

## **McKenzie Lakes Volunteers:**

Looking at the lake you would not think that the ice will be out for the fishing opener next week, but the ice will eventually be gone and we need to start thinking of this year's activities for monitoring and preventing the spread of the zebra mussels. I would like to bring you up on the accomplishments over the winter that will impact this year's activities and a call for volunteers.

**1. Amended Transport Law:** Due to the efforts of the MLA, the Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association and the Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Associations we were able to amend the Washburn and Burnett County AIS transport law that now requires any boat that is to be launched or removed from a lake must be decontaminated if there is a decontamination station located at the landing. Since there are decontamination stations at each of the McKenzie Lakes this is required by law, however that also means that we will have to continually replenish the bleach solutions at each of the stations. We will be looking for volunteers to take an active role in this effort. More on this later.

**2. Boat Inspectors:** With the monies from the DNR Rapid Response Grant we have entered into a contract with the Burnett County Department of Land Service to provide paid boat inspectors at BM and MM public landings for every weekend starting on the fishing opener weekend to Labor Day and all major holidays. They will also be required to maintain the bleach solutions at the decontamination stations on the weekends at BM and MM public landings.

**3. Zebra mussels monitoring:** Monitoring plates should be placed at the same locations as last year, so whenever you get in your docks place the plates according to the instructions that were handed out last year. We want to get a final count at the end of the year like we did last year to determine if the density is increasing, staying the same or decreasing. I am hoping all of the monitors from last year will participate this year. This year in July in conjunction with the DNR, Burnett and Washburn Counties as well as St. Croix River Association we will be doing an underwater assessment on Middle McKenzie like we did last year on Big McKenzie. We will need to have at least 2 hopefully 3 people to volunteer with their pontoon boats for the people doing the assessment. The assessment is schedule for July 16. Let me know if you are willing to participate with your pontoon. It will take about 3 hours.

The following is a summary of three opportunities for you to get involved in your lake association. Please let me know if you are willing to help out.

### **Volunteer Needed:**

**1. Decontamination Stations:** Maintain bleach solution at each of the public landings. LM will require volunteers to replenish on the weekends as well as the weekdays. BM and MM will require volunteers during the weekdays. Hopefully we can get 4 or more volunteers per lake to take a week each month. Activities will be to visit the decon station every day, check that all the tools are on the sign and check and replenish the bleach solution. Need to be able to carry at least two gallons of water and have a measuring cup or spoon and bleach. Mixture will be 2 tablespoons of bleach for every gallon of water. 1 tablespoon equals 15 ml.

**2. Subsurface Assessment-Middle Mckenzie:** 3 volunteers with pontoons on MM for underwater assessments in July.

**3. Veliger Tow-Big McKenzie:** 1 Volunteer with a boat or pontoon on BM to do a veliger tow sample during the first or second week of July with the St. Croix River Association and the National Park Service. Will require about 1 ½ hour of time but you will need to be flexible on the dates and time of day.

If interested in volunteering please email me

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Please provide me with your name, email, phone and one activity you would like to participate in.