paying an association fee- we should get stickers to place in our vehicles to launch our boats. I feel you are double dipping the property owners!

Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
81				
82		Blue Catfish		
83				
84				
85				
86				
87				
88				
89				
90				
91				
92				
93				
94				
95				
96				
97				
98			Snow shoeing and XC skiing	Seaweed, cattails
99				
100				
101				
102				
103				
104				Silt from muck farms
105				
106				
107				
108		Catfish, dogfish		
109				
110				
111				
112				
113				
114				
115				
116		Bullhead		
117				
118				
119				
120				
121		catfish		

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
81			
82	Low water levels, muck farms		50% increase or other amount up to 100% increase if lake would be more scenic and usable with weeds eradicated
83	Too many weeds - too muddy		
84			
85	cattails		
86			
87			
88			
89			I am on a fixed disability income and cannot afford an increase. When I was working I never understood why it wasn't based on a percentage of land value or property and accessibility, I would have supported that!
90			
91			
92	Weeds cut but then float they just float to shore excessively.	Weeds cut, but then just float to shore.	4250/yr. Should already cover this. Offer opportunity for landowners to help manually.
93			No can not run right with money now - why more No Increase!
94			
95			
96			
97			5% maybe even 10%
98			
99			
100			
101			
102			
103			I already pay way too much for waterfront I can't even use. All muck and cattails, too shallow.
104			We are already paying around\$2000 a year for property that we can't even use the lake! It's all muck and marsh, no boat access.
105			
106			Land owners should be allowed to remove weeds in the water along the shoreline by their docks.
107			
108	Muck Farms		
109			Current at \$200 is too high
110			
111			
112			
113			
114	muck	muck	
115			
116			Yes to dredge
117			
118			
119			
120			225
121			25

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
81		Fishing was horrible last year after is not sure thing anymore on B. Lake	
82		By having fish ladder, lake is lower and fish such as sheepshead are present, northerns are small. Montello area is clean for now, remainder of lake is very weedy and getting worse, milfoil curly pondweed and tall weed grass up to the top of water. Montello area that's clean is nice for fishing, boating, scenery. Rest of lake difficult to	
83			
84		Drawdown was great during summer of 2014. However, by 2015, the lake was as bad as before. More extensive cutting and overall harvesting improvement is needed	
85		Much more cattail problems	
86			
87			
88			
89		There is no longer enough water near my home to keep a boat in the water or use a pier. It filled in during the drawdown.	
90		No Quality fish size.	
91		Large increase in cattail plants and narrowing of waterway.	
92			
93		Bad	
94			
95			
96			
97		Not as many fish& size smaller	
98		After drawdown, proliferation of cattails on shoreline, can we pull these out or cut them down?	
99			
100		Lack of water depth.	
101			
102		Weeds are a lot worse. Fishing at all time low. Smell is unbearable.	
103		The lake level went down and we can't use the water. The fishing is no good, needs to be restocked. When the water level was drained reeds grew up and now we can't duck hunt our own property because other duck hunters sit in front of us in the reeds with mud motors.	
104		Cattails are thick now, can't even get to the lake Fish must have died off. Haven't been good for game and panfish.	
105		The wild rice population has taken over which we never had before. Weed cutters need to cut more paths.	
106		As stated earlier I have fished BL for 35 years. It is going to take a few years to recover. Catching all species is very challenging currently & more stocking is needed.	
107		Fishing very limited to couple species - Northern Pike readily available, other types hit & miss. Bass, bluegill etc. very poor panfish production after drawdown.	
108		Huge amount of plant growth especially towards Endeavor	
109		Created a lot of cattails	
110			
111			
112			
113		Fishing quality has always been good to OK. It is now poor.	being part time resident makes this hard
114		Fishing is deplorable. More weeds & aquatic plants.	
115		In our area here was definitely less weeds but it looked like other areas worsened.	
116		Water level is lower. More weeds around our pier.	
117		more weeds/fewer people fishing/lack of fish	
118		This year, 2015 was worse weeds ever.	I'm 87 years old
119		Our property is upstream of the RR trestle. It has reverted back to a very narrow channel- a river. Invasive plant growth was at the worst we have ever seen i. We had trouble getting out to the channel with our pontoon.	
120			
121		Fishing is really bad, draining the lake did NOT kill of or reduce seaweed growth it is still very bad and it stinks. There is so much silt from the farmers pumping the fields dry that it is filling up the lake. Years ago it was a lot deeper and a hell of a lot less weeds & fishing was great.	

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
81	Water level is too low - raise it or dredge
82	Since the drawdown, fishing is much worse, water level lower. Montello part near town is clean, hardly any weeds, looks great, fun to fish and boat there. Remainder of the lake many weeds the further west you go on lake the worse it gets. Difficult to fish, boat, not very scenic with weeds on top of water. In addition way too many lily pad type weeds on entire lake.
83	Need to deal with water level and weeds. Hard to get a boat thru weeds & low levels
84	
85	
86	
87	
88	
89	I just wish it was as clean and as deep as it was years ago.
90	
91	
92	Nice lake but weed cutting collection leaves a lot to be desired - this results in major work for shoreline owners.
93	You need to listen to people at the annual meeting - not ignore people. Get new people at front desk at meetings!!
94	I do not fish Buffalo Lake anymore.
95	
96	
97	I believe we should allow land owners to improve their shoreline within reason and with guidance.
98	Love the lake and appreciate the work of the board.
99	
100	
101	Ability to swim in the lake without milfoil must improve.
102	It is really embarrassing to have people come and visit and see how bad the lake is with the weeds. It really is such a waste. It could be so nice.
103	Been here for 16 years. Used to fish here 30 years. Seems like the problems started when they drained the marshes that were a natural filter and used them for farm land. Those with marshland should get tax breaks for preserving them.
104	Years ago the lake was good for fishing & swimming. Since the large marshes were dredged and ditch banked and used for large farming, the silt that was dumped all ended up in the lake. Now the bottom is nothing but muck and silt, prime for weeds.
105	It is very difficult to sell a home.
106	We really need to find a way to better control the weeds. The mechanical cutters are just not enough.
107	I'm sure fishing will improve, fish stocking a good idea. No more drawdowns. Guys who cut the weeds this year sucked. No decent laterals cut, main channel not very wide. No shoreline cutting (withing 50ft of shoreline) at all. Old crew was always diligent opening up areas to get out into the lake. Very few visits around the lake, most time spend in Packwaukee.
108	
109	
110	
111	
112	
113	
114	As a summer resident I feel any improvements are going to raise our taxes, let nature work its wonders to improve the lake and fishing. Our taxes are high enough
115	
116	Water level is too low. Weeds in way of fishing off our pier.
117	Make area more attractive like in Montello. Would like causeway area improved, signs placed appropriately - facing road, area to sit on causeway, no sitting/standing on bridge signs, clean up weeds so they don't stall motors, clean toilet at ramp more often, more weed cutting, high water level.
118	
119	This year's weed harvesting was the poorest ever on our end of the lake.
120	
121	I feel the lake needs to be dredged out to make it deeper like it use to be, it would help control weed growth and give more room for game fish it would also cut back on the bad smell from the weeds. I know people would pay for the dirt removed from the lake.

Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
122				
123				
124				
125				
126				
127				
128				
129		catfish		
130				
131				
132				
133				
134				
135				
136				
137		catfish		
138				
139				
140				
141				
142	Thursday thru Sunday - 1 week per month			
143				
144				
145		catfish		
146				
147		catfish		
148				
149				
150				
151				
152				
153				
154		catfish		
155				
156		catfish		
157				cattails
158				
159				
160				

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
122			
123			
124			Better manage of existing funds
125			
126			
127			
128		fishing and boating are terrible lately	Our dues are being not very well utilized to date. Then paying to launch was another insult. Something must be done within reasonable costs or you will lose all lake owners.
129			
130			
131			I would approve a minimal increase if I thought it would do some good. In all the years we've had this place the lake has never been good for anything.
132			
133			
134			
135			
136			Depends on the method selected.
137			
138			Also raise the water level of the lake.
139			
140			
141			
142			
143			
144			
145			
146			1
147			No, don't know what they do with the money now.
148			
149			
150			
151			
152			
153			
154			100% increase for several years - NOT indefinitely! But it has to be measurable and obvious improvements & success. We need to get this problem resolved!!
155			
156			
157			
158			
159			
160			

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
122			
123		Bought property after drawdown	
124		Numbers of most fish species are down, quality and size of Bass, Northern, panfish extremely lower	
125			
126		"Was" catching large bass & northern	
127		It has only been 2 years, but all forms of poor qualities have started coming back, by end of 2016 the lake's condition will be 100% bad as before the drawdown.	
128		The lake has not been great the whole 16 years we've owned property, but we always caught fish and could motor around the weeds. The cutting is worse, less bouys more weeds, fishing is bad. So many less boats on the lake, people don't want to pay to launch and then have their motors ruined by weeds and then have bad fishing.	Happy to help IF it seems like something will be accomplished.
129		South of the train bridge is horrible. The lake is gone weeds have taken over leaving a river only.	
130		Lost a large number of fish due to the drawdown	
131			
132			
133			
134		It may take time but quality is bad and invasive fish species now can enter the lake by fish ladder	
135			
136		Fishing seems to have worsened. Did not seem to return as expected. Stocking helps. Lake should be drawn down every 10 years. Weed situation has improved but will probably worsen with time. Something has to be done about silt. At least I could clean up my shoreline during the drawdown.	
137		There is less panfish and bass on the lake after the drawdown. Buffalo Lake used to be an putstanding fishing lake.	
138		Even though the drawdown helped with weeds somewhat, it had to be followed with more cutting. Open water (?) more boating, more cutting of weeds by props, more silt stirring so it can flow out. Raising water level 6" would help a lot. A lot of info about the drawdown did not happen. Bottom did not compact s expected.	Out of State - FIB
139			
140		Fish population went down extremely! Should do some more stocking. Water is not filtered, less weeds. The depth of the lake did not increase as the DNR stated.	Fish stocking
141		Panfish and large mouth bass are not present in quantity or size.	
142			
143		No fishing after drawdown. Just as much algae. Lake is full of new (?)	
144			
145			
146			
147			
148			
149		The drawdown made the property value go down (just after a great recession. I lost over \$60,000 had to sell out and the area relators keep droppng the price value of property.	Sold Property
150			
151		No game fish in 2014, slowly recovering in 2015, hope 2016 is better. We need some "good" weeds for the fishing to improve. No weeds, no fish!!	
152			
153			
154		After drawdown there have been virtually no cathces of bugills, crappie, perch. Bass cathes are reduced & size of bass is small. Lots of northern and catfish.	
155		Harder to find fish especially panfish - haven't had a meal of bluegill or perch since 3 yr ago before drawdown.	
156			
157		Less bass, northern are growing but smaller	
158		This was one of the best bass fishing lakes in the state. I always caught fish and big ones! Now the fishing is slow at best.	
159			
160			

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
122	
123	I believe the weed cutters do a very good job with the equipment they have. I think they need smaller cutters to do a better job of shoreline maintenance. They also need more manpower.
124	It seems water levels on average are lower after dam rehab. Less or no current near shoreline. Weed harvesting almost nonexistent on Montello side of causeway. Very little harvest near shorelines, no cuts to access main channel compared to previous years.
125	
126	
127	I am 55 yrs old, my grandparents owned the place I now own. As a child we swam, fished and boated on this lake without interruption of weeds and other crap on water. I blame all of this on poor management who refuse to acknowledge and address all of the issues.
128	Seems like your efforts through a private club that we were not invited to join. Email blasts might help but there has to be a way to help people feel that their opinions really matter, even if they're not year round residents. Thanks for trying hopefully it will improve.
129	
130	
131	
132	
133	
134	
135	
136	Website does not seem to be updated in a timely manner. More has to be done about controlling silt and removing it. This lake is aging way before its time.
137	After drawdown there was a lot of bull rushes along the shoreline. Extra work for property owners to clear for their pier and boat.
138	More weeds need to be removed. An open lake draws more people who will buy, helping to increase property values. Have positive economic affect to area. Business & restaurants, bars etc. increase employment.
139	
140	Weed cutting needs to improve, some more fish stocking is needed.
141	
142	
143	
144	
145	Fire the harvester supervisor. I had to call twice to get a lateral cut to get our boats out from the pier - then they never maintained it.
146	
147	Have been trying to sell our house for 4 yrs., can no longer afford the house on senior citizen income. (?) negative comments from people who looked at the house is that they won't consider buying due to the lake. We can't do anything to change the lake, we can remodel, paint & reduce the price of the house, we are stuck with the lake.
148	
149	The lake has always been a weed lake. If someone would start a good program to save this lake the Montello area would be a booming area, not a slum!!! area.
150	
151	I have been through one chemical weed killing of Buffalo Lake and it was a disaster!! No weeds, no fish for several years!! If weeds are controlled everything is fine, speaking as a fisherman. Would hate to see more jet skis!!
152	
153	It should be algae free in summer, it smells so bad.
154	I feel the overall quality of the lake environment has improved over the last few years (with the drawdown), but still has a long way to go. I'm encouraged by this survey & hope that the results of this survey generate more improvement in the Buffalo Lake environment - Thanks!
155	
156	
157	
158	We need some deep water spots. So I support dredging and maybe island formation as a result. We also need to limit the number of fishing tournaments. A lot of dead stressed fish after these events.
159	
160	

Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
161				
162				
163				
164				
165				
166				
167				
168				
169				green algae, bacteria, smells like septic, ake level is too low
170				
171		Bullheads		
172		catfish		
173				
174				
175	Visit all year, months at a time			
176				
177				
178				
179				
180				
181	2-3 days a week			
182				
183				
184				
185				
186				
187				
188				
189				
190				non-native cattails
191				
192				
193				unsure
194		catfish		hydrilla
195				
196				
197				
198				
199			Owning water front property	

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
161			
162			
163			
164			
165			
166			
167			
168			
169	fertilizer, muck run off, lake level too low	water level	Where is the help from the Army Corp of Engineers and government grants?
170			
171			
172			
173	cattails		
174			\$2000 as long as results achieved.
175			
176			
177			
178			Paid dues when the lake was drawn down and wasn't able to use lake. This year my neighbors and I did not even have a channel causing motor overheating and had a torn transducer cable actually ripped in half on my pontoon boat resulting in a useless depth finder.
179			
180			
181			
182			
183			
184			Yes depending on cost & method - not certain of percentage. It seems we pay enough now.
185	Weed growth (bull rushes) since lake refilled Spring 2014		
186		To many weeds, growth - damaging to boat props, difficulty maneuvering through weeds tht were not present before DNR became involved. Property values decreased.	
187			
188	Weeds & muck	Weeds Muck	OK with increase but only as long as stuff gets done!
189			
190		Low water level	Integrated control OK if it does not included herbicidal treatment
191			
192			
193			
194			
195			
196			I would like to see something that is more effective than cutting. The (?)cutting has not been good for my property/access in several years.
197			250
198			Depending on use and options. Fish restocking should be a priority. Continued harvesting and weed control is important.
199			

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
161			
162			
163			
164			
165		Bluegill not returned to our area. Huge carp now.	
166		Hopefully all of the above will improve	
167		The fish population was negatively affected though in a healthy environment it should return.	
168		The lake seems to be lower than before the drawdown. Fishing is poor, the lake is low etc.	
169		Water level too low, current not strong enough- no fish in areas where bass use to be. This was a great bass lake, we had bass tournaments, gone. Water quality is so poor my dog can not even go in the water. The weeds along the shoreline have wrecked the dock areas, so sad because I love it here.	
170		very poor plan	
171		Lost good fishing. Seems like the weeds just took over. Fish I think went down river.	
172		It seems the bass & northern of keepable size are gone, but they seem to be coming back. I anticipate better fishing in years to come.	
173	How to remove cattails	The cattails have more than tripled & can't stop them.	
174		Before: the grasses growing were by far less After: 20x worse	
175		No fish. Were all or most killed and eaten. More carp in lake.	
176		No flood so far/ like before. More clean animals(?)	
177	The drawdown killed the fish		
178	I have noticed a definite decline in panfish population, they used to be around my pier all the time, not so anymore. Remember last drawdown in 1970 or so when DNR re-stocked the lake, fishing was great for years after, don't know why no DNR re-stocking this time? More weeds and water level seems lower.		
179			
180		Killed off large amounts of bass & Bluegills. Plant growth not decreased with drawdown. Less fish, shallower water, more plants.	
181		Seems like there are fewer perch in the lake	
182			
183			
184	We know about all of the above	We expecting fishing to change. We are catching small northern, hoping to start catching bass again. We saw the pelicans eating fish at the drawdown time. Thank you for restocking.	
185		South (or west) of the causeway especially south of RR bridge the emergent weeds & bull rushes are out of control. I cannot fish or boat west of the main channel from Endeavor to the RR bridge. The DNR told us that the drawdown would compact the lake floor making the lake deeper. I don't think it did. Also cold winter would freeze the weed seeds and make the lake clear fo weeds & a better lake, it didn't.	
186		Should have left well enough alone. Now have a swamp instead of a lake.	
187		Panfish & bass disappeared. Catching more pike - small	Only there on weekends
188		Don't think it did anything beneficial really. Still a lot of weeds & muck & lily pads. Fishing isn't great.	
189			
190		Fishing quality has worsened but may come around next year	
191		Lake filled in with cattails	
192			
193			
194			
195	Septic discharge into lake	Where are the fish?	
196		Weeds are thicker now than ever, not much effect on carp either.	Clerical/office type
197		Fishing quality: poor at first, is getting better. Plant growth: areas with cattails growing in the channel are overgrown. Overall excessive aquatic plants	
198		Fish population depleted due to drawdown, harsh winter and pelicans. Fishing remains top priority along with general recreational use. Homeowners need to be informed on fishing population and support on restocking measures.	
199		The fishing after the drawdown is terrible.	

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
161	
162	
163	
164	
165	
166	
167	I feel a drawdown of lake levels every few years in some moderate form is important for the overall health of the ecosystem.
168	Raise the water level.
169	
170	Buffalo Lake has gone downhill. There must be something we can do to improve the lake quality. We need more water in the lake.
171	I'd be willing to volunteer but my age and health prevent it.
172	Although fishing isn't what it was before the drawdown, the lake itself has been lovely. We have enjoyed being out on it more this year than ever.
173	
174	
175	
176	
177	
178	\$200 a year seems to be plenty to support lake protection efforts. Many people live on fixed incomes or have not had a raise in pay in over a decade (me). Hope a lot of thought goes into raising our lake dues. I won't support that.
179	
180	Need more laterals cut to shore. Website isn't updated, should have no alcohol at shop. The purpose of buying a boat to locate weeds is ridiculous.
181	I would like to see less weeds and less silt on the bottom on the lake
182	
183	
184	Keep up the good work. The lake is beautiful, with the overabundance of weeds gone since the drawdown. We love this lake!
185	Thanks and keep up the good work.
186	Have spent 62 years on Buffalo Lake. These past years when the DNR got involved lake has been ruined in my opinion. Which once was water now swamp - more weeds - haven't put out the pier/boat in 2 years. Property values decreased.
187	
188	We really want to see the lake healthy and easier to enjoy. And thank you for your time & doing this.
189	
190	This may be naive but wouldn't maintain higher water levels, as I understand was historically the case, help cut down on rooted weeds?
191	Better weed cutting along shore. Don't spend time cutting where not needed. Cut out farther from shore (shore).
192	
193	It is all about weed growth - keeps reputation as a fun lake low. 1st question on lake is answered weedy & bloom is unsightly - not fun place to boat. Property values show this. No easy fix.
194	
195	No computer
196	The weed cutting used to be done so homeowners could get to the channel. It was a series of alleys that allowed access. This worked well the heavy weeds but has not been done in several years. Many of us can't get our boats off the shore! There seems to be favoritism to some property owners by weed cutters.
197	
198	Lake was an excellent fishery up until drawdown - this and other circumstances greatly depleted fish. Also, concerned about the merger of 2 lake groups - in my opinion this has not been overall beneficial! Don Schoechert and crew did a great job in managing resources, raising money, (?) needs. This has fallen off.
199	

Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
200				
201				
202				
203			Hiking	
204				
205				
206				?
207		dogfish		
208				
209				
210				algae
211				Weeds
212				
213				
214				
215				
216				
217				
218		Catfish		
219				
220				
221				
222				
223				
224				
225				
226				
227				
228				
229				
230				
231				
232				
233		Catfish		
234				
235				
236				
237		Bullheads & catfish		

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
200			
201			
202			
203			
204			
205			
206			
207			
208			0.1
209			
210			
211	Why so muddy, wasn't in the 70's 80's - sand		Do not need expensive boat to check lake
212			
213		Cattails	
214			
215			
216			
217			
218			300
219			
220			
221			
222			
223	Low water depth since the drawdown of the lake.	low water depth	
224			All shorside owners should be billed - only fair in so doing
225			
226			
227			10% but only if something is done, as in all the years I've been going up here (57yrs total) it's just gotten worse. There wasn't a weed problem only a muck problem and I have pictures to prove it.
228			Up to 50% but I want progress reports with reasonable goals to be met. Goals that can be measured by improvement to habitat for wildlife, quality of fishing and the reduction of weed growth.
229			
230			
231			
232			
233			I would like to know what the plans would be before answering this question
234			Demand a Lic. Plate fee for boat trailers.
235			Better fiscal responsibility needed
236			
237			Why should we pay more for nothing. This was the first year that the weed cutting was terrible. Do you really need 5 guys to pick up the bouy marker. That is (?)

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
200		Water level lower never came back. Cattails 4 times increase along shore, cattails also now in middle of lake - never there before. We are out of the train trestle	
201			
202			
203			Contribute funds
204			
205			
206		Catching no fish at south end of lake.	
207		Fishing has been very poor. The fundraising to restock has been great but it takes time to recover. The weeds were greatly reduced for one season and then they were back in full force by the second season.	
208		Water levels are so low we cannot use our boat. There are so many weeds it's ridiculous. Bad in Montello, worse in Packwaukee	
209		The water level is lower. Fishing is very poor. Weeds are a lot worse. Cattails have taken over shoreline	
210			
211		The lake should have been dredged while we had it drained by creating island in the middle because its wide enough. (too shallow). Buffalo Lake > Muck ! Lake	
212			Mechanical weed control/removal
213	Get rid of cattails	Cattails	
214			
215			
216			
217			Moving
218			
219			
220		My impression is that the fishing has been worse since the drawdown and the water quality around our dock is worse - smell, algae, foam etc..	
221			
222		Drawdown helped but Bulrushes grew next to shoreline. First year destroyed any fishing - second year (this year) fishing improved by size but not quantity.	
223		The water depth of Buffalo is about 4 to 5 inches below what it was before the drawdown. This is due to the spillway height after rebuilding it. Others have mentioned this on a fishing chat board. Our shoreline used to have bluegills spawning, but now it is too shallow.	
224			
225		The drawdown affected the fish population of the lake. Hopefully time and stocking will correct this	
226			
227		Fishing is horrible/too many weeds	
228		Fishing was expected to be poor for a while no matter what was said about fish returning to the lake from the fish ladder. Time & volunteer restocking efforts will improve fishing in a few years. Aquatic plant growth must be put in check. We need weeds to filter sediments and provide cover. There is just too much of it right now	
229			
230			
231		Aquatic plant growth - the cutting machines have done a worse job at our end of the lake - towards camp	
232		Fishing is terrible but assume it will get better.	
233		Panfish have not come back (b-gill, perch etc) even with the stocking. Also seems to have lost frogs and turtles(some are around but not in abundance). Also, the bass fishing we used to be known for has not rebounded yet. Great fishing lake for northern though.	
234		Lake Montello? Drawdown didn't work. Tried it 2 years later, didn't work. You can't pull the weeds out manually, the muck bottom gets you stuck in the lake! DNR introduced the millfoil, nice move! You want nice lake? Go to Minnesota!	
235			
236		There seems to be a lot more cattails that invaded the lake. Parts of the lake that use to be open are now covered with growth.	
237		Weed cutting was the worse I have ever seen. The person or persons in charge should be fired. You need somebody who knows the lake and doesn't waste money and time to line their pockets.	

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
200	Water level has not come back - dam plus fish ladder? Cattails came out about 10ft from shore before now they're out about 40ft. Can't see across the lake anymore because of cattails in center of lake.
201	
202	Buffalo Lake is a impound lake. They only last so long and then silt up. Without dredging the lake won't get better.
203	
204	
205	
206	
207	It would benefit from higher water levels. By controlling the weeds - the muck would be less. Cattails are also out of control. Residents should be able to protect shoreline. The natural sandy soil of our property erodes into the lake very easily. Duck weed is also nasty and the north shoreline gets it bad. Cattails and grasses block the flow. They also harbor muskrats.
208	The condition of the lake has deteriorated severely in the last 10 years.
209	
210	
211	
212	
213	
214	
215	
216	
217	
218	GET RID OF WEEDS!
219	
220	
221	
222	
223	More about lake depth. I have several measurements, the best being under the causeway bridge during the driest time of year. When the lake is at its lowest point in summer - there used to be no water going over the spillway - now with the new spillway - water never stops flowing over it. I did discuss this with the head DNR person in charge of the project. His comment: "The spillway is exactly at the same height as the old one." Then he proceeded to send me a ton of info about WI rivers but nothing about Buffalo Lake. Also, saying so does not make it so. The spillway is not at the same height as before. I think the biggest problem facing Buffalo Lake is the biomass buildup from dead aquatic plants. Many areas in the lake are already growing non-aquatic plants. The lake is starting to fill in from this biomass. The shallower water depth just speeds this up. Thanks for the survey and the opportunity to make some comments. I appreciate your efforts.
224	
225	Buffalo is in better shape since it was drawn down. We need to start a new program to keep it that way. I think we have to start a weed control spraying to keep it that way.
226	
227	my biggest complaint is way to many weeds and not being able to improve the shoreline on lakefront propertys without so many restrictions. Not being able to dredge at our own expense. Our property was dredged when I was a kid and can't re-dredge.
228	For the past 21 years we have enjoyed Buffalo Lake and the surrounding communities. We look forward to the next 21 but we realize our lake must be looked after & cared for. It's not just ROI but ROE (return on enjoyment)
229	
230	Too strict zoning enforcement is causing property owners not to make needed improvements, causing some parts of the shoreline to look delapidated.
231	Work needs to be done to control the weeds in lake
232	
233	
234	Wisc. DNR ruined it. Let DNR pay to fix it. Everyones property values have suffered, thanks.
235	
236	
237	I thought the lake was better before the drawdown. Now we have more weeds and lily pads then we had before. Now we have more weeds and less cutting. The whole lake should be treated equal not one end or the other, or weed cutters friends. List the operators and their wages and how many hours a week that they work and their job definition.

Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
238				
239				
240				
241				
242				
243				
244				
245				
246				
247				
248				Weeds
249				
250				
251				
252				
253				
254				
255				
256				
257				
258				
259				
260				
261				
262				
263				
264				
265			Business	
266				
267				
268				
269		Catfish		Dogfish/Cattails
270				
271				
272				
273				
274				
275				

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
238			Payment of non lake property lake fee seems unreasonable. (?) empty lots.
239			
240			Many people use Buffalo Lake & do not pay dues - have a sales tax to help support the lakes
241			\$20 annually
242			
243			
244			
245			
246			
247	Dam repair		Pay a percentage of the purchase price of the property.
248			
249			
250			Would support dredging
251			
252			
253			
254			
255			
256			
257			
258			0.1
259			
260			
261			I already pay fees and live 3 blocks off lake and pay yet people live a lot closer and do not pay. Can anyone explain who pays and who don't? I think everyone should pay or only the ones on the lake pay
262	Low water level	Low water level	
263			15% for 3 years
264		carp	
265			
266			
267			Better management of dues already collected. This has been an ongoing problem which has continuously gotten worse with little to no efforts shown for monies already paid.
268			
269	Duckweed/Cattails	Duckweed/Cattails	
270	Too weedy!		5% Let owners do some clean up on their own to keep costs low.
271			
272			
273			
274			I would support an increase of 50% or less if proper methods worked, help water quality and fish population and health.
275			If it works I would support an increase

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
238			
239		The fishing is considerably worse than it ever has been in the past.	
240		Should have completely drained the lake and kill all then start over. Not drained enough to kill weeds.	
241			
242		It was a great lake to fish on. Drawdown depleted the fish a lot. No interest in wasting time to try to fish the lake I live on. Fishing from pier brings only small northerns & bass. Most of Quality fish killed by drawdown.	
243			
244			
245		Loss of fish during drawdown.	
246		Need a meeting.	
247	Ways the economy can be stimulated in and around Buffalo Lake, with economic growth come money to repair & maintain natural resources like Buffal Lake.	It seems the drawdown spurred the lake to "heal itself" by turning itself into a marsh. We have tall grass that are not cattails, that is taking over our frontage and also the neighbors on both sides. We only have some of this but I have seen frontage in other areas that were normal before the drawdown and now their frontage is gone with 100's of yards of grass.	
248		Lost too many fish. Fund raising for lake. More algae then before. Not doing good enough of cutting algae. Dry docked for too long. Couldn't get out to channel. Higher taxes for out of city users.	
249			
250		Weeds are as bad/worse than before drawdown only different kind.	
251		Weeds are worse than ever. Fishing is al but dead.	
252			
253		Barely any panfish now. Fishing was great before now its hard to find fish	Can't at this time
254		Fishing is at an 0 Alos our water level is way down which is very disappointing.	
255			
256			
257			
258		Not enough fish left in the lake. All the fisherman have been driven out of the lake cause there is nothing to catch.	
259			
260			
261		It has affected the quantity of fish.	
262			
263			
264		Weed growth increased dramatically. Water level became even more shallow than it was. More carp in the lake. Smaller space for leisure pontoon riding. Weeds were so bad we hated bringing visitors to the lake.	
265		We need DNR support for fish stocking	
266		Fish kill off	
267		Can no longer use pier due to excessive cattail invasion which has not responded to anything and water is too low for weed cutter to fix. Center of lake is so overgrown can't get the boat thru.	If some type of effort was visible in recent past history you might get a few volunteers but currently does not look like anything is getting done.
268		Drawdown wasn't necessary to complete the repairs and the majority of the fish went downstream with the water or died. The aquatic plant growth south of the causeway was as bad or worse than before the drawdown.	
269		Keeper size large mouth bass all disappeared All fish species lessened and one's caught much smaller. Weeds on Packwaukee end of the lake seem to have gotten more condensed especially the cattails making shoreline landing or use impossible.	
270	How to clean our own shoreine to improve use but not hurt lake quality.	Weeds are worse- could not get our boats out to channel this year, terrible.	
271			
272			
273		Lost a lot of fish in the drawdown. Must wait a few years to get them back.	
274		Not the same fishery (?) more weeds etc.	
275			

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
238	
239	
240	All "voting" members should be a member of BLPRD.
241	Try to get higher water level during the summer months
242	Water depth has changed since drawdown. New dam is at least 8 in lower which makes it harder to get around our end of the lake.
243	
244	We had a very difficult time this year getting our boat out. There was no cut to get out. There should be more cuts to get out and cleared in front of houses.
245	
246	
247	I am disappointed that no pier for mooring boats has been added to the remodeled/restored dam, park, dredgebank. Buffalo is 13 miles long w/100's of cottages that would enjoy a ride on their boat to downtown Montello, tie up for a few hours, shop, eat, drink and shop some more. Poor Montello has been slighted of the economic opportunity. Please push to add this simple feature! By doing so the economy will benefit, cottage prices will go up and there will be much more interest for improving Buffalo Lake.
248	
249	
250	
251	I feel the lake is at its lowest level of quality after the drawdown.
252	
253	
254	We would like to see our shoreline water level return to what it was before the drawdown. We also hope the fishing will again return to an enjoyable level.
255	
256	
257	
258	
259	
260	Since this was our first year owning a place we knew it was a weedy lake but didn't know the severity. This was very hard in the maneuvering our pontoon on the lake. It is such a beautiful lake it is a shame that there are so many weeds. I feel this hurts the selling of the property on the lake also. It is hard to use it for recreational use. I would support a management method/technique of the lake. Also I would like to see updates on this survey and next steps.
261	
262	
263	
264	We love Buffalo Lake and the surrounding towns. The lake has become harder and harder to fish because of excessive weed growth. This was a great fishing lake but the carp are gaining more space every year - less for game fish.
265	Wow - awesome survey
266	Thank you for conducting this survey. It is important that all stakeholders be aware of issues and how others feel. We witnessed one fish stocking this fall that should help improve the fish species and quantity.
267	Been using this lake for more than 30 years and used to be able to go swimming but the weeds have been taking over more and more of the lake each year with no abatement, at this rate, in 10 years Pasickwaukee portion of Buffalo Lake will be nothing more than a marsh as waterways will be grown shut. Fishing has become miserable. 3 years ago there were single quantities of ducks and loons now there's a handful of loons and haven't seen any ducks this summer. Would really like to see some type of action to return water levels to pre-drawdown levels, shallow water allows sunlight to reach weeds which causes them to grow. Furthermore shallow water prevents weed cutters from doing their jobs effectively across the entire lake! Dredging may be the best option to returning this to a viable, useable lake. Current condition erodes not only lake quality but also people's investments & too many properties are currently for sale (and have been for a long time).
268	The water level since the drawdown is lower than before. This needs to be properly restored. The weed harvesting south of the causeway was the worst I have seen in 8 years.
269	When we bought in 1995 the fishing was good the boating enjoyable and the weeds were not much of a problem. Since then things have gone downhill. Because of the weed growth boating is difficult (if not the mud it is the weeds). Cannot get to the pier until weeds are cut and June Can no longer get to most of the fishing spots I enjoyed in the past because of the weeds making it impassable. I enjoyed it in the past but cattails are taking over many shoreline properties on the northside, Pasickwaukee area especially. We see some property owners can no longer get their piers out. It appears many property owners on the lake are selling because of the weed problem (appearance and available usage) especially on the west end (the worst end). At the pace it's going we will soon be renaming Buffalo Lake - Buffalo Marsh.
270	
271	
272	
273	
274	I really like the lake through the years. I hope the fish population returns. The weeds don't bother me much unless they are choking out fish and don't think so.
275	

Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
276				Sheepshead
277				
278				
279				
280				
281				
282				
283				
284				
285				
286				
287				
288				
289				
290				
291				
292				
293		Catfish		
294				
295				
296				
297				
298		Catfish		
299				
300				Low water levels
301				
302				
303				
304				
305				
306				
307				
308				
309				
310				
311				
312				
312				
313				
314				
315				

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
276	Water levels too low	water levels too low	
277			
278			
279			
280			
281			
282			
283			
284			
285			
286			
287			
288			
289			
290			
291			
292	Treated lawn		
293			
294			
295			
296			
297			
298			
299			Cannot answer without knowing which techniques would be implemented.
300	Low water levels		100
301			
302			
303			
304	Too many boats operating at high speeds		
305			
306			
307	Owners using lawn fertilizers and chemicals		No more weed harvesting! We're being ripped off! They do minimum. Bad management practices!
308			An amount equal to current rate of inflation same as Social Security is given as raises to senior citizens.
309			
310			
311	Farms		
312			
312			
313			
314			
315			I would say yes but I believe it would just be put into more weedcutting machines and that I don't believe is a solution. Since they put in the new dam the lake level is lower so the only solution I see is dredging.

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
276		I believe the new dam and fish ladder are very beneficial. However, I still think the dam allows too much water to outflow, which keeps the overall water level of Buffalo Lake too low!!	
277			
278			
279			
280			
281			
282			
283			
284			
285		Get someone who knows how to use weed cutter to "control weeds".	
286			
287			
288	Should have a club that makes fish cribs		
289			
290			
291		Where are the fish?	
292		Drawdown is very short time help we need longterm plans	
293		Lack of panfish, bass, etc. need more stocking of panfish, walleye & bass	
294		No bluegills caught in the last 2 years, no bass, very few northern pike. No bluegills spawning in the shallows as was normal in the past. Fishing is poor. Hoping 2016 will improve.	
295		As a primary reason we have our lakehouse is fishing, the fishing has worsened since the drawdown. Where we once had lily pad groupings by our house it is primarily long grass which tangle our boats and the fish do not seem to use as they did the lily pads.	
296		Prior to 2014 we regularly caught enough fish to (?) from our pier. Great for grandkids. In 2015 we caught a total of 14 fish. The amount of lily pads has multiplied significantly, making boating path more difficult to maneuver	
297			
298		When we started fishing blue gills were present. Panfish of all aren't caught. Drawdown effected the fishing. I don't think they stock the lake and not enough to improve fishing. We even donate to the stocking. I believe the DNR should stock more crappies & blue gills as having people out of town for fishing on Buffalo Lake is sad as there really isn't many panfish.	
299			
300			
301		The drawdown had a large impact upon fishing success. I understand the drawdown was necessary but this should not be a future plan. I would not support future drawdowns.	
302			
303			
304	Macrophyte identification by Chris Hammerla		Plankton surveys using my own net.
305			
306			
307	weed harvesting should be done by an experienced person	DNR didn't stock the lake. Mazurek's Buffalo Lake Lodge & contributors did. DNR sucks!	
308			
309			
310		West end of the lake is terribly over grown; weeds, milfoil, algae etc.	
311		I think the fishing quality is starting to improve now.	
312		Used to always catch panfish from pier. Seldom able to now as they aren't around. Some different type of weed now growing near shore. Water level down.	
312			
313		Would like to swim but can't too much algae. Is Buffalo Lake really a lake??	
314			
315		The lake level is lower it is harder to navigate and there was a loss of habitat.	

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
276	I love Buffalo Lake and have loved and fished on it my whole life. The aquatic growth is what it is and happens on so many lakes in the area. do think however that the water level overall is allowed to be too low by regulating dam flow. I tused to be higher and has gotten worse the last 15-20 yrs.. TOO LOW!!!
277	
278	We have to remember this is a flowage. It's a great place for natural wildlife habitat.
279	I believe all septic systems on Buffalo Lake should be tested on a 3-5 year cycle.
280	
281	
282	
283	
284	
285	
286	
287	
288	The BLPRD should dredge an area of the lake every year. Even a little bit a year would be beneficial. Dredge the same area every 5 years and take the deposits and make some small islands. The lake people would pay to make the lake have more structure. We all know dredging is expensive but (?) do the same area for a couple of years you will have a least one area where it is deeper. Give people hope that you guys trying to improve the lake depth, no one is saying to dredge the whole lake just do 1 area every 5 years you have a (?) deep spots. Give people hope
289	
290	
291	
292	Run Off, Run Off Run Off
293	Anything that can be done about fertilizer runoff from farms would help. Less bass tournaments.
294	As of now, I own the cottage. I am not able to go up there. I am 91 & homebound. So my son will answer the questions for me.
295	
296	Wedsite info should be more regularly updated. Getting contact info has been difficult. Any level of improvement, weed/water/appearance, would raise all vaalues for residents.
297	
298	Fishing and stocking is my #1 concern. 2nd concern is the cutting of weeds isn't very often. Seems the cutter is docked at the boat launch when we come there. I think they could do a much better job for people living on the lake.
299	
300	Any thoughts of possible public piers at the east end to access town.
301	I believe shoreline limitation in terms of decks etc adversely effect the lake properties. And does not encourage people to take care fo their shoreline & prerty aesthetics. Why not let people improve & enjoy their property?
302	
303	
304	We really like living here on Buffalo Lake, mostly for the wildlife and (?) close knit communities surrounding the lake. Opportunities to volunteer are numerous. We do not like it when people are rude to each other at some meetings.
305	
306	Maybe I'm in the minority but I think we are moving in the right direction- just need one more major kick in the butt and I can help!!
307	Board of directors getting paid? Ha! You people are swindling our money. Management is not doing a good job. Harvestors play cards at the launch while waiting for dump truck. Very poor, poor management. Will film them with our camcorder. Going to call for an independent investigation and audit.
308	
309	Water level seems to be lower than before the drawdown?
310	
311	
312	
312	
313	Swimming - assessments should go up not down, lets take pride. Have activities in Buffalo Lake, need to advertise lake activities.
314	
315	

Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
316				
317				
318				
319				
320				
321				
322				
323				

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
316			Nothing more than 5% annually.
317			
318			
319			
320			
321			
322	Buffalo waste that runs into the lake		
323			

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
316		I live in Buffalo Lake Estates on Lake Shore Drive. There is no lake behind my house. There is a river and a wetland. Our lake area has disappeared since the drawdown.	
317		Panfishing is terrible all the birds ate the panfish.	
318			
319			
320			
321			
322		Most of the fish went down the river. It needs to be restocked!	
323			

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
316	
317	
318	Since draining the lake, seems there are more cattails & lily pads. Have to row out to get open water ways.
319	
320	We had hopes that the Dam repair would also include raising the depth of the water - did not happen. The new dam fishing area & dredge bank path and fish ladder are very nice improvements
321	Thank you for doing this survey! Let's get the lake back where it needs to be.
322	The waste from the buffalo farm around Packwaukee is running into the lake.
323	We would like swimming but not nice enough

Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
324				
325				Probably all of the above
326			Quiet Area	
326				
327				
328				
329				
330				
331				
332				
333				
334				
335				
336				
337				
338				
339				
340				
341				
342		Catfish		
343				
344				
345				
346				
347				
348				
349				
350				

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
324			
325		Farming	
326			
327			I do not support a dues increase unless it is for property owners who live on the lake. It is not equal taxation when a vacant lot is deemed unbuildable by zoning pays \$200 a yr. the same amount a person living on the lake does.
328			
329			
330			
331			
332			
333	People disposing of their garbage into the lake (tires, bikes, car batteries.		
334			\$100 per year one time
335			
336			
337			
338			Consumer price index annual adjustment
339			0.1
340			
341			
342	Terrible weed cutting philosphy		Yes, but get someone or group who know they are doing
343			
344			
345			
346			
347			
348			
349			
350	Filtration from muck farms across Hwy 39		

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
324		Cattail growth has worsened as well as sediments (muck) allowing weeds to grow. Need to deepen water especially from (?) down	
325		Should be very obvious	
326			
327		The growth of wild rice on the south end of Buffalo Lake has taken over the waterway narrowing the channel especially from the train trestle to Call of the Wild.	
328		It should have been dredged while the lake water was down!	
329			
330		Loss of fish	
331		Quantity of fish seems less. May also be related to the hot summer prior to the drawdown.	
332		The lake has turned into a swamp. It is worst I have seen it in my 30 plus years of coming to the lake. There is no water in the lake. It might as well be a river on my end of lake. You can't travel anywhere with a boat that I once use, too. Fishing is terrible.	
333		Towards Montello the algae bloom improved, west of causeway is terrible.	If I lived there I would definitely help out.
334		A. Fish population reduced tremendously. B. Now more weeds & a new spaghetti type that I never saw before the drawdown. C. More since drawdown. D. Poor because of overabundance of weeds & the water level is too low. I think before there were boards so the water level could be controlled. The water level used to be at least a foot higher. E. The weed growth is terrible, so thick it's like land or islands.	
335			
336			
337		Some areas better for lake activities and appearance some areas worse	
338			
339		At our location the lake has narrowed to half the river due to the excessive growth of the plants	
340			
341		If the lake could have been drawdown further everyone could have seen the reduced Eurasian milfoil growth & improved aesthetics. The fish will come back.	
342		#1 The drawdown was totally unnecessary. Having worked for Lunda, who specializes in water work, the entire project could have been done with zero drawdown. #2 The weeds came back more than ever.	Limit bass tournaments
343			
344		This past summer my kids and I couldn't catch a fish to save our lives. I think all the fish went downstream with the water.	
345		Fishing quality worse but I believe it is coming back and in a couple years will be very good again.	
346			
347			
348		No fish for last 2 years	
349		The weed growth in our area is awful. That is south of the causeway Packwaukee.	
350		Large amount of new growth of weeds on west end of Buffalo Lake. Lots of silt running in water of channel	

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
324	Condition of the lake has worsened over. To much time and money is going into maintaining Lake Puckaway. Need deeper cleaner water on Buffalo. Let's put effort into recreation - boating, water ski & jet ski.
325	
326	
326	
327	
328	Cut back on fish tournaments. It has ruined the fishing & the big bass boats tear up the weeds & cause a lot of bigger waves
329	Purchased home in Oct 2015. I grew up visiting Crystal Lake in Waushara County. Grandparents then Parents owned cottage later a year round home. Lake activities included boating, sailboating, skiing, tubing and fishing. Much different than Buffalo Lake. Not necessarily good or bad.
330	
331	
332	I feel the weed cutting effort should not be done again. It has wasted my money along with all members. It didn't work ever. Drain the lake and dredge the bottom to historic levels and start over. This bandaidd fixing doesn't work.
333	I don't feel like the weed cutters are doing their job removing weeds in Packwaukee. Montello looks great. Not Packwaukee. We are constantly in the lake pulling weeds but within a day it is full of weeds again. Weed cutters don't even come close to shoreline.
334	Due to the unnecessary drawdown of the lake to work on the spillway & dam, which could have been done without drawing down the lake, the weeds are worse than ever and the water level is being kept too low. We can't even start our motor by our pier. Due to the drawdown we lost a tremendous amount of large mouth bass that we saw going through the spillway. Before drawdown we would catch & release 15 to 20 bass a day, now we feel lucky to catch 1 or 2 a day. Not only the bass but panfish have disappeared also. The only positive of the drawdown is no more bass tournaments which there way too many of.
335	
336	
337	Drawdowns have an adverse effect on the local economy. My business was down 20%. Please consider this before using that tool
338	
339	
340	
341	I think the lake invasives & aesthetics should be the #1 priority, even if that means a short period of limited use. It would go a long way to improve the lake property values.
342	Get the weed cutting harvesting correctly operated.
343	
344	
345	It would really be nice to install a few piers by downtown Montello, so boaters could access the shops and restaurants. More consumers in town - better for economy.
346	
347	
348	Cattails taking over the lake. Way too many cattails on shore. Cattails growing in middle of lake and spreading. Weed cutters only cut 3 paths in the lake. This is causing too much traffic past my pier for fishing. Way too many weeds for fishing & boats. Water level at least 1 foot low. Buffalo Lake is also bringing down my house value.
349	No weed harvesting was done until after June in our area. We need open water. I don't come to my cottage to look at weeds!
350	I would like to see all people who have lake propey be allowed to be members of the BLPRD and be able to vote. We have to pay but not allowed to be members.y

Survey Number	1g Comment	9i Comment	13m Comment	18r Comment
351				
352				
353				
354				
355				

Survey Number	19m Comment	20m Comment	24 Comment
351			
352			
353			Don't even cut in front of my pier now
354			
355		Inadequate weed removal	100% increase would be reasonable provided it be used to control weed growth. The primary goal of the BLD should be to maintain open navigable water for as much of the year as possible. We should not allow the lake to return to becoming a "weed farm", bisected by laterals and channels

Survey Number	25k Comment	27 Comment	29j Comment
351			
352			
353		Millions on dam and nothing for restocking	Not until retired
354		The water level is too low, algae is worse. The water seems clear but can't get to many areas because of water depth.	
355	A detailed description of the weed harvesting operational plan		

Survey Number	Other Comments (and Question 32)
351	
352	
353	Lake has always been weedy not a lake for watersports. Don't try to make it into something else.
354	Increase the depth of the lake and get rid of the weeds.
355	After the drawdown was completed in the Spring of 2014 we were pleasantly surprised to find Buffalo Lake back to normal level looking beautiful. And what a pleasure it was to just enjoy the beauty of the lake without the hassle of weeds. Having had access to all areas of the lake areas that are normally not back with weeds to allow access by any kind of watercraft. But after the summer of 2015, we saw the lake starting to change. Although the eastern end of the lake for some reason is still relatively clear, we saw a serious encroachment of weeds on the lake, and we are afraid the entire lake will once again become the "weed farm" that it was prior to the drawdown. We feel that BLPWD needs to start discussing the viability and cost of an aggressive weed harvesting operation in order to maintain open water for a much longer portion of the lake, much more than the current channel and islands that we have had in the past. No matter how much harvesting is accomplished, the lake will always have more than sufficient habitat for fish and wildlife. A second request: Improve the speed and timeliness of information regarding the activity of the BLPWD. The website is a great vehicle for this, but it is not being used properly. And only use email to get the word out for people to check the website, or encourage meeting attendance. The Minnetonka Tribune should also be used as a way to publicize the activities of the BLPWD, as well as announcing upcoming meetings and events.

C

APPENDIX C

Water Quality Data

Water Quality Data

2015-2016 Parameter	Surface		Bottom	
	Count	Mean	Count	Mean
Secchi Depth (feet)	5	4.4	NA	NA
Total P (µg/L)	6	52.1	0	NA
Dissolved P (µg/L)	2	5.1	0	NA
Chl a (µg/L)	5	14.8	0	NA
TKN (µg/L)	3	1016.3	0	NA
NO3+NO2-N (µg/L)	3	1760.0	0	NA
NH3-N (µg/L)	3	48.7	0	NA
Total N (µg/L)	3	2189.7	0	NA
Lab Cond. (µS/cm)	2	366.5	0	NA
Lab pH	2	8.3	0	NA
Alkal (mg/l CaCO3)	2	160.5	0	NA
Total Susp. Solids (mg/l)	3	5.7	0	NA
Calcium (µg/L)	2	37.1	0	NA
Magnesium (mg/L)	2	24.1	0	NA
Hardness (mg/L)	1	184.0	0	NA
Color (SU)	2	50.0	0	NA
Turbidity (NTU)	0	NA	0	NA

Morphological / Geographical Data

Parameter	Value
Acreage	
Volume (acre-feet)	
Perimeter (miles)	
Shoreland Development Factor	
Maximum Depth (feet)	
County	
WBIC	
Lillie Mason Region (1983)	SWTP Ecoregion
Nichols Ecoregion (1999)	NLFL

Watershed Data

WILMS Class	Acreage	kg/yr	lbs/yr
Forest			0.0
Open Water			0.0
Pasture/Grass			0.0
Row Crops			0.0
Urban - Rural Residential			0.0
Wetland			0.0
Watershed to Lake Area			

Trophic State Index (TSI)

Year	TP	Chl-a	Secchi
1973	83.8		49.1
1974			
1980		60.5	
1990			50.0
1991	72.6	62.7	54.6
1993	77.2	46.9	54.7
1994	74.9	47.2	50.7
1997	71.9		
1999	71.6	58.3	
2000	73.7	66.2	
2001	75.0	55.8	
2004	73.5	54.9	59.2
2007			63.9
2009			67.1
2015	72.1	51.5	55.6
All Years (Weighted)	75.1	56.5	55.7
SLDL	54.6	52.6	52.4
SWTP Ecoregion	48.7	47.0	50.0

Year	Secchi (feet)				Chlorophyll-a (µg/L)						Total Phosphorus (µg/L)					
	Growing Season		Summer		Growing Season		Summer		Growing Season		Summer		Growing Season		Summer	
	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean
1973	2	6.0	1	7.0					2	225.0	1.0	250.0				
1974	2	5.0	0						2	75.0	0.0					
1980																
1990	1	6.6	1	6.6												
1991	2	4.8	2	4.8	2	26.5	2	26.5	2	115.0	2.0	115.0				
1993	14	4.6	9	4.7	16	16.3	9	5.3	16	121.6	9.0	158.1				
1994	4	5.9	2	6.3	5	20.7	2	5.4	5	106.2	2.0	135.0				
1997	0		0		0		0		1	110.0	1.0	110.0				
1999	0		0		4	23.6	3	16.9	4	103.8	3.0	107.3				
2000	0		0		4	33.8	3	37.7	4	114.3	3.0	124.0				
2001	0		0		4	18.8	3	13.0	3	124.3	2.0	136.5				
2004	8	3.5	6	3.5	4	21.3	2	11.9	4	100.3	2.0	123.0				
2007	4	2.9	2	2.5	0		0		0		0.0					
2009	1	2.0	1	2.0	0		0		0		0.0					
2015	5	4.4	3	4.5	5	14.8	3	8.4	5	91.1	3.0	111.0				
All Years (Weighted)		4.4		4.4		20.1		14.0		115.0		136.7				
SLDL				5.6				9.4				33.0				
SWTP Ecoregion				6.6				5.3				22.0				

July 2015 N: 779.0
July 2015 P: 124.0

Summer 2015 N:P 6 :1

D

APPENDIX D

Watershed Analysis WiLMS Results

Date: 4/4/2016 Scenario: Buffalo Lake Watershed Current

Lake Id: Buffalo_WS_Current

Watershed Id: 0

Hydrologic and Morphometric Data

Tributary Drainage Area: 191544.0 acre

Total Unit Runoff: 9.7 in.

Annual Runoff Volume: 154831.4 acre-ft

Lake Surface Area <As>: 2227 acre

Lake Volume <V>: 8330 acre-ft

Lake Mean Depth <z>: 3.7 ft

Precipitation - Evaporation: 3 in.

Hydraulic Loading: 199555.8 acre-ft/year

Areal Water Load <qs>: 89.6 ft/year

Lake Flushing Rate <p>: 23.96 1/year

Water Residence Time: 0.04 year

Observed spring overturn total phosphorus (SPO): 83.0 mg/m³

Observed growing season mean phosphorus (GSM): 114.7 mg/m³

% NPS Change: 0%

% PS Change: 0%

NON-POINT SOURCE DATA

Land Use	Acre (ac)	Low	Most Likely	High	Loading %	Low	Most Likely	High	
		Loading (kg/ha-year)				Loading (kg/year)			
Row Crop AG	78852	0.50	1.00	3.00	77.1	15956	31911	95734	
Mixed AG	0.0	0.30	0.80	1.40	0.0	0	0	0	
Pasture/Grass	19816	0.10	0.30	0.50	5.8	802	2406	4010	
HD Urban (1/8 Ac)	263	1.00	1.50	2.00	0.4	106	160	213	
MD Urban (1/4 Ac)	694	0.30	0.50	0.80	0.3	84	140	225	
Rural Res (>1 Ac)	3056	0.05	0.10	0.25	0.3	62	124	309	
Wetlands	35991	0.10	0.10	0.10	3.5	1457	1457	1457	
Forest	52872	0.05	0.09	0.18	4.7	1070	1926	3852	
Lake Surface	2227.0	0.10	0.30	1.00	0.7	90	270	901	

POINT SOURCE DATA

Point Sources	Water Load (m ³ /year)	Low (kg/year)	Most Likely (kg/year)	High (kg/year)	Loading %
Ennis Lake	290000	0.0	8.9	0.0	0.0
Mason Lake	18000000	0.0	1417.9	0.0	3.4
Swan Lake	34600000	0.0	1498.4	0.0	3.6
Williams Lake	1590000	0.0	32.8	0.0	0.1

SEPTIC TANK DATA

Description	Low	Most Likely	High	Loading %
Septic Tank Output (kg/capita-year)	0.3	0.5	0.8	
# capita-years	677			
% Phosphorus Retained by Soil	98	90	80	
Septic Tank Loading (kg/year)	4.06	33.85	108.32	0.1

TOTALS DATA

Description	Low	Most Likely	High	Loading %
Total Loading (lb)	43278.1	91238.6	235469.8	100.0
Total Loading (kg)	19630.8	41385.6	106808.4	100.0
Areal Loading (lb/ac-year)	19.43	40.97	105.73	0.0
Areal Loading (mg/m ² -year)	2178.21	4592.10	11851.34	0.0
Total PS Loading (lb)	0.0	6521.2	0.0	7.1
Total PS Loading (kg)	0.0	2958.0	0.0	7.1
Total NPS Loading (lb)	43070.4	84046.7	233244.0	92.8
Total NPS Loading (kg)	19536.6	38123.3	105798.8	92.8

Phosphorus Prediction and Uncertainty Analysis Module

Date: 4/4/2016 Scenario: Buffalo Lake Watershed Current
 Observed spring overturn total phosphorus (SPO): 83.0 mg/m³
 Observed growing season mean phosphorus (GSM): 114.7 mg/m³
 Back calculation for SPO total phosphorus: 0.0 mg/m³
 Back calculation GSM phosphorus: 0.0 mg/m³
 % Confidence Range: 70%
 Nurnberg Model Input - Est. Gross Int. Loading: 0 kg

Lake Phosphorus Model	Low Total P (mg/m ³)	Most Likely Total P (mg/m ³)	High Total P (mg/m ³)	Predicted -Observed (mg/m ³)	% Dif.
Walker, 1987 Reservoir	52	110	284	-5	-4
Canfield-Bachmann, 1981 Natural Lake	66	129	296	14	12
Canfield-Bachmann, 1981 Artificial Lake	57	103	206	-12	-10
Rechow, 1979 General	49	103	267	-12	-10
Rechow, 1977 Anoxic	70	148	382	33	29
Rechow, 1977 water load<50m/year	52	110	285	-5	-4
Rechow, 1977 water load>50m/year	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Walker, 1977 General	67	141	363	58	70
Vollenweider, 1982 Combined OECD	48	89	194	-10	-10
Dillon-Rigler-Kirchner	44	94	242	11	13
Vollenweider, 1982 Shallow Lake/Res.	41	79	181	-20	-20
Larsen-Mercier, 1976	66	140	360	57	69
Nurnberg, 1984 Oxidic	53	112	290	-3	-3

Lake Phosphorus Model	Confidence		Parameter Fit?	Back Calculation (kg/year)	Model Type
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
Walker, 1987 Reservoir	63	223	z Tw	0	GSM
Canfield-Bachmann, 1981 Natural Lake	40	372	FIT	1	GSM
Canfield-Bachmann, 1981 Artificial Lake	32	297	FIT	1	GSM
Rechow, 1979 General	57	212	FIT	0	GSM
Rechow, 1977 Anoxic	87	299	FIT	0	GSM
Rechow, 1977 water load<50m/year	62	225	P	0	GSM
Rechow, 1977 water load>50m/year	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Walker, 1977 General	69	299	FIT	0	SPO
Vollenweider, 1982 Combined OECD	43	177	FIT	0	ANN
Dillon-Rigler-Kirchner	54	190	P L	0	SPO
Vollenweider, 1982 Shallow Lake/Res.	38	159	FIT	0	ANN
Larsen-Mercier, 1976	84	280	P Pin p	0	SPO
Nurnberg, 1984 Oxidic	58	235	P L	0	ANN

E

APPENDIX E

Aquatic Plant Survey Data

