



VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION AND THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE

East Goose Lake Community-Engagement Results



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VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION AND THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE

EAST GOOSE LAKE COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT RESULTS MAY 2021

Summary: The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) and the City of White Bear Lake are working in partnership to determine next steps for management of East Goose Lake. East Goose Lake is impaired for nutrients and has been identified as having a high internal phosphorus load that has accumulated over time and resulted from the lake being used as the receiving waterbody for wastewater in previous decades. Internal cycling of phosphorus stimulates high amounts of algae in the lake and turbid water. VLAWMO and the City recently completed a stakeholder-involvement process. The process consisted of 3 parts: a Zoom neighborhood conversation/meeting with City and VLAWMO representatives and lakeshore owners on East Goose Lake on December 1, 2020; a follow-up, hard-copy survey mailed to lakeshore owners; and a community-wide survey developed by the City, VLAWMO, and the City of White Bear Lake's Environmental Advisory Commission.

The results of each step of the community-engagement process are provided in this document.

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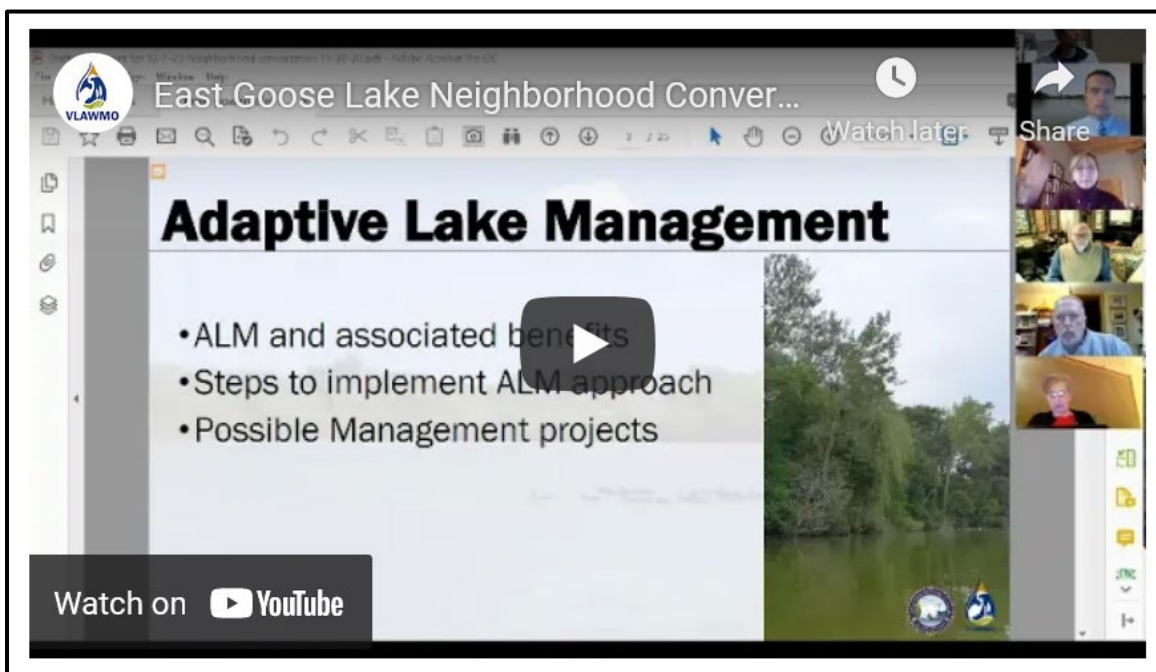
SECTION 1: LAKESHORE OWNER NEIGHBORHOOD CONVERSATION

A LAKESHORE OWNER NEIGHBORHOOD CONVERSATION WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2020, AT 6:30 PM.

Methods: East Goose Lake lakeshore owners were identified using the Ramsey County Property Records database (N = 30). An East Goose Lake Neighborhood Conversation/online meeting was scheduled for December 1, 2020. The meeting was held online due to COVID guidelines from the Minnesota State Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Lakeshore owners were notified in advance through a hard-copy postcard invitation and a follow-up postcard reminder. Lakeshore owners were encouraged to register in advance to attend the online meeting. Registrations were also accepted immediately prior to and during the meeting. The meeting was held at 6:30 pm on December 1, 2020.

Attendees at the meeting included the Mayor, Councilmembers, City of White Bear Lake staff, VLAWMO staff, White Bear Press, and 5 lakeshore owner households.

Image: Screen capture from the December 1 Neighborhood Conversation



Nick Voss, Education and Outreach Coordinator at VLAWMO, took notes during the neighborhood conversation and developed a list of themes that were expressed by lakeshore owners. A video of the full neighborhood conversation is available on the East Goose Lake Web Hub (<https://www.vlawmo.org/projects/east-goose-lake-adaptive-management1/>) or directly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZDxxTBPhCk&t=3s>.

A summary of the themes expressed is provided in this document.

December 1, 2020, Neighborhood Conversation: Themes expressed by lakeshore owners

1) Fish and lake improvement:

- Interest and support expressed for fish management
- Improvement seen after previous bullhead removal
- Expressed observed improvement in lake quality over time

2) Internal loading and alum treatment:

- Interest in alternatives such as lake aeration
- Alum treatment expressed as not a good fit for East Goose
- Concerns regarding chemical application/safety of alum
- Correspondence done with lakeshore residents on other shallow lakes with alum treatments and comparisons made to these lakes (e.g., Kohlman and Half Moon)
- Concerns around alum and aquatic vegetation, interest in controlling vegetation to allow recreational use
- Willingness to discuss vegetation management

3) Subwatershed efforts and projects:

- Interest in seeing monitoring data, evaluating overall effects of Polar Chevrolet improvements and raingardens
- Interest in raingardens and shoreline restorations; confusion exists about cost-share grant applications (previous grants that were not selected for funding)
- Participation in Adopt-a-Drain mentioned

4) Values and relationships:

- Value recreation and family time on and near East Goose Lake
- Hard feelings remain related to past boating restriction consideration
- Desire to rebuild trust
- Appreciation for facilitating dialogue about lake management

5) Questions and clarification:

- Clarification question on internal loading terminology
- What good does improving East Goose Lake do for downstream waterbodies?
- Question related to mailing lists and contacts

SECTION 2: LAKESHORE OWNER HARD-COPY SURVEY

A LAKESHORE OWNER HARD COPY SURVEY WAS MAILED FOLLOWING THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONVERSATION.

Key Points:

- Survey was mailed to 30 lakeshore owners (Ramsey County Property map to ID)
- If no response after 2 weeks, lakeshore owners were contacted by phone or email
- 16 survey responses were received by VLAWMO
- All comments are included in results
- Participants are not identified
 - A participant's number is consistent throughout the survey
 - A single participant's responses can be reviewed among questions without revealing identity

Methods: The same list of 30 lakeshore owners was used as the list used for the neighborhood conversation and were identified using the Ramsey County Property Records database (N = 30). Following the online meeting, a mailing with a hard-copy response form was sent to 30 lakeshore owners. If a response was not received in the mail after 2 weeks, lakeshore owners were contacted by phone or email to encourage return of response forms (N = 15). Sixteen survey responses were received by VLAWMO. Participants are not identified in this survey. A participant's number is consistent throughout the survey, so a single participant's responses can be reviewed among questions without revealing their identity.

Responses to each question in the hard-copy survey were recorded and coded for: support, opposition, mixed, concerns, other comments, and blank for each question. In some cases, participants provided responses that fit into more than one response category. In these instances, comments were divided for possible assignment of multiple codes. Three coders from VLAWMO staff reviewed and assigned codes independently to responses and assigned their best determination of an overall code that best fit the content of the full response. The coders met to decide on overall code assignments for responses. When coders were not in agreement, consensus was reached through discussion on the final overall code assigned. Full responses, considered codes, each coder's overall code, and a final assigned code are included for transparency.

P = Participant

OC = Overall Code that best represents the full content of the response

CC = Considered Codes (when responses were included that fit into more than 1 response category)

Response Categories:

1. Support
2. Opposition
3. Mixed (Contains statements of both support and opposition)
4. Concerns
5. Other comments
6. Blank

East Goose Lakeshore Owner Responses to Possible Management Options:

Question 1: Do you have comments of support or reservations about the proposed 2021 Adaptive Lake Management projects? Refer to slide 11 in attached printout.

Slide 11/25 slides included in attached printout:

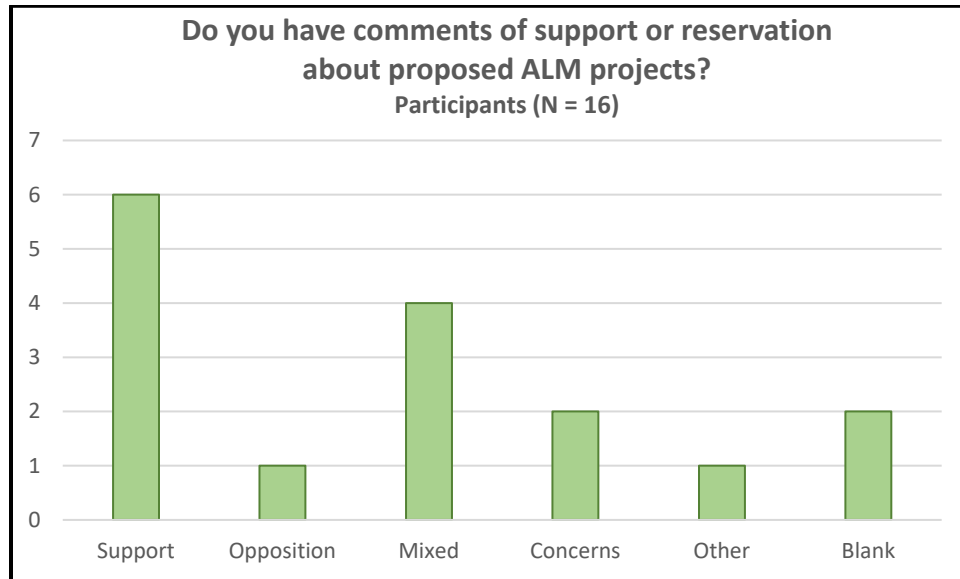


Proposed 2021 Projects

- Fish removal/demonstration
In partnership with the DNR
- Fish stocking demonstration /research
As recommended by DNR /VLAWMO purchased
- ALM development and stakeholder engagement
Media use/COVID adapted



Summary graph from Q1:



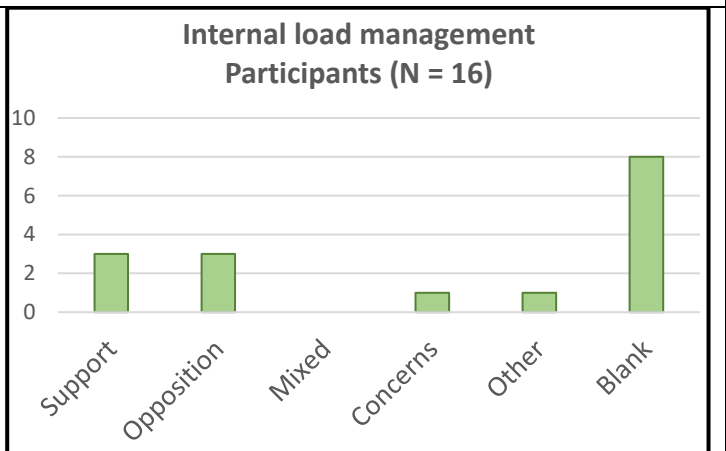
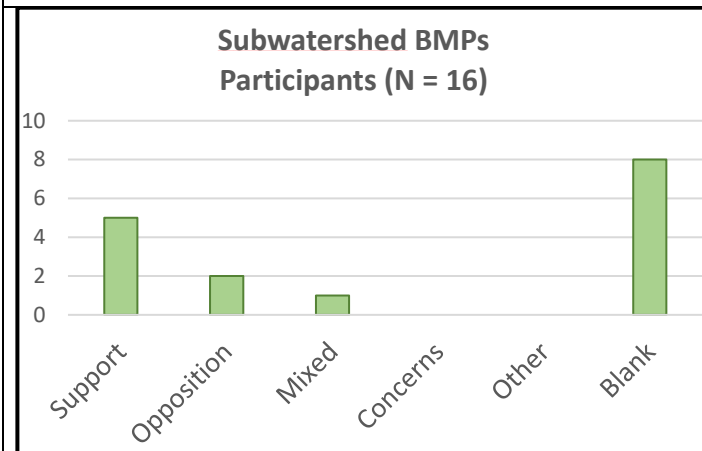
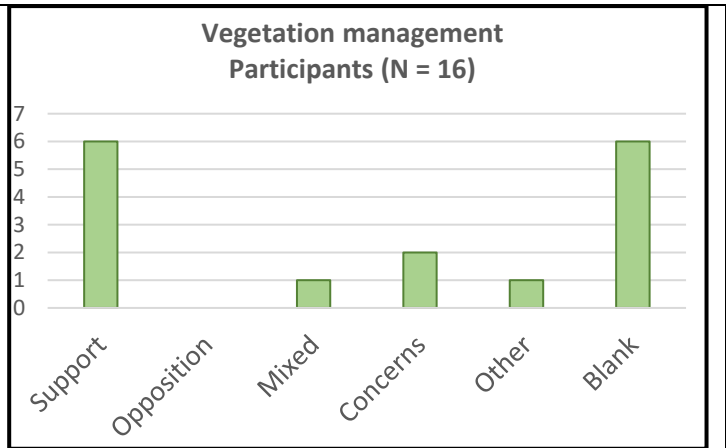
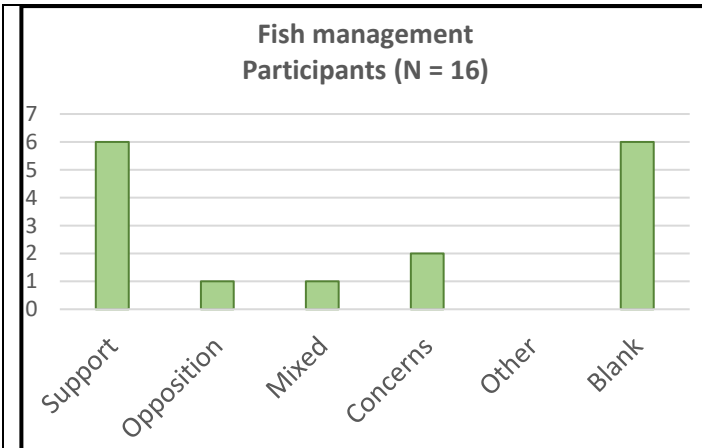
Full Suite of Responses Received to Q1 and Coding Assignments by VLAWMO Staff:

P	OC	Phil	P-CC	Dawn	D-CC	Nick	N-CC	Response
1	1	1	5	1	5	1	5	I have read you're form and plan to clean up East Goose Lake - I have about 800' of shoreline on south East corner of East Goose Lake. I have wood ducks - mallards - cranes - mink - fox and raccoons. I put out a 32' dock abut have not noticed any usual lake aquatic weeds like lily pads, bull rushes, cattails, or cabbage weeds. I see snapping turtles but rarely a painted turtle.
			1		1		1	Yes I am heavily in favor of cleaning up lake and making it a class "A" body of water. Please clean this lake up! The water ski people already have West Goose for their skiing, us other shoreline owners deserve a nice clean lake to enjoy.
							5	
2	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	I think that first correction should be lake levels. Stop adding warm water to East Goose Lake. Lake levels have to be higher in East Goose Lake first before anything else. Until that is done other steps will not be effective.
			4		4		4	Is the lake deep enough for game fish? If we have heavy snow wouldn't we have winter kill?
3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	In general, we are in favor of all steps proposed with the exception of the alum treatment that seems to create huge weed problems, etc.
			5		5		5	I would encourage you to provide more info and alternatives before moving forward on that step. You could mail the info + host more zoom meetings to educate us further.

4	3	3	3	3	2/3	3	1	Overall, we're very supportive of efforts to clean up the lake + improve water quality in E. Goose Lake. Full recreational use of the lake is also very important, and based on discussions we've had + feedback from residents on Kohlman Lake Alum does not seem to be a good fit for East Goose.
			5				2	
					5		5	
5	4	4	3	4	1	5	1	We support fish removal and healthy fish stocking. We support neighborhood involvement and specifically "stakeholders."
			4				5	
			4		4		5	We are confused when there is discussion about "community wide" participation on what is done on East Goose Lake... we have never been invited to participate and give input on treatments and plans for White Bear Lake or Bald Eagle.... We pay the taxes on Goose Lake, we are the true Stakeholders, this is our property, we know the lake best, we see the lake everyday, and some of us have been on this lake 20 plus years....
			4		4		5	We would like a true partnership with VLAWMO and that means concentration on the stakeholders involved not opening it up to "community wide" conversation... I guess doing that takes away from the notion of "hey we want to work together with the neighborhood of Goose Lake with the stakeholders of the lake" we are really hoping to rebuild the relationship with VLAWMO.
			4		4		5	I see the draft in search/application for consulting firms for ALM. This was not discussed at the neighborhood meeting. What consulting firms are being considered?
6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	We have lived here for 32 years - lake seems to be the same - we would like to see it cleaned up.
7	5	5	5	5	5	1	1	A most important issue, it seems to me, is ENFORCEMENT of regulations for TMDL.
			5		5		5	How can this pressure be increased on Water Gremlin and the many other plants across the state who use TCE. They all need to be held to account!! A different chemical, tDCE, has been employed in their process without adequate research for safety is my understanding. How can this be allowed?
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I would like to see us do as much as possible including fish stocking/management, vegetation management, and reducing the internal load. If we need to limit use of the lake for a temporary period for the good of the long-term, we should.
			1				5	
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Our household at [Address] fully support the efforts by VLAWMO to clean up the East end of Goose Lake. The plan appears to be well thought-out and comprehensive to us non-professionals in this endeavor. We encourage your efforts!
10	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	Supportive!*Assuming boating rights aren't restricted.

11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I don't have specific answers to each of the survey questions, but I am in favor of what is being done, glad to see that there are plans to clean up Goose Lake, recognize it is a long process.	
12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	We have lived here for 30-some years. Lake has always been cloudy - would like to see it cleaned up if possible.	
13	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	Support fish management, vegetation management, subwatershed management best practices, and continued boating.	
			2		2			2	Do not support alum treatment. (This response was also added to Question 2D regarding alum because the participant expressed opposition here but left their response blank in Q2D.)
14	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank	
15	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Listed below.	
16	3	3	3	5	2/3	3	3	I would love to have a crystal-clear Goose Lake, full of game fish, visually appealing and safe for recreation, but in reality, cleaner water allows the proliferation of aquatic vegetation. Priebe Lake for example.	
			5		5			5	I had been the local lake monitor for East Goose Lake for over ten years in the nineties and early 2000 (got the shirt) and discontinued volunteering because there was nothing being done and the data I was collecting hadn't changed at all over that time. I saw no need to continue because it was obviously not going to improve simply by knowing it was polluted.
			5		5			5	I once asked a city official if the city had plans to do anything to clean up Goose Lake because "It's the first body of water people see when coming into White Bear and it's not pretty" and was told they had put up a sign, "GOOSE LAKE".

Question 2A-D: This multi-part question asked about each of 4 possible management categories: fish management, vegetation management, subwatershed BMPs, and internal load management. Each question and detailed responses follow next in this document. On this page, summary graphs for the 4 categories are provided for easy comparison. The graphs are shown again with each subquestion.




Question 2A: When considering Fish Management projects, do you have comments of support or reservations? Refer to slide 12 in the attached printout.

Slide 12/25 slides included in attached printout:




Steps 2 - 4: Possible ALM actions

Fish Management

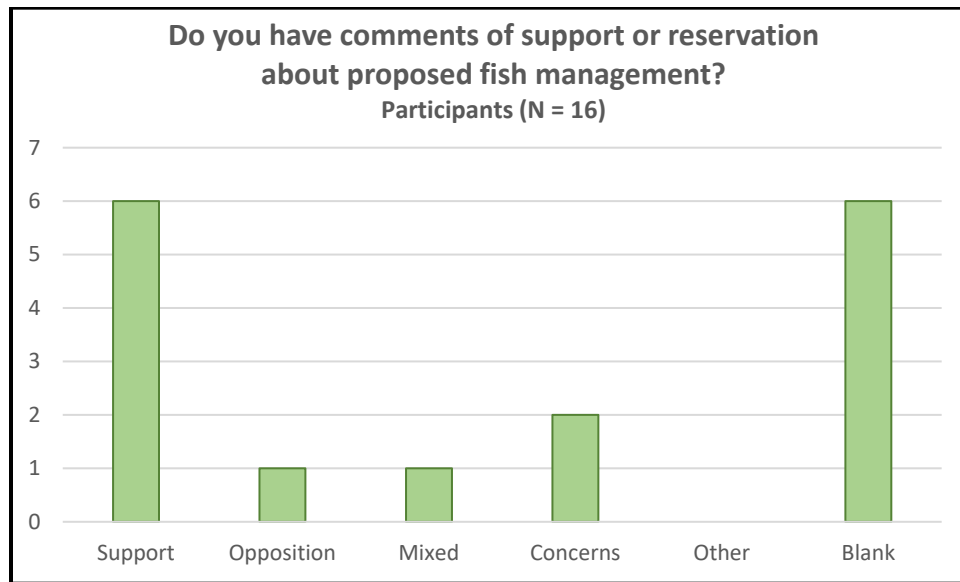


Possible fish management projects may include:

- Bullhead removal and monitoring
- Predator fish stocking
(diversity, game fish)
- Aeration demonstration
(winter oxygen levels)



Summary graph from Q2A:



Full Suite of Responses Received to Q2A and Coding Assignments by VLAWMO Staff:



P	OC	Phil	P-CC	Dawn	D-CC	Nick	N-CC	Response
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I am heavily in favor of stocking with fish and a nice fishing pier for kids to fish.
2	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	I think fish management should follow improved water quality and repairing correct drainage between West Goose Lake.
			4		5		4	I'm certainly not an expert but I am observant and I've lived here since 1969. I've seen the lake with arrow leaf and bull rushes which showed an improvement.
			4		5		4	Years ago we measured the depths around and East Goose Lake the lake and it was about 10 feet at the deepest spots.
3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Very supportive of the proposed fish management projects.
5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	We support fish management.
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Fully support.
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	The fish management looks like a good approach to the problem. No suggestions for improvement.
10	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	Fully supportive. *Assuming boating rights aren't restricted.
11	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank

12	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
13	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I agree with this. Especially getting rid of the bullheads. This is when I saw the biggest improvement.
15	2	2	4	2	4	2	5	Lake is shallow.
			2		4		5	No boat access, which is good.
			2		2		2	Doesn't seem like necessary spending.
16	4	4	1	4	1	1	1	It would be great to have game fish in East Goose.
			4		4		4	My main concern would be how access to the fishery would be provided. I don't want to have boat trailers and trucks parked along Highland Avenue because the only access is at the end of Highland next to our townhomes.
			4		4		5	Also, something would have to be done about the brush (especially the buckthorn) along the north and east side of the lake to provide for fishing from shore.
			4		4		4	Being very shallow (I think six feet at max) aeration would have to be provided to prevent winter kill. Aeration could easily be provided along publicly owned shoreline.
			4		4		5	Providing access to fishing boats would be more difficult because of the proximity of roadways to the lake.

Question 2B: When considering Vegetation Management projects, do you have comments of support or reservations? Refer to slide 13 in the attached printout.

Slide 13/25 slides included in attached printout:



Steps 2 - 4: Possible ALM actions



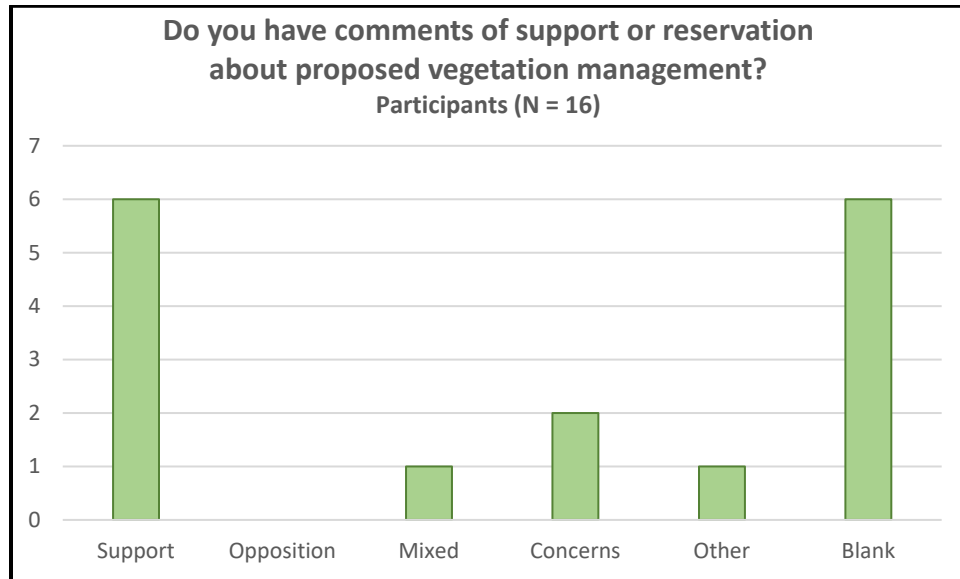
Vegetation Management

Possible vegetation management projects may include:

- Treating invasive species (curly-leaf pondweed)
- Veg management for recreation



Summary graph from Q2B:



Full Suite of Responses Received to Q2B and Coding Assignments by VLAWMO Staff:

P	OC	Phil	P-CC	Dawn	D-CC	Nick	N-CC	Response
1	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Until sunlight penetrates the water, plants won't survive. Natural drainage has to be established.
			5		5		5	If the water from Kohler's could be put into East Goose Lake it might help the lake clean itself.
3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Very supportive of vegetation management projects.
5	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	Yes we agree with the vegetation plans - and YES we want to keep East Goose Lake recreational!
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Most effective method for long term results regardless of temporary effects.
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Fully support, please move forward!
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	We support the Vegetation Management plan as shown on slide #13.
10	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	Fully supportive. *Assuming boating rights aren't restricted.
11	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
12	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
13	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank

14	4	2	2	4	4	3	3	Minimum amounts/ maybe shoreline or.... Keep weeds under control. I would be worried about choking out the lake with weed overgrowth. Because it is such a shallow lake.
15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Support, lake gets very green in summer.
16	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	At present I don't feel there is a need for vegetation management but, if the waters were to be cleaner, then, a plan would have to be in place to prevent the sort of problem that is occurring Priebe Lake.


Question 2C: When considering Subwatershed Best Management Practices, do you have comments of support or reservations? Refer to slide 14 in the attached printout.

Slide 14/25 slides included in attached printout:

Steps 2 - 4: Possible ALM actions



Possible Subwatershed Best Management Practices (BMP's) may include:

- Underground filtration basins
- Raingardens, bio-swales
- Cost-share program
- Adopt-a-Drain (adopt-a-drain.org)

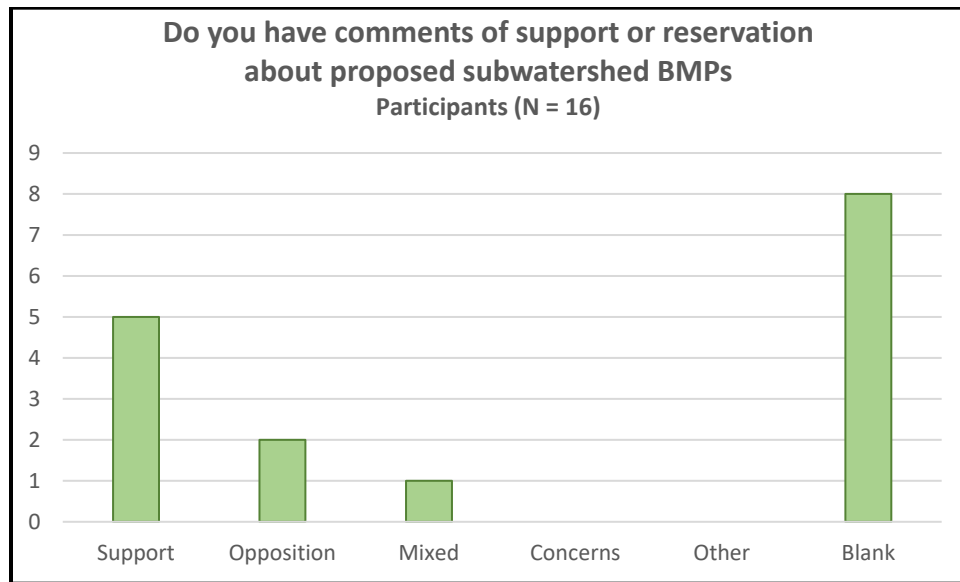


County Road F curb-cut raingardens

Subwatershed BMPs



Summary graph from Q2C:



Full Suite of Responses Received to Q2C and Coding Assignments by VLAWMO Staff:


P	OC	Phil	P-CC	Dawn	D-CC	Nick	N-CC	Response
1	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Very supportive + currently participate in Adopt-a-Drain. I would like to learn more about raingardens + other options.
5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	We support raingardens and adopt a drain (we currently clean 3 drains on Rishworth Lane)
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Fully support, please move forward!
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Looks good!
10	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	Fully supportive. *Assuming boating rights aren't restricted.
11	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
12	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
13	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
14	1	1	5	1	5	1	4	Water run-off is a huge problem here. After a rainfall the lake has a green film over the water surface. Teach people about non-phosphorus fertilizer (and Polar Chev!!)

			1		1		1	I like adopt a drain/ keep things clean or maybe some kind of system to filter water run-off.
15	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	Lake already has significant storm sewer runoff entering. Unless that is reduced, the items listed will have little impact.
16	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	These practices would be a great start with minimal expense but, unfortunately also minimal immediate effect.

Question 2D: When considering Internal Load Management projects, do you have comments of support or reservations? Refer to slide 15 in the attached printout.

Slide 15/25 slides included in attached printout:


Steps 2 - 4: Possible ALM actions




Possible Internal Load Management Projects may include:

- Alum treatment
- 1 or 2 treatments
- Lake monitoring: sediment, water quality

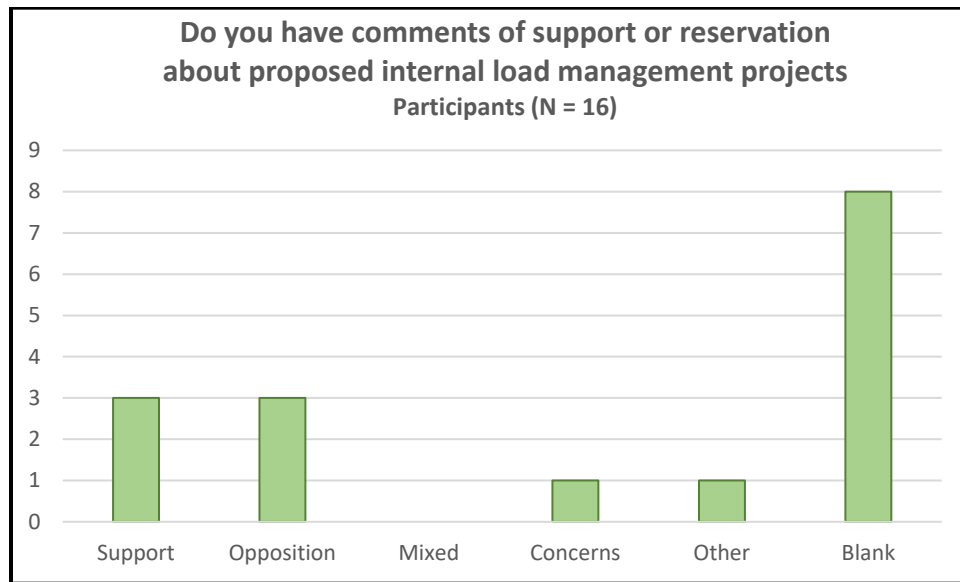
Studies have identified internal load as the largest pollutant contributor



Internal load management



Summary graph from Q2D:



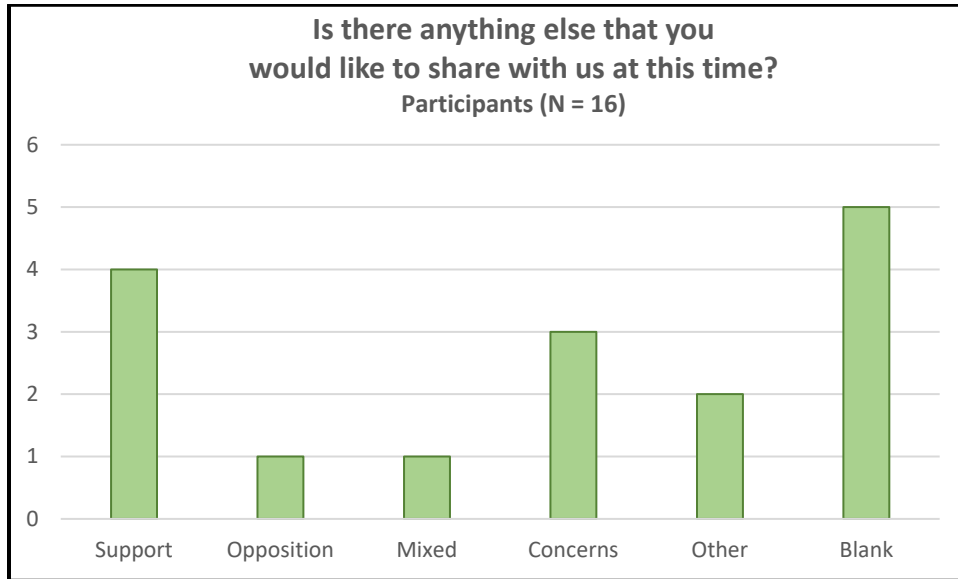
Full Suite of Responses Received to Q2D and Coding Assignments by VLAWMO Staff:

P	OC	Phil	P-CC	Dawn	D-CC	Nick	N-CC	Response
1	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Definitely need more info and alternatives. Information, pictures, and feedback from residents living on other lakes and ponds where this treatment has been done would be imperative.
4	2	2	2	2	4	2	4	Significant concerns related to Alum Treatment.
			2		2		4	Based on results in other lakes (Particularly Kohlman), Alum will likely result in a loss of visual appeal, floating bogs that smell, _ the loss of recreational use of the lake. All of the above will impact property values, + take away the primary reasons we purchased our home.
5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	We are not in support of Alum treatment.
			2		2		2	Due to the issues with VLAWMO in 2019 we (as Goose Lake resident community) did a ton of research regarding Alum and have talked to experts, scientists, and lakeshore owners who have been through the alum treatment process... this is not the right fit for a shallow lake.
			2		2		4	They do not use alum treatment on Bald Eagle in the shallows because "it does not work in the shallows". It also would turn the lake into a swamp land (see Kohlmann in Maplewood).

			2		5		5	See above... not sure if VLAWMO has the Goose Lake residents power point and resources from 2019 WBL city council meeting but happy to supply with additional information.
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I support fully even if we need to shut down lake.
			1		1		5	Perhaps city can allow residents with boats to put boat @ dock in White Bear Lake.
			1		1		1	We need to do this for the good of the long term of Goose Lake.
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	We support the Alum approach, which is why we supported putting the ramp in next to our property.
10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Indifferent. We just don't want boating restrictions.
11	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
12	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
13	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Blank; From Q1, this comment was added because it is relevant to this question but was stated elsewhere in the survey. "Do not support alum treatment."
14	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Support
16	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	Blank

Question 3: Is there anything else that you would like to share with us at this time?

Summary graph from Q3:



Full Suite of Responses Received to Q2D and Coding Assignments by VLAWMO Staff:

P	OC	Phil	P-CC	Dawn	D-CC	Nick	N-CC	Response
1	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
2	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	In nature's plan E Goose Lake should be getting extra water, not West Goose Lake. Natural circulation should eventually clean the lakes. It did years ago before Kohler's.
3	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	I am glad to finally be included in this discussion.
			4		4			As I stated in a letter to the editor in the early part of 2020, we had not received any notification of meetings or info, nor were we aware of any Goose Lake Homeowner's Association who seemed to be speaking on behalf of all the residents on the lake.
			1		1			We have lived on the lake for 25 years and have enjoyed its beauty. We look forward to its improved health.
4	3	3	1	3	1	3	1	Again, we're very supportive of efforts to clean up the lake, and we are interested in learning more about how we can help with best management practices.
			2		2/3		3	We're very supportive of fish management + vegetation management, do not believe Alum is the right solution.
5	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	Again, we are hoping to re-build the relationship. We want to work together in a <u>true</u> partnership where our opinion matters and is fully considered... particularly honoring that this is a <u>recreational</u> lake for families to enjoy.

			4				5	And the fact is that this lake has been improving! improving greatly with recreational use ~
6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Hope there is some solution to getting the water, lake, cleaner-
7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
8	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Nothing - we appreciate your efforts in reaching out to stakeholders in the efforts in cleaning up Goose Lake.
10	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	Thank you for partnering with homeowners on the lake. We live here so that we can enjoy the lake!!
11	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
12	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Just to say that we mailed the letter awhile ago.
13	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Blank
14	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Only concern would be shutting down boat usage and weed overgrowth. My friend on Bald Eagle said ALM treatment produced abundance of weeds.
15	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Looks like a lot of dollars for a small lake.
16	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	I had not received any notification of any of the meetings until [Name], sent an email last week. Hope you'll consider my comments even though I did not meet the deadline. Thank you, [Name]

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

A COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED ONLINE (JANUARY 26, 2021-MARCH 31, 2021).

Key Points:

- Survey was:
 - Developed by VLAWMO, City of WBL staff, with input from the City of White Bear Lake's Environmental Advisory Commission
 - Administered through Survey Monkey
 - Promoted through: VLAWMO and City social media platforms, published multiple times including a final reminder notice in the White Bear Press, direct postcard mailings to East Goose lakeshore owners
 - Consisted of 9 questions
 - Focused on basic demographics, use, concerns, and hopes for future condition of East Goose Lake
 - Completed by 101 participants: Including East Goose Lake homeowners, people living in WBL and surrounding areas, business owner/representatives, and others
 - Output for all 9 questions is posted on the East Goose Lake Web Hub and provided in this document

Methods: A survey was developed by VLAWMO and City of White Bear Lake staff with input from the City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission and administered through Survey Monkey. The survey was open January 26, 2021 through March 31, 2021 and promoted through the VLAWMO and City of White Bear Lake social media platforms, and published multiple times including a final reminder notice in the White Bear Press. The survey was also promoted through direct postcard mailings to East Goose lakeshore owners.

The survey consisted of 9 questions. Questions were focused on basic demographics, use, concerns, and hopes for the future condition of East Goose Lake. Questions were constructed to help provide information to the White Bear Lake City Council and VLAWMO Board regarding community desires and support for management actions identified to improve water quality in East Goose Lake, which is impaired for nutrients. The survey was completed by 101 participants and included East Goose Lake homeowners, people living in White Bear Lake and surrounding areas, business owner/representatives, and others (detailed completely in Question #1).

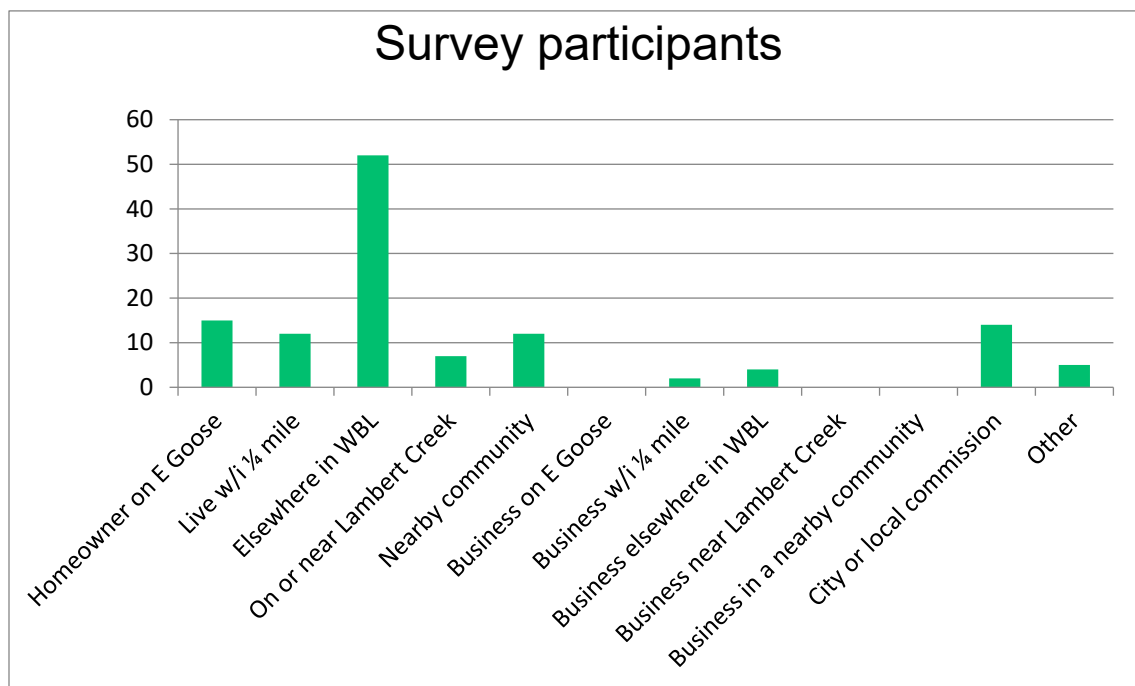
Survey responses will be used along with responses received from a separate lakeshore owner hard-copy form and statements expressed by participants during an online East Goose lakeshore owner meeting that was held on December 1, 2020.

Note in the question summaries below, the labels on the x-axis of the graphs are shortened to allow full display. The complete response is included in the summary above each graph.

Question 1:

Select the descriptions that apply to you. (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
I am a homeowner on East Goose Lake	15%	15
I live within ¼ mile of East Goose Lake	12%	12
I live elsewhere in the City of White Bear Lake	51%	52
I live on or near Lambert Creek	7%	7
I live in a nearby community	12%	12
I am an owner/representative of a business on East Goose Lake	0%	0
I am an owner/representative of a business within 1/4 mile of East Goose Lake	2%	2
I am an owner/representative of a business elsewhere in the City of White Bear Lake	4%	4
I am an owner/representative of a business near Lambert Creek	0%	0
I am an owner/representative of a business in a nearby community	0%	0
I serve on a city or other local commission	14%	14
Other (please describe)	5%	5
Answered		101
Skipped		0



Comments provided:

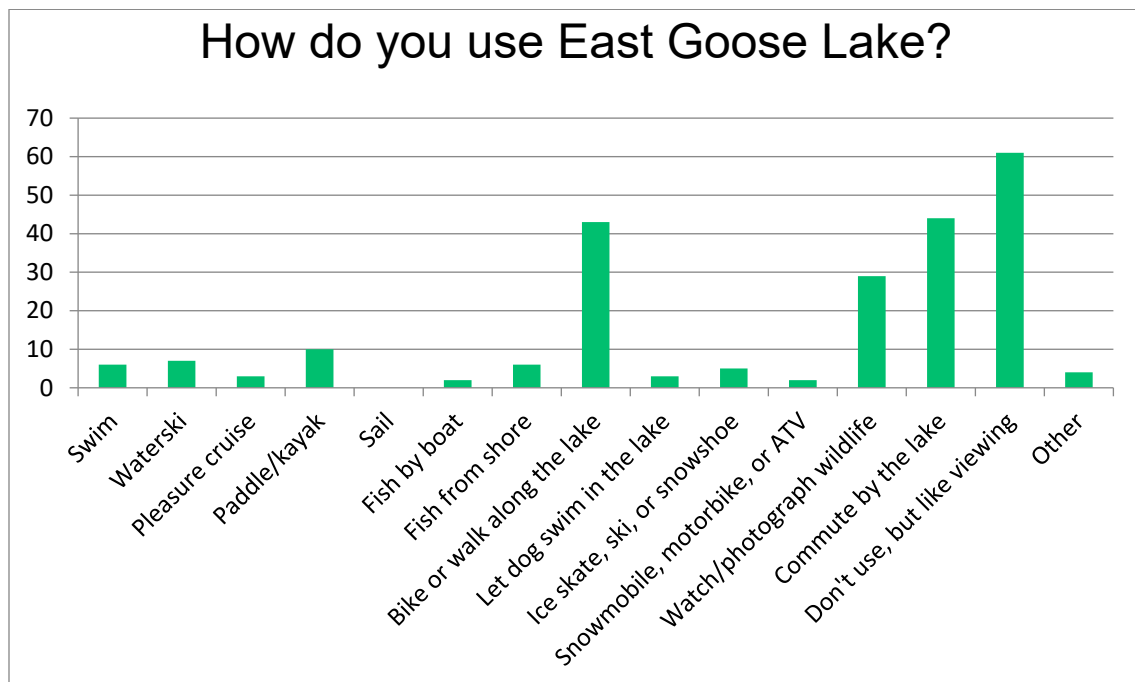
- We are a Church in the area
- Live about 1 mile from East Goose Lake. I'm a life long resident,
- I live 1/2 mile from Goose Lake in WBL.
- Elected official

- We live in White Bear Township
- 1 mile east of East Goose Lake

Question 2:

How do you use East Goose Lake? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
I swim from shore or a boat	6.00%	6
I waterski	7.00%	7
I pleasure cruise by motorboat	3.00%	3
I paddle/kayak	10.00%	10
I sail	0.00%	0
I fish by boat	2.00%	2
I fish from shore	6.00%	6
I bike or walk along the lake	43.00%	43
I let my dog swim in the lake	3.00%	3
I ice skate, ski, or snowshoe on the lake	5.00%	5
I snowmobile, motorbike, or ATV on the lake	2.00%	2
I watch and/or photograph wildlife	29.00%	29
I commute by the lake for travel or for work	44.00%	44
I don't use the lake directly, but I like looking at it	61.00%	61
Other (please describe)	4.00%	4
	Answered	100
	Skipped	1



Comments provided:

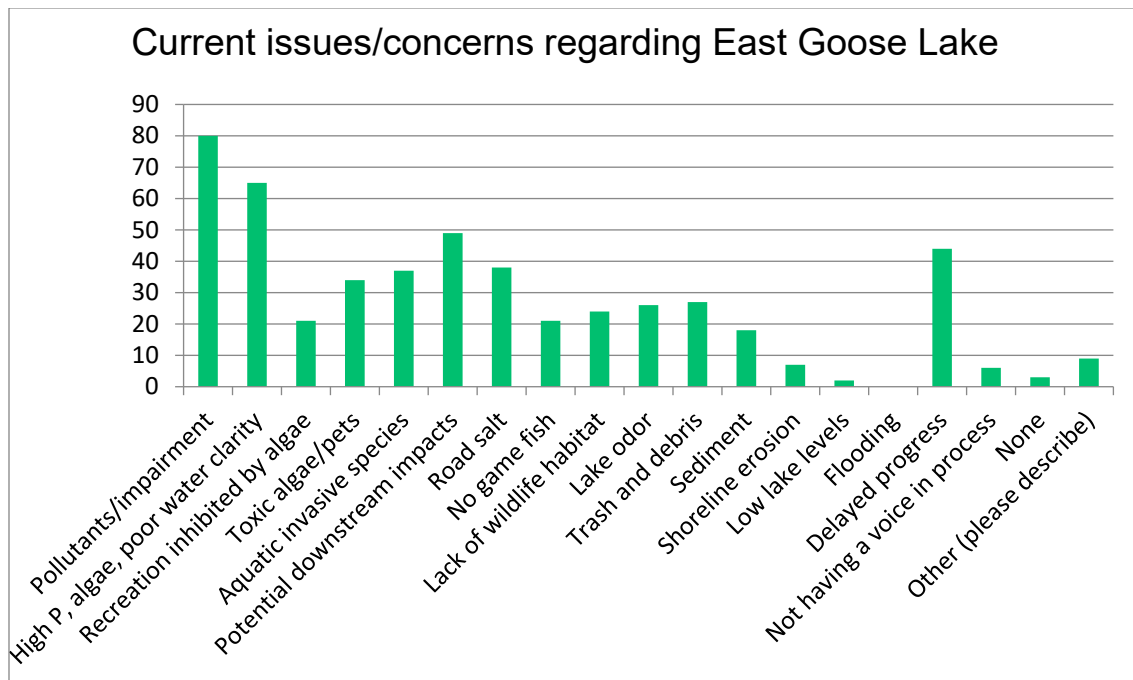
- While jogging or biking, I almost always stop at Lakeview Park to sit and look at East Goose Lake. It provides me with good mental health and stress reduction.

- We daydream about stopping Saputo Food's once thru cooling system waste of ground water at 4041 Hwy 61, White Bear Lake. The water they just dump into West Goose Lake that then eventually finds it's way to the Mississippi. Diverting it into East Goose Lake and drawing water back, cleaning it, and using it in their once through cooling system instead of wasting ground water.
- expect to use the lake in some way in the future
- I'd like to be able to portage to/from and cross east goose lake on my way to white bear lake in my solo canoe for exercise.

Question 3:

What current issues or concerns do you have regarding East Goose Lake? (select your top 6 current issues or concerns that you feel are of highest priority)

Answer Choices	Responses	
High levels of pollutants, resulting in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency designating it as an impaired lake	80.00%	80
Excessive phosphorous causing algae blooms and poor water clarity	65.00%	65
Recreation inhibited by algae growth	21.00%	21
Toxic algae potentially endangering pets	34.00%	34
Presence of aquatic invasive species such as curly- leaf pondweed	37.00%	37
Potential impact on downstream waterbodies	49.00%	49
Road salt washing into the lake	38.00%	38
Absence of game fish	21.00%	21
Lack of wildlife habitat	24.00%	24
Odors from the lake	26.00%	26
Trash and debris in the lake or on the shore	27.00%	27
Sediment building up from stormdrain outfalls	18.00%	18
Shoreline erosion	7.00%	7
Low lake levels	2.00%	2
Flooding	0.00%	0
Delayed progress towards achieving a healthier lake	44.00%	44
Not having a voice in the process of lake management	6.00%	6
None	3.00%	3
Other (please describe)	9.00%	9
	Answered	100
	Skipped	1



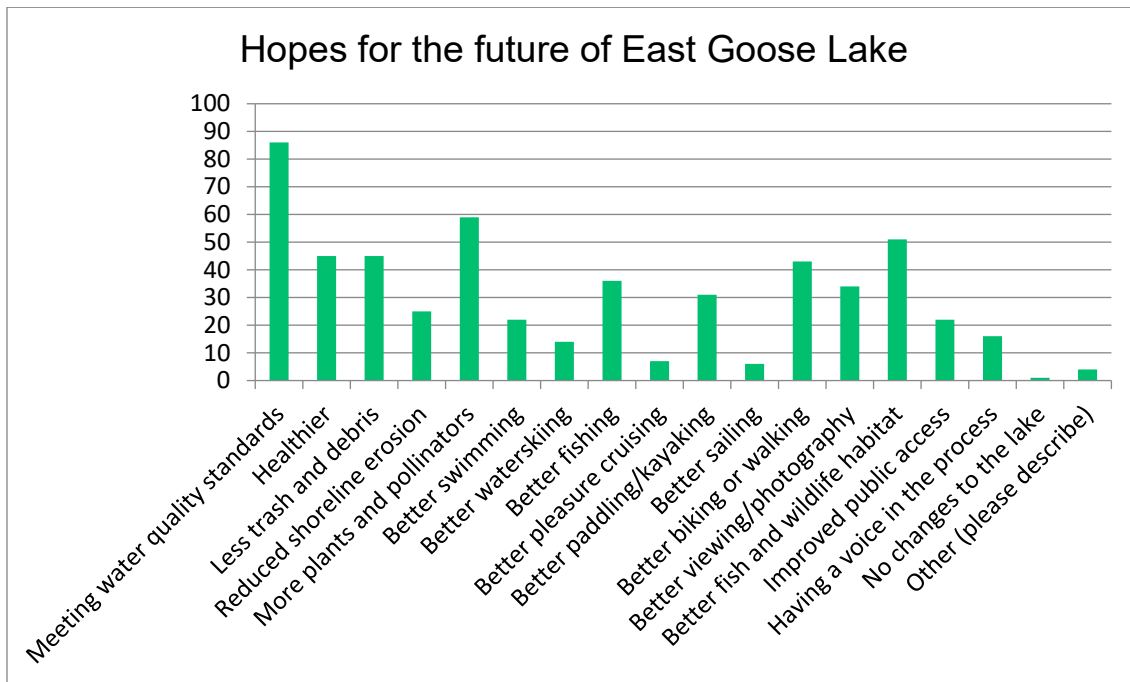
Comments provided:

- I appreciate the efforts VLAWMO is now going thru to get neighborhood feedback. This was not always the case.
- I worry that our input will be read, but not listened to in the end.
- I remember growing up when Goose Lake had visible sewage floating in the water along with a strong stench. I would not want to see the lake going back to that level of pollution.
- I worry for the aquatic life that is damaged by pollutants including from road runoff and atmospheric deposition. I'm saddened to see turtles and other wildlife that try to cross the road between the two Goose Lakes and are usually killed by cars. I also worry that having that car dealership right at the edge is negatively impacting the lake.
- Some of the topics are worded VERY poorly and very "leading" - I am sensing bias in this survey which is very unfortunate and feels like there's a hidden agenda behind it.
- Those that know the lake know that it has been improving. Biggest concern (honestly) has been VLAWMO not working in partnership with the property owners of East Goose Lake and attempting to restrict recreation but we hope things have changed! last major algae bloom was approximately 2013. this survey question reads as if trying to scare people... all the pets in the neighborhood are alive and well ~
- would like to have easier access to the lake from my property
- Concerned about lake management strategies that inhibit the use and aesthetic appeal of the lake. Odors, floating bogs, etc. as seen in Kohlman Lake in Maplewood.
- We support initiatives to clean up the lake as long as we can still boat on the lake. Our only concern is having our boating privileges revoked.
- More education on what is impacting the lake health.

Question 4:

What are your hopes for the future of East Goose Lake? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
A lake that meets State water quality standards and is no longer on the list of impaired lakes	85.15%	86
A healthier lake, even if it does not meet standards	44.55%	45
Less trash and debris in the lake and on the shore	44.55%	45
Reduced shoreline erosion	24.75%	25
More native plants and pollinators	58.42%	59
Improved swimming	21.78%	22
Improved waterskiing	13.86%	14
Improved fishing	35.64%	36
Improved pleasure cruising by motorboat	6.93%	7
Improved paddling/kayaking	30.69%	31
Improved sailing	5.94%	6
Improved biking or walking along the lake	42.57%	43
Improved wildlife watching/photography	33.66%	34
Improved fish and wildlife habitat	50.50%	51
Improved public access	21.78%	22
Having a voice in the process of lake management	15.84%	16
No changes to the lake	0.99%	1
Other (please describe)	3.96%	4
	Answered	101
	Skipped	0



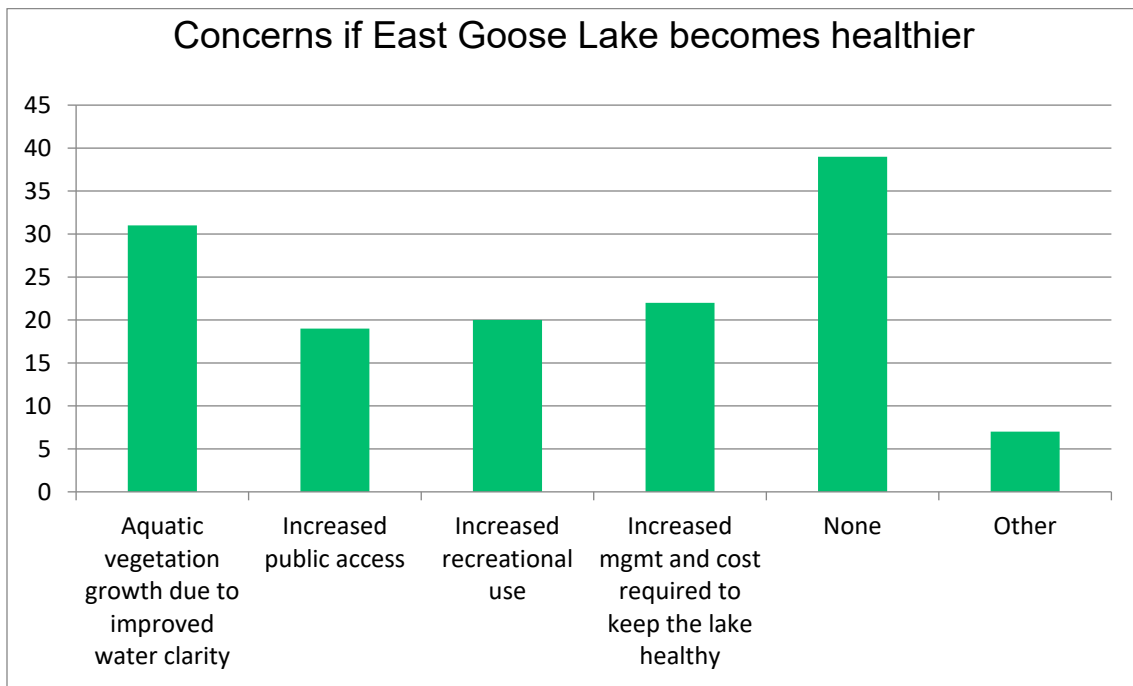
Comments provided:

- Absolutely NOT any public access!!
- Critter crossings between the two lakes is WAY overdue! I like the idea of biking, walking and some fishing in the lake, but I don't think that people should be on the lake in motorized craft. All shoreline - all the way around the lake - is BUFFERED by vegetation (not car dealerships).
- this is a strange question - "improved water skiing" water skiing is important to us as a family and not sure what you mean by "improve" -- The people living on East Goose Lake want a healthy lake (of course) we want to continue recreation: (that's why we bought the property and continue to invest) skiing, boating, paddle boards, kayaking, etc. yes we need to have a voice in the lake management.
- Contaminated water would be replaced with clean ground water from Saputo Food once through cooling system. Contaminated water would be cycled through a cleaner and used by Saputo Food, then returned to the lake.

Question 5:

What are your concerns for the future of East Goose Lake if it becomes healthier? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Aquatic vegetation growth due to improved water clarity	31.31%	31
Increased public access	19.19%	19
Increased recreational use of the lake	20.20%	20
Increased management effort and cost required to keep the lake healthy	22.22%	22
None	39.39%	39
Other (please describe)	7.07%	7
Answered		99
Skipped		2



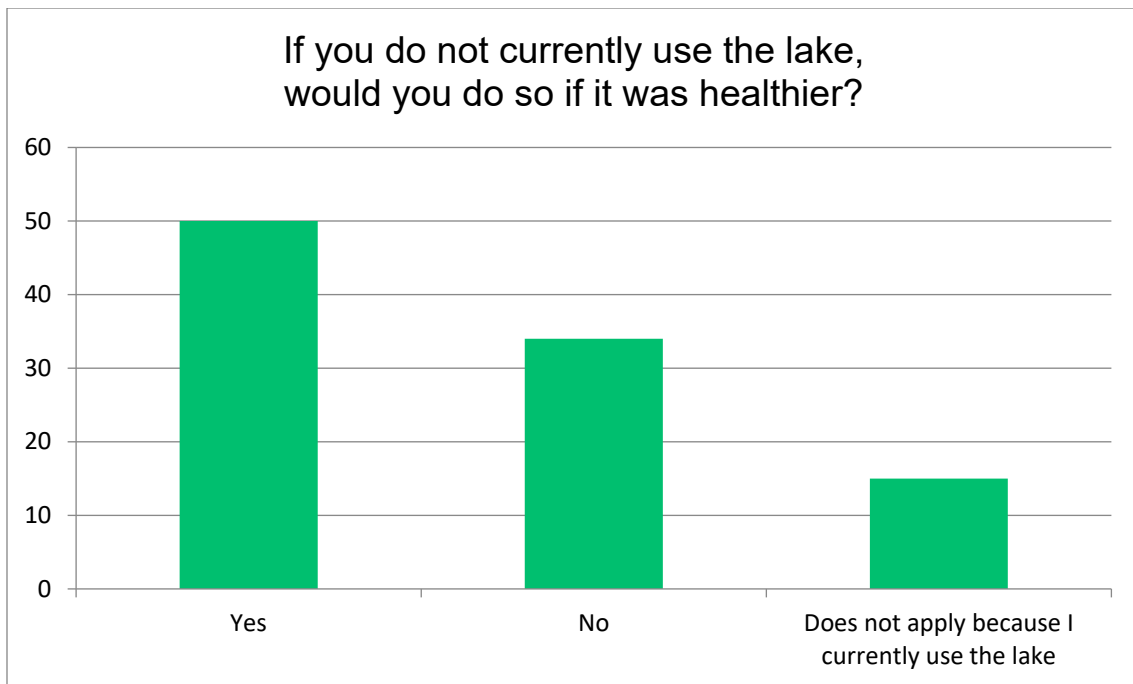
Comments provided:

- I repeat, our biggest fear is to allow public access! No, No, NO!
- Increased management will be needed due to motorized lake craft, road runoff, and the car dealership next to it.
- As property owners of East Goose Lake we want the lake healthy. if the vegetation becomes an issue we need a plan. we don't have a problem sharing the lake - we love to promote water sports !!! costs need to be considered of course.
- Wake boats should not be allowed on East Goose Lake.
- My concerns are that this is a public body of water and that all should be able to use and enjoy a healthy lake.
- Concerned about lake management strategies that inhibit the use and aesthetic appeal of the lake. Odors, floating bogs, etc. as seen in Kohlman Lake in Maplewood.

Question 6:

If you do not currently use the lake, would you do so if it was healthier?

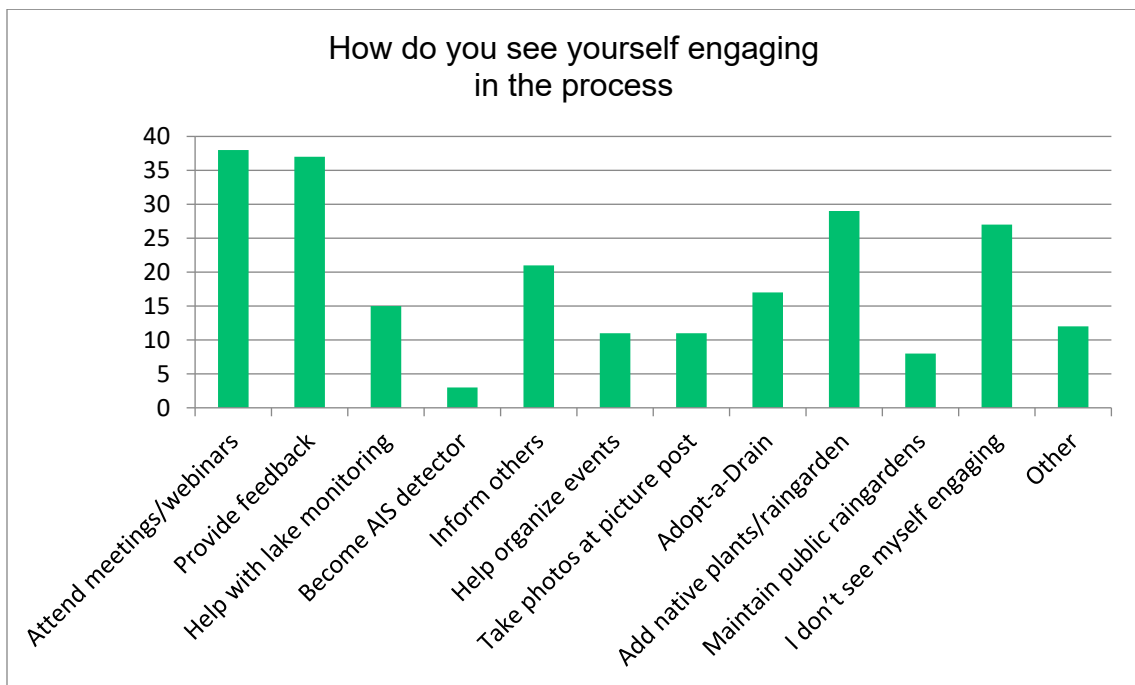
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	50.51%	50
No	34.34%	34
Does not apply because I currently use the lake	15.15%	15
Answered		99
Skipped		2



Question 7:

How do you see yourself engaging in the process to help achieve a healthier East Goose Lake? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Attending meetings and webinars focused on East Goose Lake	38.78%	38
Providing feedback in a variety of venues (staff contact, meetings, etc.)	37.76%	37
Conducting citizen science lake monitoring	15.31%	15
Becoming an aquatic invasive species (AIS) detector on East Goose Lake	3.06%	3
Informing residents about the condition of the lake	21.43%	21
Volunteering to help organize events to improve the lake	11.22%	11
Volunteering by taking photos at a picture post station	11.22%	11
Participating in the Adopt-a-Drain program (adopt-a-drain.org)	17.35%	17
Adding native plants or a raingarden in my yard	29.59%	29
Helping with maintenance on an existing raingarden in a public space	8.16%	8
I don't see myself engaging in the process	27.55%	27
Other (please describe)	12.24%	12
	Answered	98
	Skipped	3



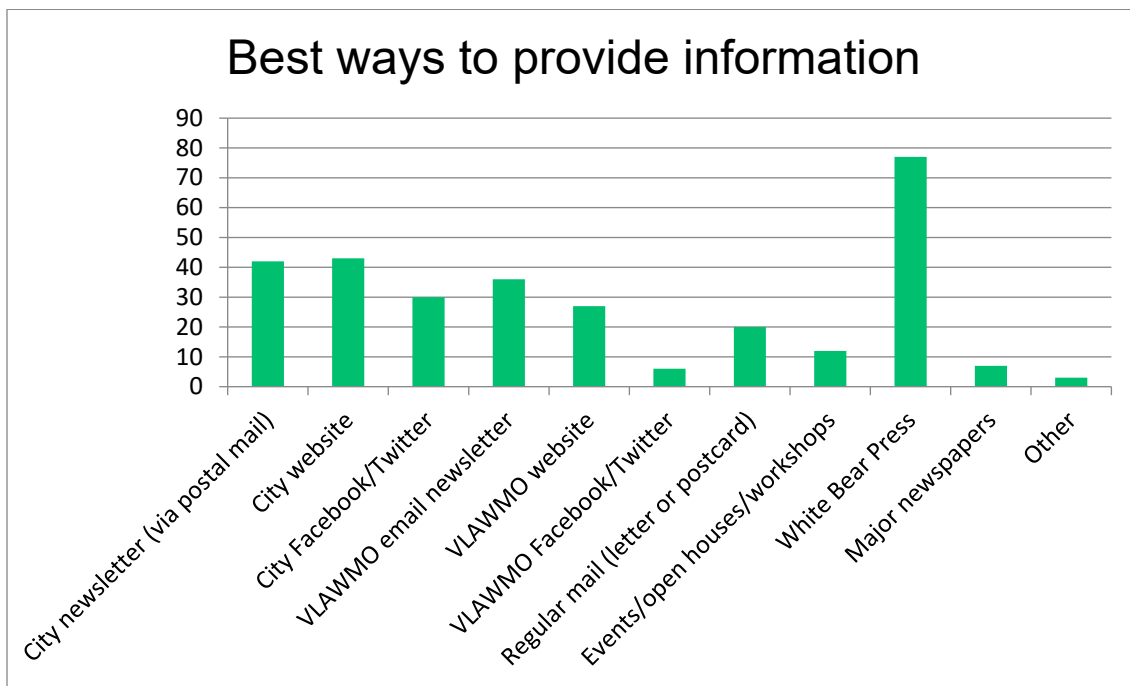
Comments provided:

- I am not sure at this time, but I am open to doing my part.
- More activities when I'm retired.
- Helping with volunteer but don't want to organize
- Be advocate for cleaning up the lake to eliminate impaired status
- Unfortunately, I am in l'll health and would be unable to do anything physical. I would be willing to learn more about some of the other options.
- I'm not sure but if I know what the options are and what they involve, I would be willing to do something.
- I have found that once the city makes a decision, citizen input is requested after the fact, disregarded and doesn't matter.
- East Goose Lake homeowners have already been doing many of the above - educating neighbors, lake monitoring/ testing, attending meetings, Adopt a Drain - happy to do the rain gardens but VLAWMO has never actually approved the grants -
- Lobbying to end Saputo Foods ground water permit and end their wasting ground water in their once through cooling system that has been wasting groundwater for probably 50 years or more now.
- Sitting on the VLAWMO board
- Note - currently a participant in the adopt-a-drain program, and regularly pick up trash along the shoreline on White Bear Ave.
- I spent several years monitoring the water quality of East Goose. I feel some of our younger citizens need to take on this responsibility.

Question 8:

What are the best ways to provide you more information? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
City of White Bear Lake newsletter (via postal mail)	41.58%	42
City of White Bear Lake website	42.57%	43
City of White Bear Lake Facebook/Twitter	29.70%	30
VLAWMO email newsletter	35.64%	36
VLAWMO website	26.73%	27
VLAWMO Facebook/Twitter	5.94%	6
Regular mail (letter or postcard)	19.80%	20
Events/open houses/workshops (online or in person)	11.88%	12
White Bear Press	76.24%	77
Major newspapers	6.93%	7
Other (please describe)	2.97%	3
	Answered	101
	Skipped	0



Question 9:

Please provide any additional comments regarding East Goose Lake efforts.

Answered

31

Skipped

70

Comments:

- 1) We need to take care of the lake and ensure that it remains healthy.
- 2) This is a beautiful lake that is going to waste. I think it's also a liability for the city. I see no signage around the lake that warns visitors that the lake is polluted. How are the uniformed supposed to know that this lake is polluted? I see people sometimes fishing in it. What if they get sick from eating those fish? The city could be sued.
- 3) I never see anyone using this lake- but it seems like it would be such a draw! I would love to see improved public access and cleaner water.
- 4) Make sure that Polar Chev is complying with all standards for run off.
- 5) It's a charming lake area that it needs our help to revitalize and realize its potential.
- 6) It could be in much better condition than it is now :)
- 7) Thank you again for requesting our input. I want to see a healthier lake, but worry about the alum treatment that you have stated is most effective. With potential choking blooms as a possibility and the neighbors having to contribute unknown dollar amounts to try to reduce them, I remain puzzled at the best way to move forward.
- 8) It would be nice to see clarity in this lake, has been too many years without anything done.
- 9) Glad to see something might be happening to clean up the lake and make it more inviting and accessible.
- 10) Sad that some homeowners were unwilling to stop boating last summer so the treatment couldn't be applied effectively. Walking along White Bear Ave is really noisy on the lakeshore but the pavement/sidewalk is important. Lots of trash in the brush along the shore of the lake.
- 11) Thank you for working on this. A healthy natural environment is critical for good human physical and mental health.
- 12) I remember when this lake used to be green. While not many can use the lake, it is important that it becomes healthier as it impacts other bodies of water in the area and downstream.
- 13) I'm glad someone is engaged in this process, then work on West Goose Lake.
- 14) Believe nothing has changed in regards to listening or caring about the voice and concerns of home owners.
- 15) The East Goose Lake neighborhood discussion was helpful - targeting the shoreline owners and I think that is extremely important. Hearing from community is great - but the people living on the lake know the lake best. I have never been sent a survey regarding treatment at White Bear Lake or Bald Eagle. I don't think the lake management groups of those lakes (for example) are looking for community wide feedback. For someone who simply walks by East Goose Lake or commutes by East Goose Lake... it would be difficult for them to have "accurate" answers to these questions. They will likely be guessing or extending their thoughts from a far... not knowing implications and all the concerns involved/ not knowing the day to

day of the lake.

- 16) I've lived across the street from East Goose Lake for 32 years. I've heard we used to dump trash, sewage in it. It's past time to clean up East Goose Lake. Thank you for this survey.
- 17) It is a unique challenge for a lake to have a major thoroughfare bisecting it. Keeping pollutants out of the lake is far more difficult with a four lane highway running through the lake. But this is a public water, protected by the MN DNR and other agencies and therefore needs to be managed as such.
- 18) N/A
- 19) As a resident who lives on WBL in downtown and sees the amount of use the lake receives, I see a great need for more places for people to walk/cycle and fish. The demand increases annually and we need more access for all users to enjoy the outdoors safely. I often think why is this body of water not made more amenable to users? Also, to clean up the pollution is incredibly needed.
- 20) I strongly urge you to consider working to end Saputo's waste of groundwater into any solution for East Goose Lake.
- 21) I support the effort to improve Goose Lake.
- 22) I'm very supportive of efforts to improve the quality of the lake. However, as I've stated in previous forums and conversations related to East Goose Lake, I'm not supportive of using Alum to treat the lake. There are other options currently being implemented and/or discussed that will result in improvements to the lake without impacting recreational use.
- 23) We support any/all initiatives to clean up the lake as long as we can still boat on the lake. We'd be happy to help in any way you see fit.
- 24) Thank you for addressing the problem. The thought of that water flowing towards other communities is gross.
- 25) I would like to see us make a commitment to improving the lake. A lasting commitment, not just a first step. If the first step doesn't work well, we can't just stop.
- 26) I appreciate that attention is finally being paid to a long standing problem. Any solution won't be easy and will not please everyone.
- 27) E-mail is the way to go! Less expense, instant provision of information to people interested in Goose Lake.
- 28) Keep up the good work!
- 29) Thank you for your efforts to clean up this lake!
- 30) This lake needs to be cleaned up as soon as possible.
- 31) Thank you for your hard work on getting this impaired lake healthier!