NEWS RELEASE

August 7, 2019
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Crooked Lake Test Treatment Proves Highly Effective

Andover, MN-
After nearly 30 years of infestation and treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), Crooked Lake in Anoka County was found to have just one EWM plant this month after an experimental treatment regime was approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and initiated in 2016. The treatment knocked the EWM back from 60% occurrence in 2016 to less than 1% in 2017. In 2018 only targeted spot-treatments were needed. In 2019 no herbicide treatment is needed since just a single EWM plant was found.

Eurasian watermilfoil is an aggressive non-native aquatic plant that grows into thick floating mats, thereby shading out native plants needed for a healthy lake ecosystem while also hindering recreation. It was brought to Minnesota around 1990. Crooked Lake was one of Minnesota’s first infested lakes.

Recently, scientists have determined that Eurasian watermilfoil can breed with our native Northern watermilfoil producing a hybrid Eurasian watermilfoil that can resist traditional treatment methods, at a high cost to lake associations and local governments. This hybrid species is in Crooked Lake.

The path to this test-treatment took years, spearheaded by the non-profit Crooked Lake Area Association (CLAA). Back in 2011 they hired Freshwater Scientific Services LLC president, James Johnson, to assist with native plant test plots, as suggested by Coon Creek Watershed District in the Crooked Lake comprehensive lake management plan. Johnson then provided lake surveys and treatment planning, becoming the CLAA liaison with the MDNR and guiding the
lake association through the permit variance process. The variance allowed for the 2016 large-scale, low-dose herbicide treatment that had shown success in Michigan.

The CLAA spearheaded funding as well as the project, supported by partners: Coon Creek Watershed District, the cities of Andover and Coon Rapids, and Anoka County through AIS Prevention grants.

This very successful control effort against invasive hybrid Eurasian watermilfoil is a first in Minnesota and highlights the impact of strong partnerships in working towards a common goal.

If interested in more Crooked Lake AIS treatment information go to: www.cooncreekwd.org/crookedlake, or contact Justine Dauphinais, Water Quality Coordinator for Coon Creek Watershed District at jdauphinais@cooncreekwd.org or 763.755.0975.

For more information about Crooked Lake Area Association, www.cooncreekwd.org/claa, or find them on Facebook.

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