

Invasive Species Frequently Asked Questions #3
(posted after July 27th Onekama community meeting)

1. Phragmites australis and eurasian watermilfoil are the 2 non-native very invasive plant species that have been identified and located by gps specific points in and around Portage Lake. Surveys were done in October 2008 and on May 21st 2009. Both of these plants have had significant growth since the October 2008 survey. We have an estimated 150 acres of Phragmites and 155 acres of ewm. We have hired a lake manager who will supervise and direct specific targeted treatment of these plants. Lakeshore Environmental was hired by the Township board to oversee the applicators and all treatments. They will do extensive surveying and monitoring of the quality of our lake.
2. Research shows that if we do an "early identification and rapid response" we can make a significant impact on controlling these invasive non-native plants (Bear Lake as gone from 333 acres of eurasian water milfoil that were treated last year to 11 acres this spring), Beaver Island is a success story about phragmites.
3. If not treated and controlled, both of these plants will have an impact on our environment. They will replace our native plants, they will not support our native insects and wildlife, they are impacting the quality of our lake as monitored by the May 2009 survey and they will be significantly harder and more expensive to control in the future. (See Lakeshore Environmental Inc Management Report of June 2009 which is on file at the Onekama Township Office).
4. Best practice has been determined to be the development of a 5 year management plan and to set up a special assessment district for funding. This has been done by over 100 lakes in Michigan. This was the recommendation of the Invasive Species Committee to the Onekama Township Board and they accepted this recommendation.
5. At Monday night's meeting questions were answered on "what is the problem, what is the recommended solution, is it safe, when do we proposed to startand how much will it cost me!
6. Since Portage Lake was identified by the community during the Small Town Initiative and Master Plan Meetings, as the most important resource in Onekama Township, the proposed assessment district is the entire Onekama Township. The assessment costs have been determined and the information for each parcel is available for review at the Onekama Township Office during regular business hours. The proposed assessment is designed to have most of the costs come from the lakefront owners and the rest from the support of the entire township according to this formula:

Lakefront owners

0.5 units	for lakefront of	0 to 50 feet
1 unit	for lakefront owners	51 to 150 feet
2 units	for lakefront owners	151 to 250 feet

3 units for lakefront owners 251 to 400 feet

4 units for lakefront owners 401 & above

Special properties such as marinas:

See individual parcel numbers

All other parcels in Onekama Township

1/8 unit per parcel

These are the approximate amounts to be assessed according to the way the current district is set up. It is based on the total cost of \$144,909 for the first year.. A unit would be \$207.36:

Lakefront

	1st yr	2nd yr	3-5 year
0.5 units (0-50 feet)	103.68	77.81	51.84
1 unit (51 - 150 feet)	207.36	155.62	103.68
2 units (151 - 250 feet)	414.72	311.04	207.36
3 units (251 - 400 feet)	622.08	466.56	311.04
4 units maximum	829.44	622.08	414.72

Different methods of determining the assessment were used for marinas, condos and some others. These can be found by looking up the parcel number on the master list in the Township office.

All other parcels in the Township - as noted on the parcel master list by having no number are 1/8 unit :

1/8 of \$207.36 = \$25.92 first year

75% of above = \$19.47 2nd year

50% of above = \$12.96 3-5 year

*These are estimated costs for a 5 year period. The money will only be used for the control and management of invasive plant species.