

# Liquid Asset

Magazine of the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association | Fall 2023

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## The Plight of Our Trees



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PUBLICITY

OUTREACH

COVER PHOTO SUBMITTED

BY GRETCHEN CUDAK



Correction to Summer Magazine- This was the Community Build Crew at Gretchen's Property (not Andrews')

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## Our Mission

Stewardship of the natural world throughout the *Whitefish Area and the Pine River Watershed*. We shall *lead and work with* citizens, groups, associations, and government units to *conserve and improve* the quality of our waters, shoreland, fishery, wildlife resources, and general welfare for *the benefit of* present and future generations.



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## THE PERFECT SPOT

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - FALL 2023

Bonnie and I started our adventures in this area back in 1989, staying the first year at Loveland's Resort on Rush Lake, then Black Pine Beach Resort on Pig Lake for four years. When staying at Black Pine Beach we would take our runabout under the little bridge into Fox Hunter Bay. We would get back in there, look at each other, and say – “why would anyone want to live back here?” Well, obviously we do! It turned out to be the perfect spot with a west facing shoreline for amazing sunsets and a protected bay that allows us to keep our docks and lifts in the water all winter.

My guess is that you are pretty sure that you also have the perfect spot, whether on or off the lake. Many of the homes and cabins in this area have wonderful histories providing multiple generations the opportunity to experience this beautiful area and some of the best lakes in the state of Minnesota.

But some of the trends for our lakes are troubling and threaten our perfect spots. The 2022 Annual Report of the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) offers some sobering information. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are spreading, and new AIS are coming from other states. Minnesota's loons are dying from lead poisoning, entanglement in discarded fishing line, or killed as chicks when they are washed out of their nests by boat wakes. Fish populations decline despite intensive fish stocking programs. Algae blooms are increasing in duration, intensity, distribution, and scale. Marginal shoreline continues to be developed, with more than half the state's shoreline compromised. In 2018, the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) listed 40% of Minnesota's surface water as impaired. Today the MPCA lists 56% of Minnesota's waters as impaired.

WAPOA has responded to these threats with a significant impact on water quality in this area. At this year's annual meeting Sarah Fogderud with AW Research Laboratories, reported the water quality has been maintained or improved on the majority of lakes tested by WAPOA

volunteers. We continue to be able to safely boat, swim, and play on the lakes unimpeded by water quality issues. Significant shoreland restoration education and efforts have protected thousands of feet of shoreline from erosion. Some projects have even resulted in regrowing shoreland by using best practices. In partnership with the Northern Waters Land Trust, SWCD, and the DNR we worked to improve wildlife and fish habitat. Over the last ten years, with the help of our members' generous donations, over \$350,000 has been spent to provide added inspections at six of the public landings on the Whitefish Chain. Multiple plant surveys show no new AIS in the Whitefish Chain as of September 2023. All of this has contributed to higher property values which are directly tied to the quality of the water!

We are so fortunate to live and play in this perfect spot. WAPOA exists to help keep our spots perfect and we are grateful for your generous financial support to help us fulfill our mission. Soon you will receive the 2024 Membership Form. In October the WAPOA Board of Directors voted to increase the 2024 membership dues to \$50 to cover the increased costs of inspections, printing, postage, and water testing. Membership in WAPOA is an incredible value and supports our mission to conserve and protect the waters we love so dearly. We encourage you to renew your membership and ask your friends and neighbors to join WAPOA. We know that we can do more together than alone!

Tony Coffey,  
WAPOA President



# WAPOA's 2023 Annual Meeting Recap *Photos by Martha Davidge*



WAPOA President Tony Coffey welcomed the group, outlining some of the activities the organization has been involved in over the past year. He emphasized that our projects take place all over the Pine River Watershed, not just the Whitefish Chain. In 2023 these have included completing water quality testing of 43 area lake and stream sites; completed nine shoreline restoration projects; held a tree

sale with planting to benefit area waters; worked with area students to teach them watershed lessons; and collaborated with the County Soil and Water Conservation District, the National Loon Center and more. The resulting impacts of WAPOA's efforts were:

- Maintained and improving water quality
- Maintained viable boating, swimming, and water sports
- Maintained and potentially increased shoreland
- Improved wildlife and fish habitat
- Increased property values

President Tony also reviewed the 2022 year-end Financial Report. When asked how much was spent on AIS prevention – the answer was \$60,000 on inspections, and \$10,000 on Landing Surveys by PLM. Elections were conducted: Tony Coffey was re-elected as President; Anne Mootz was elected as Treasurer; Kristie Roedl and Patty Norgaard were re-elected as Directors. Tom Paulbeck was recognized for his outstanding job as the previous WAPOA Treasurer.

Tony thanked our WAPOA partners, exhibitors at the meeting, current and past board members, the WAPOA volunteers and most importantly the WAPOA members! He suggested ways to get involved and volunteer to support WAPOA and our mission:

- Volunteer As a Water Quality Testing Volunteer
- Become An AIS Inspector at Local Landings
- Evaluate Your Shoreline's Effect on Water Quality
- Join a WAPOA Strategy Group

Would you like to get involved by volunteering? Are you a member? Contact us at [wapoamn@gmail.com](mailto:wapoamn@gmail.com)

The business meeting was adjourned, followed by three guest speakers.

**Sarah Fogerud**, Owner and Client Services Manager, AW Research Labs presented an update on WAPOA's

water quality testing program, and what we can do to protect the lakes. She stated that over the past 20 years, 40% of area lakes are improving in quality, 16% are decreasing, and 44% show no trend in the



water quality data. She summarized the overall threats to water quality as Shoreland Development, Nutrient Input from the watershed, Aquatic Invasive Species, and Shoreline Practices. She reviewed things we can control to protect control water quality. Some ways to do this are to keep yard grass longer (2.5-3.5") to allow deeper roots and better filtration, stop/reduce use of fertilizers (especially those that contain phosphorus); grow a buffer zone along the shore by not mowing, planting native plants and grasses- keep it natural!; control run-off by limiting impervious surfaces, install rain gardens and meandering walk-ways, use porous/permeable paving materials; and be sure the septic system is properly sized, and have the it pumped and inspected by a licensed provider every 3-5 years.



**Michel Knapp**, AREA Fisheries Manager, MN DNR was the second speaker. He answered the question- *What Does the MN Fisheries Do?* They manage fish! - through programs like stocking, surveys, regulations (seasons, bag limits/ length restrictions, gear restrictions, and habitat management and protection).

He talked about the walleye "egg-take/stripping" operation on Upper Whitefish and the gill netting they do to evaluate walleye populations and sizes. He said the egg take does not harm the fish. They take about 80% of the eggs from up to 91% of the females captured. The fish are tagged, so they can carefully monitor the number that are recaptured every year. About 32-43 are recaptured yearly; 6 were recaptured every year for 6 years. About 5 million fry go back into Whitefish every year – it is the most heavily stocked lake in MN. They will do another Creel survey in 2024.

You can help the survey team by noting when you start fishing, what you catch - when and where, the number/type you release, and be courteous to the survey team. Then, share this information with the survey team. They have found that the walleyes on Whitefish are well-fed, but that anglers are not catching the adults.



The next speaker was **Marv Koep**, a well-known fishing guide. He told us personal fishing tales from his times as a guide. He said that “in the 60s, Whitefish was the lake to go to” to fish for walleye. The day before he spoke at the WAPOA meeting they caught four (4) in 4 hours of fishing. In the 60’s -80’s they usually caught 12 walleyes per trip.

Marv said that anglers now use locators, monofilament line, leeches and night crawlers, not used in the past. Also, there are not many small fishing boats anymore. And there is more “catch and release” happening. Most anglers keep the walleyes and throw back the bass. He told us that if a fish is bleeding (from being caught) it won’t survive. Most anglers keep the walleyes and throw back the bass.

He’s noticed that the number of people fishing regularly has decreased. Now there are fishing tournaments (with more released fish, with low survival rates), lots of new technology; and this technology has reduced the fishing challenge. “We used to fish for a meal, now it’s a sport!” He

used to charge \$20 for two people for a half-day fishing trip; now the going cost is \$450 per for four hours of fishing.

He answered some questions from the audience: When asked about size, he replied that the largest walleye ever caught was thirteen pounds (on Pelican Lake). He has caught a ten pounder! When asked about muskie - he thought it would be okay to stock muskies in Whitefish. Michael Knapp commented that “it would be a process”. Koep was also asked about where to fish- he said you can fish above and below the dam and upstream in the Pine River. He also replied that “rearing ponds” are used throughout the county, and some of these fish go into the Whitefish chain in the fall.



*John Lubke County Commissioner (left) attended the Annual Meeting*

## Good Stuff

(copied from Shannon Watters’ Facebook page, regarding Happy Dancing Turtle)

**Fall is coming upon us, and I was reading the Happy Dancing Turtle newsletter. Some fantastic recipes are on their site!! Pumpkin Curry Soup | Gunderson Apple Butter | Apple Cider | Split Pea Soup!**

**Go to: [www.happydancingturtle.org/post/harvest-recipes](http://www.happydancingturtle.org/post/harvest-recipes)**

**While you’re there--check out some of the fantastic planet stewardship information classes and events!! Always great wholesome information and fun!!**

# Shoreland Restoration

Shoreland Restoration is all about repairing/restoring shoreline to a more native state.

## WHY?

- It will reduce erosion from wave action and ice heaves and can actually recapture some shoreline
- Reduces pollution of the lake by providing a place for run-off to seep into the ground and NOT add fertilizers and organic materials to the water
- Provides native plants and pollinators and beautifies the shore
- Protects property value

These are a few photos from shoreland restoration projects completed in the last few years. You can see the dramatic difference between the BEFORE and the AFTER photos. Some of these improvements occurred in less than one growing season!



### Gretchen's

- ① Before ② Installing willow wattle  
③ After - the plants are growing in and behind the willow wattle



### Merry's

- ① Before ② Installing ③ Getting Shoreline back ④ After - native plants growing on the shore



### Jill's

- ① Before ② After



### Shannon's

- ① & ② Before  
③ After



## McGruder

- 1 Before - 2019
- 2 Soil wraps to hold the steep bank
- 3 After - 2023



## Taming the Bank! *Submitted by Val McGruder*

In the spring of 2019, my husband and I attended a “Shoreline Restoration” meeting at Moonlight Bay. It was hosted by WAPOA; with speakers from WAPOA, Crow Wing County Soil and Water, numerous native plant experts, landscapers and vendors. We were impressed with the knowledge they shared, and we knew we needed to do something to save our steep bank from more erosion. We decided to go ahead with a restoration project.

During the rest of the spring, summer, and fall, we prepared the bank and on October 3<sup>rd</sup> - four slope checks were installed to stabilize the bank. Near the water, coir logs and willow wattle were installed to slow the waves from eroding the soil along the shore. Hundreds of native plants and grasses were planted to help anchor the soil. We also marked off a buffer garden along the top portion of the bank. On October 4<sup>th</sup> we installed more native plants and grasses in this garden...it was truly a family effort.

*So now, 4 years later - what have we learned, and how have things changed?*

This Fall, we had a follow-up visit from Shelley Larson, our mentor. We started at the shoreline, and she identified some of the plants I wasn't familiar with as well as giving me information about them. We also looked at the buffer garden on top. I had lots of questions for her. A few days later I received a follow-up message that included tips for the future of the bank.

One of the things I learned was that native plants don't need to be consistently watered. Since we do not live here full time, we would set up the sprinkler and try to cover the whole bank. A nearly impossible task. We have had an extremely dry summer but despite that, most things looked pretty good. Our bank is half shaded by trees and the other half is very sunny. The shady side is planted with a native grass called beaked sedge. It has filled in and is providing stability for this shadier area. The sunnier side has more native flowers and they are full of butterflies, bees and birds. The seed heads will be releasing their seeds soon and will help to fill in sparser areas.

Of course, there are also some invasive things -wild raspberry and crown vetch have shown up. Crown vetch is not native. It is often used along the highways, and it quickly spreads. The

raspberries are providing berries for wildlife so I will allow some to remain. We also have mullein which is a tall fuzzy leaved biennial. I found out it is also known as “cowboy's toilet paper” - a catchy name but I will likely be removing most of it. Finally, thistle is popping up, which means I will be getting my “garden grubs” on and tackling the weeding. I may have to enlist the help of my grandkids since balancing on a steep bank isn't always easy for some of us.

The shoreline plants have done very well providing beautiful blooms, pollen and nectar for hungry pollinators. Their deep roots are holding onto the soil and even extending the amount of shoreline we have. Some of my favorites are Milkweed, Goldenrod, Joe Pye Weed and Blue Flag Iris. I will be splitting and planting more Iris because this plant is great to use to reduce erosion under the dock area. We will likely be adding a few more willow wattle bundles along the shore as well. Waves have damaged some of it and it is essential to provide this natural barrier.

Finally, our upper buffer garden got a bit overgrown this summer, so I did some trimming of the grasses and dead stalks. Some of the native plants doing well in this garden are smooth asters and calico asters. Wonderful for all kinds of pollinators.

I asked about transplanting some plants from my home gardens to add to it. Even though some cultivars\* might be ok, care should be taken when introducing non-natives. Monarda may work, but a grass like Karl Forester is a cultivar of Reed Canary grass, an invasive species. I was advised to plant only on the upper portion of the bank. This should prevent seeds from washing down the bank and into the water, possibly germinating and establishing in natural areas.

This restoration project has been a learning and growing experience for our entire family. I know that our efforts have improved our property and will help keep our lake clean. I have been asked if this was my “vision”. Truthfully, I really don't know. What I do know is that working with nature will be more sustainable than working against her, and I intend to keep working as long as I am able.

**\*Cultivar Definition.** An organism and especially one of an agricultural or horticultural variety or strain originating and persistent under cultivation. (Merriam Webster Dictionary)

## 2023 Shoreland Restoration Project on Ruth Lake

Supported in part by a Land and Water Preservation Trust grant

### Brennan Ruth Lake “Lawn to Lake” 754’ Shoreline Buffer

*[Summary description and photos of the buffer zone restoration project provided by the property owner.]*

MNL conducted site preparation in May. MNL completed project installation on July 12, 2023. Thirteen varieties of native plants and grasses (n=528) were planted in the buffer. Species are pollinator-friendly and include Black-eyed Susan, Prairie Blazing Star, Wild Bergamot, Smooth Penstemon, Great Blue Lobelia and Swamp Milkweed.

#### Evaluation of Results:

The buffer has been established very well (see photos). It is planted within an irrigation zone so has received sufficient water despite this summer’s drought. Even though it was planted mid-summer, a number of the plants bloomed, and we have observed pollinators such as Monarch butterflies, bees and other butterfly species enjoying the plants. The buffer did not have any issues with weeds.



## Camp Knutson Shoreland Restoration Project

Supported in part by a 2023 Land and Waters Preservation Trust Grant

A “blanket” and native plant plugs were placed along the bank in September 2023 to reduce the erosion occurring due to wave action along Camp Knutson’s shoreline. Also, a pollinator garden was installed higher up on the bank. Partial funding for this project was provided through a Land and Waters Preservation Trust grant request - “Landscaping for Loons”, submitted by Kristie Roedl.



# Landscaping for Loons

By Jodi Eberhardt, Pine River Watershed Alliance

Last summer a neighbor asked me why they can't get loons to nest on the platform they put out year after year. The answer is that loon territory is already very well defined on Lake Ossawinnamakee. There are nesting sites on either side of this property and a new loon family would be chased away.

We can't all put out a loon nest, but we can all help the loons. It's not just nesting territories that loons need — it's clear water, places to fish, and places to hide the young from passing boat traffic.

A few years back, Bonnie Hiniker at Sunshine Gardens in Pine River shared a planting idea she's been using on lakeshore properties. It's called a "Wildlife Corner". She creates a pretty planting of trees, flowers, and tall grasses along the shore and up property line. This little ecosystem is great for watching wildlife — and it's good for the lake too.

So how is this landscaping for loons? These areas produce more fish and clean water. Trees and native plants attract birds and insects. The planting on the shoreline provides habitat for frogs to live and dragonflies to hatch. Because this area isn't used for recreation, leaving native plants in the water provides spawning areas and habitat for fish. Critically, this corner absorbs stormwater which reduces sediment flowing into the lake — making the water clear. It also reduces fertilizer going into the lake, which results in lower algae and weed growth.

It's even better if two neighbors go together and put wildlife corners on the same property line. Adjacent properties can create a larger area for wildlife. Wildlife corners can also be used as a privacy buffer along the shoreline.

To the right is a picture of the wildlife corner on our shoreline. It includes a place to watch wildlife and a mowed path to our dock.

If you think that sounds interesting, here's how to create your own wildlife corner:

1. Stop mowing the corner area. Try out the size and location before planting. See what grows by itself.
2. Contact Bonnie at Sunshine Gardens ([sunshinegardens.tripod.com](http://sunshinegardens.tripod.com)) to recommend plants for your area and help plant them. Take photos to the nursery. Maybe you can simply add flowers and shrubs to what's already growing.
3. Don't want to take it on? Hire it out. Work with an area provider to just do the project for you. Contact:
  - Sheila Boldt at Pinehaven Shoreline Restoration at [Boldtpinehaven@gmail.com](mailto:Boldtpinehaven@gmail.com)
  - or-
  - Laura Mendoza at Great Roots Shoreline Restoration, ([www.linkedin.com/in/lauramarlenemendozaromero](http://www.linkedin.com/in/lauramarlenemendozaromero)).
4. If you have a complicated site, you may wish to contact Crow Wing Soil and Water District ([cswsdc.org](http://cswsdc.org)) for an assessment and to give you some ideas about stormwater management.

Give it a try. Our loons will thank you.





# Do you live, work or play in Crow Wing County?

The County wants to hear from you as it develops its next 20-year plan!

Crow Wing County is updating its Comprehensive Plan, now through Fall 2024. The county last prepared a comprehensive plan in 2003, and since has experienced steady population growth and economic development that has brought opportunities such as more jobs and better services. However, it has also resulted in challenges such as housing shortages and increased traffic. This comprehensive plan will ensure Crow Wing County has a clear direction for making future decisions related to land use and developments that reflect the communities' needs.

## Project Goals



Identify and address current issues and emerging trends with a focus on natural resources and housing



Unify the county with a common vision



Align capacity and location of infrastructure (water, sewer, storm, transportation, and broadband)

## What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan defines the vision, goals and aspirations for the long-term development of the community. The plan includes policies to:

- Guide land use and private development patterns.
- Protect and manage natural resources.
- Forecast population growth and housing needs.
- Guide decisions on public and private investments in infrastructure and facilities such as roads, parks and utilities.
- Provide an implementation strategy for achieving those goals.

## What is NOT Part of the Plan?

This Comprehensive Plan update will determine a long-term plan for the future of Crow Wing County. However, there are certain things Comprehensive Plans do not cover.

These include:

- Zoning Regulations
- Specific Development Proposals
- Detailed Engineering Designs

## Public Input is Critical - Get Involved!



Visit the Project Website



Take the Public Survey



Attend Engagement Events



Share County Social Media Posts



Give Feedback on the Interactive Comment Map

### Project Contact

Chris Pence, Environmental Services Manager  
218-824-1010 (office)  
chris.pence@crowwing.us

Your feedback is important!

Scan the QR code to learn more  
or visit: <https://arcg.is/1eWjbb>





## **UMN researchers study waves created by recreational boats. Findings suggest that wakesurf boats should be operated at greater distances from shoreline compared to typical recreational boats.**

**[Excerpted in part from the St Anthony Falls Laboratory website].**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/01/2022)—A new study by researchers in the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering’s St. Anthony Falls Laboratory found that popular wakesurf boats require a greater distance from the shoreline and other boats compared to more typical recreational boats. This distance is needed to reduce the potential impact of their larger waves.

The results provide key insights into differences between specialized wakesurfing boats and more typical recreational boats operating on lakes and rivers. It also provides baseline data that can be used for future decision-making. Wakesurfing, which requires a boat capable of generating a large surfing wave, has become a popular pastime for some Minnesotans while sparking concerns in others about shoreline erosion, water quality, and safety. However, robust scientific data on the size and impact of wakesurf boat waves has been lacking.

“Minnesotans love their lakes, and they love their boats,” said Jeff Marr, one of the lead researchers on the study and associate director of engineering and facilities at the St. Anthony Falls Lab. “Some of my best memories are of boating, waterskiing, and fishing with family and friends on lakes. This research isn’t about trying to limit enjoyment of lakes for boaters, but it seeks to provide the data needed to ensure our lakes can be enjoyed by all for generations to come.”

Phase II of this research is underway. This phase will focus on watercraft propeller (prop wash) and wind wave action on riparian areas in lake ecology, shorelines and erosion, water clarity and safety. The three year project has been funded \$415,000 by LCCMR to expand on Phase I and Phase II studies.

More information on this study can be accessed at [Healthy Waters Initiative \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com).



# Will There Be Manganese Mining In Emily, MN?

Manganese is one of the metals used to produce batteries for electric vehicles and other types of battery powered electronics. There is purported to be billions of pounds of manganese ore in the Emily area; and is believed to be the richest deposit of the mineral in North America.

North Star Manganese has already explored the area by drilling 29 holes, and they found manganese in all 29 of them. The company is seeking mineral rights leases on several state-owned properties surrounding those it has already explored, from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, intending to explore for manganese. Because the negotiated lease request is to explore for manganiferous iron ore, North Star has applied to the for both taconite iron ore leases and nonferrous metallic minerals leases in the same area.

Emily residents are concerned about how this exploration and mining activity could affect the local environment and water quality. A meeting, organized by the city of Emily was held on August 15, 2023 to discuss the issue. Rick Sandri, CEO of North Star Manganese, spoke at the event concerning the potential manganese mine. More than 100 people attended the open house, which lasted two-and-a-half hours and featured several tough questions for Sandri and others on the panel to answer.

For more information about manganese mining, and the meeting and discussions held, go to the article and recording of the meeting by KAXE | Chelsey Perkins at Emily residents pepper execs with questions on potential manganese mine | KAXE .

**Location:** The proposed location for the mine is 900+ Acres in Emily, MN, between Emily and Outing. The location is near many lakes, trails, woods, and cabins. It is less than 2 miles from downtown Emily.

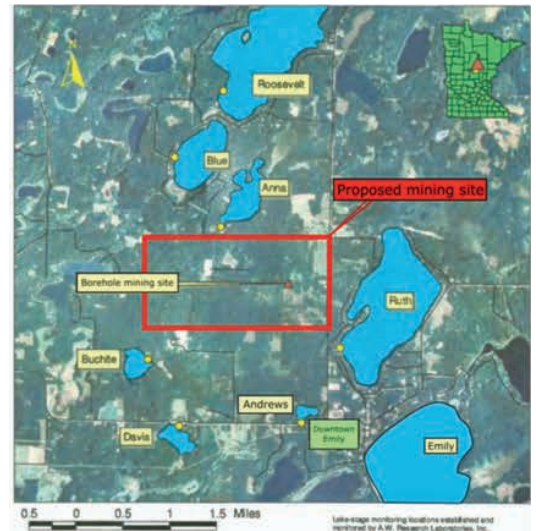
## QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

### Health Effects of Manganese Exposure

- Children and adults who drink water with high levels of manganese for a long time may have problems with memory, attention, and motor skills. Infants may develop learning and behavior problems if they drink water with too much manganese in it. (MN Dept of Health)
- Repeated exposure to airborne manganese (such as in the workplace) can cause permanent brain damage, lung damage, may affect the liver, and may damage the testes (male reproductive glands) and may decrease fertility in men.

### Economic Factors

- Mining would be a new industry for Emily, which has a long history of businesses being built on our clean water and abundant nature. What will happen to those business and recreational economy when the town makes room for a big industrial project?
- Mining can contribute to noise, air, and light pollution. How will that affect our lives?
- An increase of traffic from large trucks is likely. Will that make it more dangerous to drive cars and ATV's in Emily?
- Clean water is essential for our lives and our economy. The mining company cannot guarantee the absolute protection of our water.
- There is no shortage of Manganese. Traded MN prices are historically low due, at least in part, to the abundance of supply worldwide.
- Green Economy? Many companies are moving away from using manganese in their EV batteries.



## WHO IS INVOLVED

### Financially Interested Parties

- Crow Wing Power (CWP): Power cooperative whose for-profit subsidiaries, Cooperative Mineral Resources (CRM) and Peoples Security Co. (PSC) own the approximately 180 acre mining land currently under contract to mine.
- Electric Metals Ltd. (EML): Canadian company and parent to North Star Manganese Inc. (NSM), a Minnesota corporation created in 2019 to undertake EML's business in Minnesota, i.e.

- exploring the Emily Mn deposit.
- The Carlton Group sold the initial smaller mining property to CMR. They oversaw earlier attempts to mine and retain royalties on the original property.
- The State of Minnesota make money by leasing state owned mineral rights to mining companies.

### Government Bodies and Agencies Involved

- MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Evaluates and issues negotiated mineral leases to state lands. NSM has a request for leases on 800 acres of state land.
- MN Dept of Health (MDH): Responsible for ensuring that the bore hole wells are cased in cement and capped upon completion of exploratory drilling.
- Emily City Council (ECC): Responsible for awarding or denying permit to mine within the city limits of Emily, which is not legal under Emily City Ordinances.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

- As of the NDR and NSM's June

report to the ECC, negotiations for mineral leases to the 800 acres of state land surrounding the original mine site is ongoing.

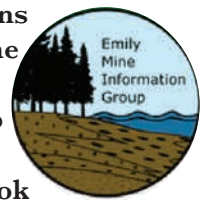
- When, if, NSM is granted the leases, those leases will be presented to the State Executive Council (consisting of the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General and Commissioner of the Department of Commerce) for approval or rejection.
- If approved by the Executive Council, NSM/EML will be free to begin the permitting process toward their goal of creating a mine at the deposit site. The permitting process includes seeking permits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MDH, DNR, US Environmental Protection Agency, among others.
- EML is a Canadian based company commonly referred to in the mining industry as a "junior" mining company. A junior's role is to explore and market a prospective mining project so that it can be sold to a "major", which is an international company that

has actual mining experience. Any minerals ultimately extracted by these multinational corporations will be sold on the open world minerals market.

### MINING INFORMATION

- Open Pit: Open air to the mineral deposit. This would entail a very large footprint, much larger than the currently proposed site.
- Underground: A shaft is drilled down to the deposit for room and pillar mining. Iron ore is dislodged with explosives and transported to the surface.
- In situ leaching: Chemicals, usually Sulfur Dioxide, are injected in the deposit and the materials leach out and are collected and transported to the surface. This approach was found "environmentally unacceptable" by the US Bureau of Mines.

Do you have questions or concerns about the mine? Email us at [emilymineinfogroup@gmail.com](mailto:emilymineinfogroup@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook for updates.



## Great News from PLM regarding their Inspection of Landings

WAPOA's AIS Director, Robb Reid received word in early October that PLM completed their inspection of all of the landings and found **No New AIS**. This is good news!!!!

### THESE ARE THE ACCESS SITES INSPECTED BY PLM

**Private/Business Access Sites** • Bay View Lodge • Bertha Boat Works • Black Pine Beach Resort • Boyd Lodge • C&C Boatworks • Clamshell Beach Resort (Shared Ramp w/Towering Pines Resort) • Kilworry Resort • Manhattan Beach Lodge (Docks) • Outlet Recreation Crosslake • Pinedale Resort • The Wharf (Docks) • Towering Pines Resort (Shared Ramp w/Clamshell Beach Resort) • Trout Lake Camp • Wilderness Park • Your Boat Club Crosslake (Docks) • Zorbaz (Docks) • Cross Lake - Sand Island • Rush Lake - Outside Channel by The Wharf

**Public Access Sites:** • Big Trout Lake Public Access • Clamshell Lake Public Access • Cross Lake Recreation Area Boat Access #1 • Cross Lake Recreation Area Boat Access #2 • Lower Hay Lake Public Access • South Delta Bay on Whitefish Public Access

**Off Chain Public Access Sites:** • Clear Lake Public Access • Eagle Lake Public Access (FLPOA) • East Fox Lake Public Access (FLPOA) • Goodrich Lake Public Access • Kego Lake Public Access (FLPOA) • Mitchell Lake Public Access (FLPOA) • O'Brien Lake Public Access • Upper Hay Lake Public Access

**Working Access Sites:** • Clamshell/Bertha (south side of channel; Birchdale Villa Drive) • Cross Lake (West side just south of The Wharf channel off Robert St) • Rush Lake (NE side of Whitefish-Rush channel off Ginseng Patch Rd) • Ruttger Bay (On isthmus between Whitefish & Clamshell off Ruttger Rd)



# The Plight Of Our Trees...

Submitted by Caleb Nelson

Deblen the Tree Doctor, Mn Tree Inspector



Looking back, do you remember a time when so many trees were sick with so many issues?

At Deblen we have been watching tree problems increase over the decades since we trimmed our first tree branch in 1967.

It has become

increasingly more evident that Minnesota tree health is changing, and not for the better. This year's most common call is from homeowners noticing problems with our state tree, the Red Pine, or Norway pine. Norway pines are dropping like flies from drought damage and the bark beetle...look around, they are dying everywhere you go.

But that is not the only tree problem.

-Our birch trees have been changed into homes for the bronze birch borer and die from the tops down. Because of this many think birch trees are weak and worthless and will only live a few years.

-Blister rust and pine moths are killing our white pines.

-Spruce and balsam trees are thin and weak from insects and fungi.

-Emerald ash borer, Dutch elm disease, and oak wilt have become household conversation pieces.

-Construction damage from a huge boom in building lake homes has destroyed the native soil and the roots that are supposed to keep our trees alive and thriving.

-5 years of partial or full drought have killed roots in our trees as they dry out (and more drought years are predicted). Regular irrigation does not penetrate past the lawn roots, so the tree roots suffer from thirst, inches

away from water just above them in the grass. Dry topsoil is devoid of microbes and other living things that bring minerals and life to the soil. Dry trees are stressed, stressed trees are targets for insects, and unfortunately, insects live happily in a stressed tree until they finally kill it.

-Chemical lawn products that make grass green also destroy tree roots with every application, disrupting the important hormonal and microbial processes necessary for trees to grow properly. Pre-emergent, weed-n-feeds, fertilizers, etc. are very harmful to trees. A weed-free yard is not the sign of a healthy lawn, because it has been made green and "perfect" with toxic chemicals that hurt the topsoil and the trees that share space with the grass. If these products hurt trees, do they hurt anything else? Of course! The overuse of yard chemicals over the decades has ruined our lake water, has killed pollinators and birds, has affected wildlife and fish, and is also harmful to our pets and families as we enjoy our yard.

Yeah, I know, that sounds pretty "gloom and doom". It really is!! But is there a solution to these problems?

Well, the most common approach in the whitefish area and beyond to treat a sick tree is to call a tree service to trim the trees until there is nothing left and finally remove the tree once it has died. Then you can call a tree planter to replace it with a small new tree, never to enjoy the huge tree again that occupied its space. Or, some well-intentioned tree services will spray, deep root feed, or inject the tree with chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or fungicides attempting to save it.

Here is the problem with any chemical approach- chemical Injections and root treatments may damage shallow roots, contaminate other trees, leading to potential health issues for the tree in question. It is important to note that the chemicals used for injections and root treatments may cause unwanted side effects to the applicator or trees and animals in the area if not used properly. It is also important to note that chemical tree injections and root treatments should only be used on trees that are already healthy, as the chemicals may be harmful to trees that are already struggling.

Did you catch that? "Chemical tree injections and root treatments should only be used for trees that are

already healthy”. So, you cannot treat a sick tree with chemicals for the sickness it has? Nope! Why not? Well, it is the chemicals! Remember - the sick tree is weak, and if chemicals can weaken an already healthy tree, administering them to a sick tree usually pushes them closer to the edge of dying.

So, do we just skip treating and wait for the inevitable? You could, but you can also seek out an alternative to the chemicals.

First, water...your...trees! A large tree during a moderate season with regular rain and normal summer temperatures will drink upwards of 100 gallons a day from the water table and aquifers that its roots reside in. The last five summers they have gotten nowhere near that as the drought has dried out topsoil and the water table. You can help your trees by simply putting a hose at the base of the trunk at a trickle during the summer months. Sprinkling and irrigation systems do not penetrate deep enough into the ground to water the trees adequately. So, do not rely on that as a watering source for your trees. Bubblers at the base of the trunk or a hose trickling are the best way to manually water a tree.

Secondly, if your tree is already sick, watering is not going to save it necessarily. Something is wrong and missing in the soil if your tree has become sick. Many factors keep a tree healthy, so if any of these are missing, the tree is not

functioning at its peak levels. Therefore, it becomes weak and a target for insects, other diseases, and pests.

The answer is supplementation in the soil, with proper food from clean, organic, and natural sources that are friendly to trees, and allows them to heal and be stronger against stressors in their environment. That’s right! Trees need to eat, not just drink.

This also applies to construction-damaged trees where roots have been compacted or cut, and small transplanted trees that are new to their environment and are undergoing transplant shock from the incompatible soil around them.

Here is the solution...

- Get a professional tree expert on your property to assess your trees.
- Choose providers that are environmentally safe for lakes, pollinators, birds, pets, and people.
- Make sure no chemicals are used. Do not purchase “tree spikes” or fertilizers at the home improvement centers as these are loaded with bad ingredients. Time release is usually a bad idea because it is usually a chemical.

Questions on your tree health? We welcome you to contact us and we will get you the answer you need. Contact us at [www.deblenthetreedoctor.com](http://www.deblenthetreedoctor.com)





Trivia hosts L to R: Shannon, Maddi, and Mary Jo | Trivia participants | Trivia players enjoy the outdoor patio

## Loon and Lakes Trivia Hosted by The NLC and WAPOA

*Submitted by Shannon Watters, WAPOA Director Business Relations*

The National Loon Center and The Whitefish Area Property Owners Association hosted a full house at the monthly event of Loon and Lakes Trivia at 14 Lakes Brewery on Thursday, September 28, 2023. Mary Jo Fritsvold and Shannon Watters, the usual hosts, welcomed a new member to their Loon and Lakes Trivia team, Maddi Nistler. Maddi comes to the area with the Minnesota GreenCorps. The Minnesota GreenCorps program is an AmeriCorps program coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and a statewide initiative to help preserve and protect Minnesota’s environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals.

Maddi will be working with The National Loon Center and co-hosting Loon and Lakes Trivia through summer of 2024. If you would like to learn more about the great work of Minnesota GreenCorps please visit: [Minnesota GreenCorps | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.minnstate.edu/greencorps/). Also, if you would like to get involved with volunteering with the National Loon Center, WAPOA or know a youth that may be interested in a career in an environmental professional, stop in at the Nest in Crosslake Town Square to learn more!!

### Trivia highlights from the September Loon and Lakes Trivia event. *How many can you get right?*

1. How many ounces of beer are in a growler?
2. What is the Minnesota State Fruit?
3. The Minnesota Wild team hockey rink and the distance you should stay away from nesting loons, all wildlife and shorelines are the same number of feet. How many feet is that?
4. What is the average wingspan of an adult Common Loon?
5. What is the 3 word slogan used to remind people on how to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive species?
6. How many eggs does a single female zebra mussel produce in one year?
7. What quarterback holds the Minnesota Vikings single game record for passing yards?

### Answers

1. 64 ounces 2. Honeycrisp Apple 3. 200 feet 4. 47 inches  
5. Clean, Drain, Dry 6. 500,000-1,000,000 7. Tommy Kramer

Watch the calendar for the next Loon and Lakes Trivia: [Events — Whitefish Area Property Owner’s Association \(wapoa.org\)](#)



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