



FROM: Sauk River Chain of Lakes, Invasive Weed Control Committee – January 15, 2015

SUBJECT: Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) issues and the pilot program to chemically treat CLP

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes (SRCL), located in Stearns County, near Richmond, MN is a series of 15 lakes encompassing 2,849 acres of water. In the spring of 2014, Pete Peterson contacted Clarke Aquatic Services seeking information on the chemical treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). Rob Olson and Matt Swanson of Clarke met with Pete and toured several lakes across the chain and observed and documented CLP affected areas. The areas identified included approximately 25 acres on 6 of our 15 lakes. This information was then shared with the Stearns County Watershed district and the Minnesota DNR.

Most of the weeds that you see in early in the season are CLP, which is a non-native invasive plant. It is a submerged plant that will grow from the shoreline to a depth of approximately 10 feet. CLP starts its new growth in the fall of the year when trunions(seeds) from the old plants that have died and fallen to the bottom begin to sprout. They begin to grow slowly throughout the winter months depending on the amount of sunlight that penetrates the ice. Once the ice is gone, CLP plants continue to grow and reach the water surface before native plants break their dormancy. CLP has the highest cold water metabolic activity of any aquatic plant species. Because of this, CLP can become a nuisance early in the season. After reaching the water surface, this long stemmed plant will continue to grow and float on the surface forming a dense canopy. This restricts the growth of other native plants as well as limiting boat travel, fishing, and other water activities. The good news is that CLP will eventually die and fall to the bottom of the lake sometime in July. The bad news is that when it dies, it adds more phosphorous that acts as a fertilizer in the lake contributing to the growth of algae and also supports future growth of CLP.

THE PILOT PROGRAM PLAN:

Plans are still being finalized, but these are the details that we have so far:

- The areas treated will be determined by the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association, the property owners, and the Minnesota DNR;
- We have selected Clarke Aquatic Services to manage our CLP treatment program;
- Once ice is out, Clarke will perform a pre-treatment survey which will include the mapping of suspected CLP beds using their contour Innovations Bio Base mapping system as well as visual inspection;