

## **Crystal Lake & Watershed Association**

### **Resolution for the Treatment of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Crystal Lake**

At a meeting of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (CLWA) held on this 19th day of June, 2021, the following background and resolution were offered by the Executive Committee and supported by the Board members.

WHEREAS, the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association has:

- Conducted an exhaustive lake-wide aquatic plant survey in Crystal Lake from 2017-2019 with the assistance of an MSU faculty member and with drone assistance that located approximately 6.1 acres of the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM); and
- Re-surveyed the lake again in 2020-2021, locating just over 7 acres of EWM; and
- Tested samples of the EWM to determine whether it had hybridized, which would require more aggressive management efforts; and
- Researched all possible EWM control and management options, finding that there is no method of treatment for removing and controlling the EWM infestation in Crystal Lake (particularly in the Beulah area) in 2021 that would have “no-impact” on the lake; and
- Applied for and obtained a permit from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) under Part 33 Aquatic Nuisance Control of the state’s Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Public Act 451 of 1994) on April 29, 2020 authorizing the application of certain chemical(s) upon the EWM in Crystal Lake to reduce and control the presence of this invasive aquatic plant species; and
- Obtained permission to conduct the permitted treatment from all but four (4) of the more than 200 riparian property owners whose Crystal Lake bottom-lands would be treated (the bottom land of those 4 will not be treated) in accordance with the EGLE permit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Crystal Lake Watershed Association that CLWA intends to treat all EWM-affected areas in Crystal Lake in 2021 under the April 2020 permit granted by EGLE as follows:

1. CLWA will utilize a state-licensed and certified contractor, Clear Water Lake Management, to apply the permitted treatment to the EWM in Crystal Lake, coupled with aerial drone guidance to be conducted by Zero Gravity Aerial.
2. Two separate treatments will be applied to the EWM approximately one month apart, with the specific dates determined by CLWA and its contractor in accordance with the best practices for such treatment taking into account the EWM growth cycle, water temperature, and weather conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CLWA will monitor the EWM population in treated areas throughout the rest of 2021, and will subsequently re-survey Crystal Lake

in the Spring of 2022 to assess the efficacy of the 2021 treatment as well as treatment requirements/options for subsequent treatment of the Crystal Lake EWM infestation. This 2022 re-assessment will utilize the most current scientific principles in determining which treatment method or combination of methods will be used for future EWM control in Crystal Lake, including but not limited to herbicides and/or diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH) and/or newly developed methods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CLWA shall re-assess the Crystal Lake EWM infestation on an annual basis, at least through 2025, and shall selectively utilize the most effective, lowest impact method for ongoing management of the EWM infestation. CLWA will continue to undertake extensive efforts to communicate the EWM problem, treatment options, and the results of such treatment(s) to both impacted riparian property owners and the broader Benzie County community.

This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Yeas	15	
Nays	0	
Abstain	0	
Absent		2