SHAWANO LAKE – ANONYMOUS STAKEHOLDER SURVEY SUMMARY

Received 547 completed surveys out of 973 distributed, a 56% response rate.

45% of respondents were year round residents.

32% of respondents have owned or rented their Shawano Lake property for more than 25 years, and 68% for more than 10 years.

94% of respondents first visited Shawano Lake more than 10 years ago.

75% of respondents have personally fished on Shawano Lake in the past three years. The fish they like to catch are as follows:

- Bluegill/Sunfish   82%
- Crappie   55%
- Yellow perch   51%
- Walleye   47%
- Northern pike   41%
- Largemouth bass   37%
- Smallmouth bass   23%
- All fish species   21%
- Musky   9%
- Other   2%

40% of respondents that fish rate the quality of fishing on Shawano Lake as good or excellent, 45% as fair, 12% as poor or very poor, and 3% were unsure.

25% of respondents that fish feel the quality of fishing since they first fished Shawano Lake is the same, 9% feel it is somewhat or much better, 61% feel it is somewhat or much worse, and 5% were unsure.

48% of respondents list relaxing/entertaining as their most important reason for owning or renting their property, followed by 19% for fishing, 17% for motor boating, with the remainder identifying nature viewing, jet skiing, swimming, water skiing/tubing, ice fishing and snowmobiling.

The greatest concern regarding Shawano Lake was excessive aquatic plant growth at 41%, followed by aquatic invasive species introduction at 28%, water quality degradation at 14%, algae blooms at 6%, followed by watercraft traffic, excessive fishing pressure, loss of aquatic habitat, shoreline development, septic system discharge, and noise/light pollution. Several comments referenced farm runoff as a great concern, as well as low water levels, muskies, swimmer's itch, shoreline loss/destruction from ice shoves, and weeds washing up on shorelines.

67% of respondents said that aquatic plant growth often or always negatively impacts their enjoyment of Shawano Lake, 28% said it sometimes does, and 5% said it rarely or never does.

71% of respondents definitely believe aquatic plant control is needed on Shawano Lake, followed by 23% who say it probably is needed, 5% who are unsure and 1% who say it probably or definitely is not needed.

63% of respondents are highly supportive of herbicide control of nuisance aquatic plant species, 14% are supportive, 7% are neutral, 9% are not supportive, and 7% are unsure (need more information).

97% of respondents had heard of aquatic invasive species, and 99% believe they are present in Shawano Lake.

Of a number of aquatic invasive species that were listed, 88% of respondents identified zebra mussel as being present in Shawano Lake, 84% identified Eurasian water milfoil, 56% identified carp, 49% identified curly-leaf pondweed, and 15% identified rusty crayfish. The remaining aquatic invasive species identified as being present in Shawano Lake were recognized by less than 9% of respondents.

69% of respondents completely supported the 2014 trial herbicide treatment of Eurasian water milfoil in Shawano Lake, followed by 14% who moderately support it, 13% who are unsure, and 4% who moderately or completely oppose it.

Similar support was shown for using aquatic herbicides to target Eurasian water milfoil in Shawano Lake on an expanded, larger scale. Of the 5% who opposed a large scale treatment, 91% were concerned about the potential impacts to human health, 78% were concerned about the potential impacts to other native (non-plant) species such as fish, insects, etc., 70% were concerned about the potential negative impact to native aquatic plant species, and 26% felt the cost of treatment is too high.

96% of respondents had heard of SAWM prior to receiving the survey mailing.

62% of respondents were SAWM members, 12% were former members, and 26% had never been a member.

Of the current and former SAWM members, 41% felt SAWM has kept them highly informed regarding issues with Shawano Lake and its management, 49% felt SAWM kept them fairly well informed, 5% were unsure whether SAWM kept them informed, and 5% felt SAWM did not keep them informed.

238 respondents took the opportunity to provide written comments concerning Shawano Lake, its current and/or historic condition, and its management. The most common comments related to the following:

- Weed cutting on the lake
- The need for more people to pay dues to SAWM in order to care for the lake
- The Shawano dam and water levels
- Farm runoff
- Jet boats as a nuisance on the lake
- Swimmers itch