

Rice Lake Drawdown for 2021-2022 signature form

Background to this request

The invasive Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) plant has been increasing in overall growth the past several years to reach a density level not seen since prior to the last series of drawdowns ending in 2014-2015. CLP grows under the ice over the winter and prevents native (good) plants from getting established. CLP also adds abundant amounts of nutrients, such as phosphorous, to the water column, which leads to severe algae blooms after the CLP breaks loose from the lake bottom and dies off. Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) has also seen a tremendous upsurge over the past several years where this is now becoming a serious invasive infestation.

A recent aquatic plant survey conducted in May 2021 determined that both CLP and EWM should be treated. Approval by at least 75% of the adjacent shoreline homeowners on Rice Lake/Elm Creek has already been obtained before the City of Maple Grove would submit a formal request for a DNR permit to conduct a drawdown this coming winter of 2021-2022.

What is a Drawdown and why do it?

A drawdown is a method of lowering the water level on a body of water to expose the lake bottom. Invasive exotic non-native aquatic plants such as Curlyleaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil are embedded in the lake sediment waiting to grow again in the next season. The decrease in the density of Curlyleaf and elimination of Milfoil will allow the native plants to flourish, which is one of the changes in the lake which we noticed after the first drawdowns in the 1990's. If the correct weather conditions occur (ground freezes before snow cover), it is possible to "freeze out" many of these nuisance seedlings and prevent them from growing.

A drawdown is a very cost-effective alternative to reducing unwanted nuisance plant growth; other methods such as spraying with an herbicide can cost thousands of dollars and only offer control for a small percentage of the entire lake. Cutting weeds with a harvester can cost well over \$20,000 per year (this is what Weaver Lake has been doing year after year). Rice Lake has been fortunate to be controlled by a man-made dam (located behind Maple Grove Senior High School) which can lower the lake level by up to 5 feet, exposing more than 40% of the lake bottom. Results achieved by a drawdown on Rice Lake can be very positive. The lake level usually returns to normal in early spring in less than 1 week after the gate at the dam has been closed.

Drawdown Request Process

For those unfamiliar with the procedure, the City of Maple Grove would request a drawdown from the Minnesota DNR when one is deemed necessary. Lake management experts (such as Steve McComas from Blue Water Science and James Johnson from Freshwater Scientific Services) have suggested Rice Lake conduct drawdowns. The last drawdown in 2014-2015 was deemed very successful by providing the most weed-free and high clarity water in many years.

The City Council must approve a drawdown so the City Engineering department can "pull the plug" on the dam. In the spring, normal water levels are restored within 2 weeks based on past drawdown experiences.

What will it cost?

The City of Maple Grove will pay for all costs regarding the drawdown (including DNR permit and labor necessary) to conduct a Drawdown on Rice Lake this fall/winter. Typically, this cost is less than \$250. The drawdown will commence in the 1st week of October, 2021. RLAA is asking all boat owners to remove their watercraft from the lake by October 1, 2021.

Will other activities take place during the drawdown?

This is also a good time to clean up shorelines, improve shoreline stabilization, and do other work along the lake/creek banks. The City of Maple Grove would be asked to assist in this effort. This may also be a good time to help reduce/capture nuisance fish like carp and bullhead which contribute to the poor lake quality.

The signatures collected in 2020 for the drawdown we had hoped to conduct this past winter are still valid for our 2021-2022 request, according to the local DNR office. If for any reason you want to change your mind to support a drawdown in 2021-2022, please contact us at ricelakeassoc@comcast.net to record your vote. For more details, feel free to visit the RLAA website at <http://RiceLake.Homestead.com/>.

Thank you,

Rice Lake Area Association Board of Directors

See the list below for all of those shoreline owners who authorized a drawdown last winter (the vote was 82-2).

Last Name	Street #	Street Name	Approv	Last Name	Street #	Street Name	Approv
Ellingson	14170	87th Ave. N.	X	Schneider	14000	92nd Place N.	X
Drangeid	14212	87th Ave. N.	X	Couet	14030	92nd Place N.	X
Liedl	14143	88th Place N.	X	Fluegel	14060	92nd Place N.	X
Mattson	14175	88th Place N.	X	Nord	14090	92nd Place N.	X
Dutcher	14178	88th Place N.	X	Grefe	14100	92nd Place N.	X
Mason	14207	88th Place N.	X	Drag	14131	92nd Place N.	X
Raatikka	14239	88th Place N.	X	Larson	14111	93rd Place N.	X
Moe	14251	88th Place N.	X	Crego	14123	93rd Place N.	X
Chan	14263	88th Place N.	X	Schatava	13858	95th Ave. N.	X
Nuss	14268	88th Place N.	X	Quintus	13864	95th Ave. N.	X
Johnson/Davis	14269	88th Place N.	X	Stulac	13870	95th Ave. N.	X
Pogemiller	14275	88th Place N.	X	Berg	13882	95th Ave. N.	X
Giesler	14280	88th Place N.	X	Alsaker	13926	95th Ave. N.	X
Moening	14549	91st Ave. N.	X	Swiss	14000	95th Ave. N.	X
Quale	14609	91st Ave. N.	X	Thiede	14038	95th Ave. N.	X
Amundson	14659	91st Ave. N.	X	Roeglin	14074	95th Ave. N.	X
Rybinski	14689	91st Ave. N.	X	Wichmann	9351	Dallas Lane	X
Shimpa	14719	91st Ave. N.	X	Koenig	9363	Dallas Lane	X
Van Bogert	14749	91st Ave. N.	X	Braam	9409	Dallas Lane	x
Shubinsky	14779	91st Ave. N.	X	Cross	9421	Dallas Lane	X
Schwab	14819	91st Ave. N.	X	Swanson	9433	Dallas Lane	X
Sticka	14849	91st Ave. N.	X	Westphal	9469	Dallas Lane	X
Ray	14879	91st Ave. N.	X	Dohman	9481	Dallas Lane	X
Neisen	14909	91st Ave. N.	X	Putland	9493	Dallas Lane	X
Davison	14939	91st Ave. N.	X	Avery	8603	Glacier Lane	X
Shimpa	14969	91st Ave. N.	X	Yunger	8615	Glacier Lane	X
Storlien	14999	91st Ave. N.	X	Knutson	8623	Glacier Lane	X
Wirig	15039	91st Ave. N.	X	Lind	8635	Glacier Lane	X
Mannel	15059	91st Ave. N.	X	Minner & Arrell	8647	Glacier Lane	X
Hibbard	15079	91st Ave. N.	X				

Last Name	Street #	Street Name	Approv	Reje
Zastoupil	8659	Glacier Lane	X	
Forbrook	8671	Glacier Lane	X	
Dechmann	8683	Glacier Lane	X	
Klaphake	8700	Glacier Lane	X	
Cady	8701	Glacier Lane	X	
Grose	8710	Glacier Lane	X	
George	8711	Glacier Lane	X	
Association		PO Box 1531	X	
Reichow	8540	Quarles Road N.	X	
Heyn	8628	Quarles Road N.	X	
Wiseman	8635	Quarles Road N.	X	
Johnson	8640	Quarles Road N.	x	
Malone	14064	Rice Lake Circle	X	
Orfei	8615	Shadow Creek	X	
Overhiser	8548	Quarles Road N.	X	
Brostrom	8566	Quarles Road N.	X	
Fellows	8578	Quarles Road N.	X	
Njaka	8590	Quarles Road N.	X	
Coenen	8608	Quarles Road N.	X	
Yoder	8616	Quarles Road N.	X	
			82	2