

ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP BOARD
Invasive Species Committee Report
February 1st, 2011

Portage Lake Management Plan 2010 Report received Jan. 5th 2011.

We received by email the Portage Lake Management Report for 2010. The committee met with Jennifer Jones and Mike Solomon from Lakeshore Environmental Inc on January 17th to review the report. Revisions were noted and 6 copies of the revised reports were requested. Copies for Township, Village, Watershed, Library, Herb Lenon and committee copy. The revised report will also be posted on the onekama.info website.

The report contains a summary of the May and October AVAS surveys for **Invasive plant species** and the **Water Quality Monitoring reports** from May, July 25th, and August 29th. **Data from the tributaries and storm drain samples.** There is also an **Executive Summary.** Herb Lenon has not had an opportunity to do a complete review of the data in this report.. Most of the water monitoring data is what was expected.

Portage Lake Annual Progress Report 2010 - Summary:

Eurasian Water Milfoil – 22 acres of milfoil were treated on July 2010 and an additional 62 acres were treated Sept 29th,2010. We will not know the effectiveness of the treatment until the June 2011 survey. The survey will be done later in the season due to the differences in growth of ewm in different parts of the lake. There were some signs of hybridization which may make treatment more difficult this year and in the future. EWM has been identified in the channel. Due to wave action and boats in the channel, parts of these plants break off and wash into the lake. Jennifer Jones has written a letter to Lisa Huberty of the Water Bureau of the DNRE for permission to treat this area. If permission is denied, alternative methods of removing the ewm will be investigated.

Phragmites – About 5 acres were treated around the lake during September , 2010. These treatments were done by hand swiping and back pack spraying. Phragmites was also treated on the Lake Michigan shoreline in Pierport and other areas throughout the township. Less than 10 total acres were treated. The costs of the phragmites treatment around the lake was covered by a DNRE grant.

Five year management plan and budget:

Because of the decrease in the costs of products and the success of the treatments we were under budget again this year. Unless we have some surprises in 2011, the special assessment for years 3, 4 and 5 can probably be eliminated. However, the dollars saved may need to be used in 2011 for alternative more expensive methods of removing the milfoil in the channel. There were increased amounts of milfoil found with the fall survey 2010 compared to the spring survey. Also, we identified a significant amount of hybrid ewm in the fall. Treatment of this ewm will have increased costs because of heavier concentrations of product/acre that are needed to treat. Also, new regulations are requiring applicators to do additional surveys. The costs of these surveys, if required will increase the costs of the ewm treatment in 2011. Other invasives were found when the tributaries were monitored and include purple loosestrife, japanese knotweed, garlic mustard and others.

Spring Newsletter:

Lakeshore Environmental will again provide us with a spring newsletter” and will assist with the education of local riparians on the ongoing management of the lake.

Contracts for 2011 Management and Applicators:

The committee just received LEI's 2011 Management contract on Jan. 17th, 2011. It was reviewed with Jennifer Jones and the committee recommends that the Township sign the new contract. We also recommend signing the contract with Professional Lake Management for treatment of ewm in 2011.

Committee reported to the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Committee on Jan. 18th, 2011

Jennifer provided a summary based on the 2009 and 2010 data.

Township report February 1st, 2011

1. Portage Lake Annual Progress Report
 - Hard copy to be received week of February 1st.
 - summary of data compare 2010 to 2009 report for watershed
 - Invasives
 - Water quality - deep basins
 - Tributaries
 - Storm drains
2. ISC Meeting January 17th, 2011 - Report to the watershed on 1/18/11
 - Minutes attached
3. EWM in the channel
 - significance in spreading ewm
 - letter to Lisa Huberty, Water Bureau, DNRE
 - other methods of eradication if cannot treat with chemicals
4. Storm Drains
 - Grant for monitoring equipment - Al Taylor
 - 7 drains to be monitored in 2011 - new procedure
5. Other invasives around the lake
 - wording on special assessment resolution - 1,2 and 3
 - review wording and may need to check with lawyer
 - cost estimate to treat purple loosestrife, japanese knotweed and others found when doing the sampling of the tribs.
 - get estimates for beetles and chemical treatments
6. Costs for first 2 years of treatment
 - excess amount - collected 250,000, spent 150,000 - excess 100,000
 - ewm hybridization,
 - ewm treatment in the channel
 - other invasives that have been identified
 - possibility of removing the assessment for years 3,4,5.
7. Contracts - management and applicators
 - Lakeshore Environmental Inc, Professional Lake Management, Wetlands and Wildlife Solutions

