

## **ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018 -2019**

A manager once told me that no one was going to read a progress report that is over a page. Looking back at my past reports, he was probably right. With that in mind, and given the fact that each committee chair is going to elaborate on what they have accomplished this past year and their plans are for the future, I'll limit my remarks to activities that furthered our lake management plan goals.

The 2018 Lake Management Plan and its recommendation were presented to the City Council, the Town Board, Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Committee, , at the Sunshine Brewery social event and at some Brew with a View events.

### **Water Quality: reduce the phosphorus level by 20% by 2028**

Recognizing that many players contribute phosphorous and sediment to Rock Lake we looked for opportunities to work with all those groups; agriculture, recreation boaters, construction, local governments, and residents to further our goal.

#### **Agriculture:**

- Met with watershed farmers to judge their interest in forming a farmer lead healthy soils organization
- Attended a meeting with the Dodge County Healthy Soils farmers organization
- Met with the Beaver Dam Lake Assoc. that worked with the Dodge County farmers
- Attended a farmer lead presentation on environmental and agricultural stewardship
- Had meetings with Jefferson County and UW - Ext. on healthy soil practices
- Invited a UW grad student to make a presentation on cover crops and their benefits to healthy soils
- Exploring ways to assist watershed farmers fund planting cover crops

#### **Recreational Boaters:**

- Offered to pay for cleaning stations at the City and Town launches
- Supported the City and Town's Clean Boats/Clean Waters program by members volunteering time
- Handed out Clean Boat/Clean Water brochures at events
- Explained the program at our Exploration Tour event

#### **Construction:**

- Exploring ways to inform homeowners, contractors and inspector of adverse impacts on lake
- Mail or hand deliver "New Homeowner" packets with zoning rules and best practices
- Recommended to the City and Town that they enforce construction site erosion laws

#### **Local Governments:**

- Worked with the City on a program of how to properly dispose of grass clippings and leaves
- Plan to replace broken or missing storm drain signage warn that debris goes to the lake
- Plan to develop a "Storm Drain Protector" program similar to volunteers picking up trash on streets
- Recommended to the City and Town that they reduce the amount of sand and salt spread on streets
- Recommended to City and Town work on a new composting area

#### **Residential:**

- Demonstrated shoreline restoration and benefits during the Exploration Tour
- Mailed or hand delivered our "New Homeowners" packet that offers guidelines and assistance
- Plan to reach out to every riparian land owner on the benefits of native vegetation along the shoreline
- We hope to jump start the UW Miljala Shores project
- We had three gardens in the Lake Mills Library tour demonstrating native shorelines and rain gardens

### **Water Quality Sampling: measure the health of lakes and streams in watershed**

- Jefferson Co. and the DNR continue their monthly monitoring of the lake
- Several volunteers stepped forward to monitor local streams monthly
- RLIA has identified additional sites, recruited volunteers and determined equipment needs

Habitat: achieve a diverse ecosystem for native plants and animals to thrive

- Thanks to the Bob and Sue Volenec who are training people to do frog counts
- Maintained "fish sticks" site at Tyranena Park, looking for other opportunities
- Explained "fish sticks" program to participants on the Exploration Tour
- Continued Clean Boats/Clean Water program to educate boaters of this DNR program
- Conducted another Environmental Clean up removing invasive species (garlic mustard)

Lake Recreation: Ensure a safe and healthy multipurpose recreational environment

- Shared with the lake patrol the public survey results that we collected
- Demonstrated Slow-No-Wake during Exploration Tour to tour participants
- Met with the Town Boat patrol on what violations we are seeing and requested enforcement
- Provided recreational rules pamphlet to people seeking season launch passes and at launches

Education: achieve a more knowledgeable and active public in regards to lake, watershed and plan

- Held a event at Sunshine Brewery to introduce the lake management plan
- Attended Town and Country Days to provide lake information and promote lake tour
- Displayed at a Farmer's Market to solicit participants for tour and provide lake information
- Had a display at two Brew with a View events at Korth Park with lake information
- Did an Exploration Tour of the lake that covered plants, fish, water sampling, shoreline restoration
- Updated our display, our website and our Facebook page for easier use with more information

We closed our savings account and purchased four CD's with higher interest rates.

We had great volunteer support this year and the Board wants to thank you.

Please continue to provide us with your insight and ideas to help improve, protect and preserve Rock Lake.

No, I didn't make it on one page but as you can see we were very busy this past year. I hope we are meeting your expectations.

Thank you.