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### **Current Conditions on Webster Lake**

After Memorial Day weekend's heavy use of Webster Lake by pleasure boaters and fishermen, many of the bays and some open water areas on the lake are covered with weed chop extending as far as 40 to 50 feet from the shorelines. The "chop" is caused by boat propellers cutting off the tops of the near-surface weed growth. The chop is blown to shore by the prevailing winds. Spring weed growth is stunted or killed by the annual spring herbicide weed treatment, which is normally applied in mid-May.

This year, the spring weed treatment was delayed due to several factors:

1. The closing of several governmental offices and/or the switch to "work from home" due to COVID-19 resulted in the DNR permitting process being delayed.
2. Questions and responses regarding the permitting process were also delayed by the "work from home" arrangements and a problem with the data mapping software being used to assess the treatment areas.
3. Rain events during the week of May 17 resulted in excessive water

runoff from the watershed into Webster Lake and extreme outflow through the Webster Lake dam at more than 300 cubic feet per second. This minor flood level condition was unfavorable for the application of herbicides.

The combination of all the above factors served to delay the initial weed treatment by 10 to 14 days over prior years. Treatments cannot be applied until the permit is issued and water conditions are favorable. Therefore, we are seeing nearly 3 times more weed chop than usual in the lake after this busy weekend.

If anyone needed proof of the effectiveness of herbicide weed treatments in reducing weed chop, the current conditions, when compared to those of prior years with treatments being applied earlier and prior to significant traffic on the lake, should be proof enough.

### **Update on Application of Weed Treatments**

An application of 2-4D systemic herbicide was applied to 136 acres of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Webster Lake today, May 27, 2020. These 136 acres are designated as LARE treatment areas. If there is an orange colored sign in your yard, your shoreline borders a LARE treatment area and will not be treated for native weeds for approximately 21 days. However, the LARE treatment will provide some relief to any adverse weed situation at your shoreline.

This morning WLCA was notified by the DNR that the previously imposed 21-day waiting period between the application of the systemic LARE and shoreline/channel contact weed treatments has been waived for areas outside of the LARE treatment areas. If there is no orange sign in your yard, then your property is outside of a LARE treatment area.

This revision in the 21-day waiting period directly stems from a May 26 request to the DNR by WLCA for reconsideration of the previously imposed 21-day waiting period between treatments. Because shoreline and channel weeds are so abundant this year, WLCA has arranged for treatments in these areas to be done early in the week of June 1.

You should be aware that the earlier these shoreline/channel treatments are applied in the spring, the sooner you will see weed recovery in the fall.

Weed treatments are contracted and paid for by Webster Lake Conservation Association using member dues and contributions to the Weed Fund. WLCA also annually receives financial assistance towards the cost of invasive weed species treatment through a grant issued under the Indiana Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Program for which we are thankful.

By arranging for earlier weed treatments, WCLA will receive invoices for both the LARE and shoreline/channel treatments simultaneously rather than separated by more than 45 days. If you have not paid your 2020 dues and made contributions to the Weed and Fireworks Funds, now would be a great time to do so as WLCA will need enough cash on hand to cover these expenses.

Thank you for your investment in WLCA, your lake, and your lake community.

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