

**Meeting minutes** – prepared by Dave Lutz  
**Lake Owasso Association (LOA) annual meeting**  
**4/24/2024 Roseville Skating Center**

**Call to order** by Joe Bester at 7:03pm/Introduction

**Board members present:**

-David Lutz, Edward Roberts, Jill Roberts, Juan Quitevis, Scott Schultz, Joe Bester  
Absent: Andy Walz, Steve Youngquist, Dan Kelsey

**Motion to approve 2023 annual meeting minutes**

-moved by Edward Roberts; approved unanimously

**Ice-Out dates**

Recognition to individuals who recorded 74 years of data (since 1950)  
Earliest ice-out: March 3, 2024; latest April 30, 2018. [Click for ice-out data](#)

**Loons**

-audio loon calls (Wail, Yodel, Tremolo) presented [Click for audio](#)  
- other wildlife: Sandhill Crane observations at wetlands abutting south bay

**Water level**

-April 23, 2024 water level: 2 inches higher over same time last year

**Treasurers report** (Edward Roberts)

-Balance on 1/1/22 = \$15,439  
-Balance on 1/1/23 = \$2,143  
-Balance on 1/1/24 = \$20,495  
-230 homes total / 190 contributing (same as previous year) to fluridone funding

**Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)**

-key player with invasive species, created in 2012  
- [Click for video clip](#)  
-develop science-based solutions for aquatic invasives  
-Nick Phelps – director, 40 researchers

**Invasives impacting Lake Owasso**

-Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM)  
-curly leaf pondweed (CLP)  
-common carp  
-zebra mussels  
-purple loosestrife

**Historical notes related to EWM**

-EWM discovered in 2000  
-Grandfather clause terminated in 2014 where increased treatment allowance was allowed  
--EWM very problematic last 3 years  
    more on the surface / more matted on the surface / further away from shore/  
    infestations into new areas, even displacing other invasives – namely CLP

### **Lead up to March 2024 treatment**

- Prior to Dec 2023 LOA board meeting, notion was toward a fluridone treatment for fall of 2024 or spring of 2025.
- Realization how momentum was building given numerous observations/complaints from residents to more effectively deal with EWM. Board unanimously voted to move up date for a spring 2024 fluridone treatment contingent on 1) ability to secure funding, and 2) DNR permit approval for a whole lake fluridone treatment.
- To fund fluridone, board voted (unanimously) for hybrid fee assessment method with a one-time \$250 special assessment. A pure per foot and a pure fixed fee, was deemed less equitable when factoring in varying lot widths.
- Treatment signup/funding request sent to residents February 6<sup>th</sup>
- By third week of February receipts appeared sufficient to fund fluridone in spring of 2024
- March 7 - Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM) permit submitted to DNR
- March 11 - Received DNR approval for a whole lake fluridone treatment for spring of 2024

### **Goals of fluridone treatment**

- Provide Lake Owasso a reset to a more native state
- Promote biodiversity
- Enable navigation
- Less restrictive swimming areas
- Improve fishing ability
- Improve underlying lake health

### **March 21, 2024 Whole lake fluridone treatment applied: [click for additional details](#)**

- Dosage: 10.1 gallons of fluoridone to achieve 4ppb concentration. Subsurface injection via 6 nozzle jets. More transects for application than similar sized lake due to the unique shape of Lake Owasso to accelerate dispersion for uniformity throughout lake.
- 8 subsequent sampling events to verify 4 ppb and bump treatment timing, to sustain 4 ppb for 100 days
- Fluridone prevents EWM from photosynthesizing

### **Aquatic plant survey** - (to verify natives are not diminished. “Do no Harm”

- Point intercept (PI) survey – scheduled for Lake Owasso for late May to mid-June
- formally assess plant population and diversity
- grid like sampling system for areas 15’ and shallower

Some plants expected to fill void with lessened EWM

- Large leaf pondweed, Slender naiad, Curly Leaf Pondweed, Coontail

### **Carp update**

- no netting in 2023; instead relied on barriers to disrupt spawning.
- for 2024 RWMWD will redeploy carp nets.
- Major shout out to property owners at outlet to Wabasso to allow RWMWD and their contractor Carp Solutions private property access for netting and related equipment.

### **Zebra Mussels** – several found on Lake Owasso in 2021, nothing reported since.

- Native mussels are good to promote water clarity. Zebra mussels problematic.
  - Lake Owasso selected for MAISRC Safari program to collect potential veliger samples.
  - Mollusk family in general (including mussels) are filtration “power houses”
- Time lapsed video of water filtration by mussels: [Click for video clip](#)

**501c3 status**

- IRS did not accept abbreviated 1023EZ form to achieve 501c3 status. Elected not to pursue more rigorous/expensive 1023 method to achieve 501c3 status at this time.
- LOA will thus remain a 501c4 – still an exempt nonprofit, but where contributions are not tax deductible.

**DNR Fish stocking**

- Eight sampling nets set for two weeks in April to collect data for eventual muskie stocking
- Since Nov. 2013 fish kill, pike recovered quickly, yet muskie populations have lagged
- DNR moving toward 15”-20” muskie stockings per greater survivability. Stockings less than 15” fall prey to Northern Pike. Eight nets removed on 4/26/2024.

**Courage Center**

- possibility of Courage Center revival for 2024
- two trial sessions held in 2023 following suspension of program in 2022

**New Business**

**Motion to Adjourn** 8:17