

RE: Amending the Tomahawk Lake Association 2016 Comprehensive Lake Management Plan

Tomahawk Lake Association (TLA) is seeking public comment on an amendment to the TLA 2016 Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP).

While comments are being requested on the CLMP amendment, Onterra, (<https://onterra-eco.com>) will be working with TLA to update the CLMP for aquatic plant management (APM) activities over the next 5-year period (2023-2028). We expect a full draft of the APM plan to be completed in spring of 2022. The completed draft APM plan will include a full suite of options, for management of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Tomahawk Lake. The options investigated will include chemicals for managing Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). However, given that a trial spot treatment of EWM with ProcellaCor and Aquastrike in 2019 were unsuccessful and it is unclear if they would be successful in the future, TLA is seeking Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) support for non-chemical management of EWM while we work to better understand the options available to TLA for management EWM in the future. TLA will present the draft APM plan to the community for comment next spring/summer.

To be eligible for WDNR grants in 2022 (Pre-Application due September 2, 2021) to control EWM using mechanical approaches while the APM plan is being updated, the TLA Board of Directors needed to approve an amendment to the 2016 CLMP plan that explicitly identifies mechanical harvesting as a potential management approach. The 2016 CLMP discusses harvesting as a management approach but emphasizes implementing a combination of diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) and 2-4-D chemical treatments. The WDNR no longer allows 2-4-D treatments to be used on Tomahawk Lake because spot treatments are not effective at managing EWM over the long-term and, due to the size of Tomahawk Lake, it is impossible to implement a whole lake treatment of 2-4-D which would be more effective than spot treatments. Additionally, research has found that 2-4-D has negatively impacted fish, and other aquatic organisms, and it promotes the growth of EWM hybrids that are then resistant to chemical treatments of 2-4-D. Thus, without this amendment, the only management activity that would be financially supported by the WDNR is DASH work which is not an effective approach for the large colonies of EWM in Tomahawk Lake that have a substantial impact on recreational activities.

Please refer to page 2 of this document for the CLMP amendment language.

Please send comments regarding this interim update of the existing TLA CLMP to info@tomahawklake.org by September 23, 2022. All comments will be reviewed by both the TLA Board of Directors and WDNR prior to WDNR making a decision about supporting large scale mechanical harvesting (weed cutter) with WDNR grant funding.

<u>Management Action:</u>	Conduct trial mechanical harvesting of select nuisance areas of Eurasian watermilfoil
Timeframe:	Initiate 2022-2023 (aspects started in 2021)
Facilitator:	TLA Board of Directors
Description:	<p>In recent years there has been a change in preferred strategy amongst many lake managers and regulators when it comes to established EWM populations. Instead of chasing the entire EWM population with management, perhaps focusing on the areas that are causing the largest impacts can be more economical and cause less ecological stress. The WDNR supports using the management method that will impart the least stress on the overall ecosystem.</p> <p>The TLA would like to consider a trial program that explores the use of a combination of mechanical and DASH (aka HSCS) boat harvesting to suppress dense EWM colonies that exist in high-traffic areas of the lake. The TLA has started this effort in 2021 with support from its constituents.</p> <p>The TLA has already started early consultation with WDNR about the control and monitoring strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring EWM efficacy by comparing pre- and post EWM mapping surveys. The pretreatment EWM mapping survey occurred during the summer of 2021. Post treatment EWM mapping survey would occur during the same time in subsequent years and may be focused in nature (i.e. not the entire system). • A quantitative evaluation monitoring plan will be constructed that is consistent with the <i>Draft Aquatic Plant Treatment Evaluation Protocol (October 1, 2016)</i> – Click Here. This will consist of collecting quantitative point-intercept sampling on sites before the treatment (early/mid-June pre) and summer following the treatment (post). A representative set of targeted sites would be monitored that are of sufficient size for statistical representation to occur. • Advanced documentation of mechanical harvesting effort would occur to understand if changes in target and non-target plants are related to this factor. • The TLA is currently soliciting stakeholder perceptions of management actions, such as mechanical harvesting and hand-harvesting/DASH. By collecting a replicate survey following a number years of implementing these methods, an understanding of changing perceptions can be documented.
Action Steps:	
	See description above.