

# West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association

## *Executive Board Update: January 11, 2018*

### **Happy New Year:**

*Good health to everyone! Thanks for being a part of "keeping our lake as clean as we can."*

### **Lake Cleanup:**

We have a fishing tournament coming up on West Battle Lake and an article will be in the "Review" to remind fishermen to "pick up after themselves." This also brings up the issue of our clean up again and a cost of \$500 for a local group to do clean up after the fish houses are required to be off the lake. I need a majority vote from this board to proceed. Let me know by telling me, "Yes, go ahead," or "no," don't go ahead. I respectfully recommend we go ahead, but it's a board decision.

**Strategic Planning:** Otter Tail Coalition of Lakes Association: (January 3, 2018). As part of the executive board, we spent the morning at West Central Initiative in Fergus Falls planning our future for the coming year and here are some of the results:

- Work with Mary Franson, Bill Ingebrigtsen and Bud Nornes on the following:
  - Increasing fines for AIS violators by at least triple.
  - Seek more funding for decontamination stations for lakes.
  - Work with lake associations on securing enough people to man the public accesses. The AIS committee has allowed "30" slots for watercraft inspectors, but we always have a hard time finding people to fill the slots-we'll (WBLA) be allotted a number and then we, as an association, will try and find lake monitors. The pay is 14-15 dollars per hour and can be part-time (20 hours) or full time at 40 hours.
  - Attempt to seek more control of our own destiny on lake matters by the lake association as oppose to county government.
  - Seek new ways to engage lake owners to participate.
  - We had a consensus of fear of "just waiting" to have our lakes infested with Starry Stonewort without having any control of boaters going in and out of our lake...such as "Island Time." We felt the need to go straight to our legislators and be more aggressive. It should be noted that I communicate quite often with Mary Franson, Bill Ingebrigtsen, Bud Nornes and Collin Peterson. This time, as a group, we're going to push our ideas through Minnesota COLA and Jeff Forester of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. In an ideal world, each access should have a decontamination station and each boat cleaned both entering and leaving the lake-in an ideal world.
  - COLA is going to do more writing of articles (Jerry) for the Lakes Journal and COLA newsletter.
- Review lake management policies of the DNR to avoid issues like what happened on Lake Koronis in Paynesville...whereby even after the lake was listed as infested with Starry Stonewort, the DNR allowed three tournaments to proceed on the lake...thus increasing the possibility of spreading Starry Stonewort.
- COLA will continue to conduct water quality testing in lakes not in COLA to seek a data base of information to assist the MPCA in their efforts to address lake quality issues. *All my best, Jerry*

