

Tri-Lakes Spring Summer Update

EOR has presented 2 sets of data collected from last year's testing areas to the WI DNR. We are waiting for the final and most important set of data and that is the hardness survey vs prior year. This is the report that showed a 1-foot reduction in the sediment during the test at the Arrowhead Marina. Reducing the sediment reduces the nutrients and allows aerobic bacteria to flourish versus the anerobic bacteria which was and is an ongoing issue.

The 2 presentations by EOR concerning the addition of oxygen to the water and its effects on phytoplankton and zooplankton and the second presentation on dissolved oxygen

The results were as expected with no negative impacts on the 2 aquatic organism. The dissolved oxygen indicated that the areas around the units were less variable oxygen ranges. We do have quite a few positive anecdotal comments about the improved water clarity and removal of sediment, but we will wait for the hardness studies for confirmation.

EOR has secured 109 permit for the season, and the 10 NEO units were started on the May 15 start date and are fully operational. As of this writing, the containers have been moved to the 8th Ave boat launch, and we expect the pipes will be buried and the lot will be ready for the upcoming Memorial Day weekend. We believe the electric will be moved the week after Memorial Day and may be operational by the weekend of June 6.

We are also working on getting additional NEO units placed and permitted but will have to wait for DNR approval. We do have quite a few approximate locations picked as we went around Camelot and Arrowhead last fall looking for acceptable sites. Last year was an interesting learning experience and we are developing a short questionnaire for future locations to ensure available locations provide ease of installation.

The Tri-Lakes board has also committed to replacing the barley bags with biochar as preliminary tests indicate the removal of phosphates and nitrates. We are working with the 14 Mile Alliance and received an order of 200 bags for Tri-Lakes, 200 bags for 14 Mile and 100 bags for Pacrs. We are still working with the experts as to the best placements for these bags as their costs are substantially higher than the barley bags, but they can last up to 3 years. There was a 2025 Penn Extension study that promotes the use of barley bags, but the number of bags required, proper location and the fact it inhibits algae growth rather than reducing the nutrients are reasons for the switch. We also want to ensure there are no issues with the biochar and nanobubble units. We do want uncompromised data in all cases. We will have additional information soon.

Enjoy your spring and have an enjoyable 2026!