



Christmas Lake resident:

Below is an update about the Christmas Lake efforts to prevent Zebra mussels.

The attached email was sent to Governor Dayton and Commissioner Landwehr today (July 14, 2011). It was also copied to most major media outlets in the Twin Cities, as well as to our local papers. Thanks to Tom Kelly and Judy Budreau (a neighbor who writes for a living) for their editing prowess. I'm sure we will get some press inquiries; I am just not sure how many to expect.

Last night, Steve Gunther of Lake Minnewashta and I spoke to the Carver County Park Commission to ask for them to recommend FOR our request to expand the inspection station at the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park to include up to 2 nearby lakes (Christmas and Lotus) for a 6 week period yet this summer... our pilot project period. They were upset with the DNR and were passionate in the need. Hopefully they will support our request as it goes to the Carver County Board on the 16th of July. You should know that the Carver County Manager who oversees the parks expressed his opinion in a letter saying he is not supportive of our request. This will come up in front of the Carver County Board in any event. The Board will see the staff and Park Board recommendations, but they are free to make their own decision. In the meantime we need to be lobbying the Carver County Board members.

We continue to get stonewalled in Chanhassen in our request to have them take a leadership action for Lotus Lake like Shorewood has taken for Christmas Lake. We were pushing to get the topic on their next City Council meeting agenda in 2 weeks, but that meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of topics.

On Monday, the City of Shorewood approved a motion to provide some interim protection for our lake until such time as they can get the DNR to modify our 1986 agreement. That was on the advice of the City's legal counsel. These interim steps authorizes the City to put up a gate to lock out access to the public access during non-operational hours, to allow our inspectors (we don't have them yet) to inspect boats, and to use all reasonable means, up to turning away boats, to protect the lake from AIS. They invoked some sort of emergency powers language to take these actions as the DNR is shut down and is not protecting our natural resources. This is a huge step.

Rather than have the City put up a separate gate, I am working with them to let us install the gate from our desired solution. That looks like it may be possible. They are checking with the City Attorney. We would not be locking the gate during the day, only during the non-operating hours. But this positions us very well for the time when we can use the "car wash" technology to enter an access code after boats have been inspected... our pilot project.

Late update:

Our pilot project request to the Carver County Board has been formally put on the agenda for the July 26 meeting. We will need some visible support at that meeting! See if it can work in your calendars. More details to follow.

Our request to them is simple... allow the DNR inspection process at the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park to be expanded for up to 2 nearby lakes (Christmas and potentially Lotus).

Finally, there was a good article published by the Chanhassen Villager today about the efforts of the Lake Action Alliance pursuing the prevention of Zebra mussels in Christmas and Lotus Lakes and Lake Minnewashta. You can read the article here, http://www.chanvillager.com/view/full_story/14703507/article-The-muscle-behind-zebra-mussel-prevention.

Joe Shneider, President