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# The Chatty Loon



Upper South Long Lake Improvement Assn. Newsletter  
P.O. Box 201, Brainerd, MN 56401

April, 2023  
Edited by Dan Martonik

## President's Message



Hello to all of you Upper South Long Lakers then. I don't know why, but it seemed like it took forever for the spring to get here. For those of us who stayed through the winter, it was not an easy one.

Our focus as always is AIS and how to prevent it. Prevention seems nearly impossible since we all have our freedoms to come and go whenever we feel the need to use our public waters...and some people don't seem to care if they are endangering the lake or not.

We, as an association, and as a group of property owners that surround the lake, will do almost anything to see that our lake is taken care of properly. You may ask, what does it take to make the public that use and abuse this lake, understand that the harm they do is shortening the natural life-span of the lake? And not just to this lake, but any of the lakes that they may travel to. Do they not want to come back to a beautiful, pristine lake year after year? Do they not want their children and grandchildren to enjoy the lakes as much as they do? Abuse of our lakes is a very selfish thing indeed!

Our LID will continue the battle with Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and zebra mussels. Ruth Naber and her group are doing a great job. The LID could use a couple of extra people to help out, please consider nominating yourself or someone you know for the LID BOD. See page 2 for details. continued

Jeff Gans will be inspecting our lake for any spiny waterfleas, another invasive which (hopefully) is not in our lake yet.

Remember to check out our Website (<http://usllia.org>) which is updated as needed. We would love to have more pictures and family stories posted on the site. We are also on facebook!

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on our boards and committees so please consider volunteering your talents and energy, ( you don't have to be a board member to volunteer your time and talents).

Thanks for your ongoing lake stewardship and support.  
*Dan Martonik*, President

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## Membership

By Blaine Hakomaki



Happy 2023 to all of us that are fortunate enough to have access to such a great lake and lake community!

For the year of 2022 there were 194 paid memberships to the Lake Association. This was a good percentage of the residents on the lake and, hopefully we can grow this number for 2023.

Upper South Long Lake has a very engaged Improvement Association (USLLIA) and Lake Improvement District (LID) and the more involvement there is by the residents, and members, the better the lake life quality can be.

Involvement in USLLIA and the LID can be as simple as payment of annual dues, encouragement of neighbors and acquaintances to join, attendance to the meetings and, of course, joining the boards and committees. You don't have to be a board member to help out on one of the committees. This is your association!

The Lake Association dues remains \$25.00 for the year and all additional donations will be appreciated and utilized for improvement efforts. I would so enjoy seeing association membership signs with 2023 stickers affixed at all residences on our premier lake!

We will continue to mail out the renewal slips and return envelopes.

Again, Happy 2023 and look forward to another great year AT THE LAKE!

## SEEKING NOMINEES FOR THE LID BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each year, the opportunity arises for interested individuals to be placed on the ballot for becoming a board member of the LID (Lake Improvement District). The LID board is responsible for making decisions affecting the health of Upper South Long Lake. It is funded by the tax assessment which you can find on your property tax statement. Most of those funds are currently spent on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control (specifically Eurasian Watermilfoil, Zebra Mussels, and Curlyleaf Pondweed).

If you wish to be placed on the ballot for a two year term which would run from August 1, 2023 until July 31, 2025, contact any current LID board member or email president, Ruth Naber, at [rnabsnab@aol.com](mailto:rnabsnab@aol.com). You may also nominate someone else, but they will not be placed on the ballot until they have been contacted and agreed to be added to the ballot.


## From the LID President

As I look out on another afternoon of snowflakes, it is hard to imagine that spring is here and it is time to think about open water on Upper South Long. Winter is a slower time for the LID Board of Directors, but there are still things to begin prepping for. Secretary, Ray Sickler, has signed and returned contracts with both PLM and Freshwater Scientific for assessment and possible treatments of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP). Board member, Al Steiff, is investigating local AW Research as a possible alternative for our inlet testing after shipping costs became too prohibitive to continue with RMB labs in Detroit Lakes.

I attended a county session in late January to examine the 2023 AIS Prevention Plan. The plan, which is funded by monies provided to the county by the MN state legislature, is similar to the past year. USLL will receive a \$3500 grant to help control EWM. The lake is still considered at high risk for invasives so will, again, have inspectors at the public access on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (and some holidays). The portable decontamination unit will still be located at our access on a rotating basis with 4 other lakes. Spiny waterflea testing (negative in 2022) will again be paid for. The county will also provide a stipend of \$300 after our volunteer (Jeff Gans – a member of the association's board of directors) searches and reports on Starry Stonewort which was also, thankfully, negative last season.

Crow Wing County is always looking for more applicants for inspectors at county public accesses. In 2022, inspection numbers were down due to lack of staff. They have increased the wages this year in hopes of being fully staffed. First and second year inspectors will be paid \$17 per hour with an increase to \$18 per hour for third year inspectors. An interesting note is that Crow Wing County has the most spread out and largest number of monitored accesses in the state of Minnesota. Funds have been allocated for a total of 16,155 inspections at 43 accesses during 2023.

Feel free to contact any current board member with any questions you may have. Currently the LID Board of Directors consists of six members: Steve Bardolph, Gary Hopping, Ruth Naber, Chris Psootka, Ray Sickler, and Al Steiff. The board can consist of 5-9 members. Please consider being placed on the ballot for the July election.

(see "Seeking Nominees" article)  to the left.

Submitted by Ruth Naber, LID President

Weather data recorded along the shores of Upper South Long Lake for the past four years:

Category	2019	2020	2021	2022
Avg Low Temp	30.1° F	33.3° F	34.77° F	30.73° F
Min Low Temp	-40° F	-20.6° F	-30.6° F	-32.3° F
Max Low Temp	70° F	73.8° F	72.9° F	72° F
Number of times Low Temp below Zero	53	25	28	58
Avg High Temp	47.7° F	52.2° F	54.55° F	49.99° F
Min High Temp	-16.1° F	-3.5° F	-6.2° F	-8.9° F
Max High Temp	89.1° F	92.5° F	97° F	97.9
Number of times High Temp below Zero	6	1	9	7
Number of times High Temp 90° and above	0	6	13	4
Annual Avg Temp	64.5° F	57° F	44.66° F	40.36° F
Yearly Rainfall	30.94 in	18.82 in	19.8 in	26.41 in
Yearly Snowfall	66 in	47.5 in	48.85 in	59.7 in
USLL Height Change (May – Oct)	14.5 in	7.5 in	16 in	18 in
Ice Off	22-Apr	10-Apr	4-Apr	30-Apr
Ice On	2-Dec	1-Dec	7-Dec	3-Dec

The ordinary high-water level (OHWL) was set at 1195.5 ft (1929 datum). Recently, a new OHWL was set at 1196.1 ft using a new datum. This new datum is referred to as LIDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging.

A record low lake level of 1192.85 occurred on 12/7/1976. A record high lake level of 1196.98 ft occurred on 6/18/2001.

The outlet height of the board at the dam is set at 1193.5 ft.

Also, as a reminder we have a no-wake alert when the lake level reaches 1195.9 ft.

John Pietruszewski  
Secretary/Treasurer

## Dates to remember

### Meeting dates for 2023

**May 20** Spring meeting

**July 22** LID meeting + picnic

**August 26** Late summer meeting

All meetings start at 10:am.

All meetings will be held at the Paradise Shores Resort Party Shed.

## Lake Association Board of Directors

Dan Martonik, President

Jeff Gans, Vice President

John Pietruszewski, Secretary/  
Treasurer

Ron Trosvig, Past President

Terry Lahti

Chuck Yancey

Blaine Hakomaki

Randy Peterson

Jerry Buettner

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for all of the things they do to make our lake the best it can be.

Dan Martonik, President

## Secchi readings, 2022

These readings are for the 2022 summer season.

All Secchi readings are taken at primary site 101:

May 7.0' August 4.5'

June 6.0' Sept 5.5'

July 7.0'

Previous results can be viewed in detail by going online to [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info)

Daniel J. Martonik, Water Committee Chair



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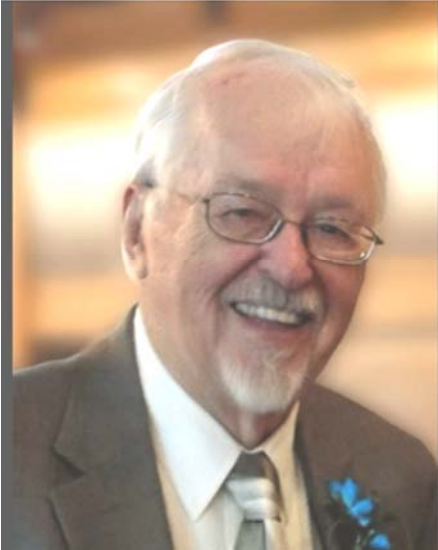
## In Memoriam, John "Jack" Rolfs

August 1st, 1935 - December 8th, 2022

Dear friends of the Lake, below is Jack's obituary from the Brainerd Dispatch as written by Sue and family.

The blip of light on life's radar screen has gone out for John (Jack) Rolfs. He lost his long battle with cancer at home on December 8th, 2022.

Jack was born on August 1st, 1935, in Iowa City to Floyd and Jean Rolfs. He grew up in Parkersburg, Iowa. A degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University quickly positioned him to become an early pioneer in the field of computer science. He worked at UNIVAC his entire career.



He met and married Suzanne Wymore at Iowa State, with whom he lived in harmony for 65 years. They raised their four children with an emphasis on family and lake life, building a cabin legacy for future generations. He was always supporting his children's endeavors by sharing his wisdom, lending a tool, or opening his wallet.

An early snowmobile enthusiast, he owned more snowmobiles in his lifetime than most men own shoes. He loved snowmobiling with friends and family and grooming trails for the Snodeos club. Jack was very involved in the Upper South Long Lake Improvement Association, serving as president and in other capacities for many years.

A computer guru and audiophile, his tech savviness was driven by his enthusiasm for data and orderliness. Jack had spreadsheets for everything. His willingness to share his knowledge and problem-solving skills with others made him many life-long friends. He enjoyed jazz music, grilling, the Iditarod, old cars, weather, Oktoberfest beers, bloody Mary's and Maid Rites.

Jack is deeply missed by his wife Sue, children Greg (Ann), Nancy, Doug (Julie), grandchildren Luke, Joelle (Bejan) Hakimi. Preceded in death by his son Mark, brother Craig, and parents.

The family is planning a Celebration of Life in the spring which may involve grilled meats and coolers of beer. Memorials would be appreciated to Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity ([lakesareahabitat.org](https://lakesareahabitat.org)) or Interfaith Volunteers (<https://interfaithvolunteers.org/donate/>)

Dear Friends,

The Lake Community has lost a true "Friend of the Lake" when Jack passed on. The work he began continues to this day as others slowly take his place to get things done.

He was President of our Lake Association for many, many years.

He published our first Phone Directory back in the early 1970's. Ever since that time he has kept a running data base of everyone on the lake and has only recently passed it along to John P. our current Secretary. I may be wrong, but I think it was Jack's idea to go from a stapled paper format directory to a 3-ring binder format that we have today.

Jack was the guy before me when it came to taking Secchi readings (water clarity), he took readings once a week, every week for years. He was part of our Board of Directors as an "Advisor", which meant that he was our go-to guy if we had any questions, especially about the history of the lake.

You will be remembered always, Jack.

Dan M.

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## Recreation

By Terry Lahti

### Fishing opener (walleye and Northern) – May 13, 2023

#### Zebra mussel impact on Upper South Long Lake

Zebra mussels are now in Upper South Long Lake. They are identified by the striped D-shaped shell. The shells are typically one-quarter inch to one and one-half inches long, depending on age, with alternating yellow and brownish colored stripes.

A single zebra mussel can filter one quart of water per day and a female can produce 100,000 to 500,000 eggs per year.



Zebra mussel impacts:

- \* Encrust equipment, such as boat motors and hulls, which reduces performance and efficiency and is costly to clean and repair.
- \* Swimmers and pets can cut their feet on zebra mussels attached to rocks, docks, swim rafts and ladders.
- \* Filter tiny food particles out of the water, which can reduce available food for larval fish and other animals and can increase aquatic plant growth as a result of increased water clarity.

The spread of zebra mussels is primarily through the movement of water-related equipment.

#### [Minnesota law requires water recreationists to:](#)

- \* **Clean** - watercraft of all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- \* **Drain** - all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.
- \* **Dispose** - of unwanted bait in the trash.
- \* **Dry** - docks, lifts, swim rafts and other equipment for at least 21 days before placing equipment into another water body.

The DNR Fisheries manager was asked if zebra mussels will impact the fish in Upper South Long Lake. The following is the reply:

*There is a statewide effort to look at this, particularly the effect of zebra mussel on walleye recruitment. The mechanisms by which zebra mussels have been shown or hypothesized to affect walleye and other fish are at early life stages or primarily planktonic species. Given that the DNR stocks walleye fingerlings, those fish should be past recruitment bottlenecks caused by zebra mussels though the jury is still out.*

#### INDEPENDENT COUNSELING SERVICE

Ron Brusven, MN.L.A.D.C. #300413  
10298 County Road 23, Brainerd, MN 56401  
Office: 218-828-7736

#### Services provided:

DWI Chemical Use Assessments  
1<sup>st</sup> Offence Education Program, 8-hrs  
Drug/DWI Program, 12-hrs  
DWI/Repeat Offenders Program 16-hrs  
Relapse Prevention Program, 24-62-hrs

There are property owners around the lake that have their permanent residences somewhere else.

Probably some of you are not fully sure what a township is; only that when you pay taxes on your property on the lake, the township shows up on your tax statement as part of the total property taxes that you pay in Crow Wing County.

I thought maybe I would try and shed some light on just what and why a township exists.

Government is divided up into several pieces -Federal, State, County, and Township. Townships are considered the “Grassroots” form of government and were established as part of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which created the state of Minnesota. There are about 20 states that have townships while the other states have different but similar forms of local government.

The Township Board of Maple Grove consists of three supervisors, a clerk and treasurer, all of which are elected offices.

Physically, our township is 6 miles north/south by 6 miles east/west, thereby containing 36 square miles. Most townships in Minnesota are this size.

Upper South Long Lake is completely inside Maple Grove Township.

Nineteen road miles are maintained by the township. The township also owns and maintains the Maple Grove Cemetery, and adjacent to the cemetery is the Maple Grove Town Hall, 19025 County Road 24 Brainerd, MN 56401, (the junction of CR 24 & CR 8).

The Township Board meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month unless unable to, due to elections or something of that nature.

The township has an annual meeting on the second Tuesday of March where the tax levies are set for the following year. This meeting is where the residents have a voice in how the township will be run by voting on the levies or specific matters on which the board receives elector approval. The meetings are open to the public.

There are 1780 townships in Minnesota. The townships are responsible for 41% of the roads in the state which consists of over 55,000 miles of roads and 6000 bridges.

Please note:

The town hall is available for rent for people in the township at a very reasonable rate. Contact Dan Martonik if you are interested.

[dmartonik@brainerd.net](mailto:dmartonik@brainerd.net)



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# Lake Learning

## Minnesota lakes trivia

Have you ever wondered why Minnesota has so many lakes, how these lakes formed, which are the deepest and what are the most common names? If so, then read on!

First of all, only 2% of the earth's surface is covered by freshwater. The Great Lakes (Superior, Huron, Michigan, Ontario and Erie) make up the largest continuous volume of fresh water on earth, with Lake Superior covering the greatest area of any purely freshwater lake.

The Great Lakes and the lakes in Minnesota were formed as glaciers receded during the last ice age. Approximately 15,000 years ago to about 9,000 years ago, glaciers alternately retreated and advanced over the landscape, carving out holes and leaving behind ice chunks. As these ice chunks melted in the holes left behind, lakes were formed. Lakes formed in this way are called kettle lakes.

The Red River Valley and part of southern Canada was covered by an enormous glacial lake from 12,000 to 9,000 years ago named Lake Agassiz. Lake Winnipeg and Lake of the Woods are remnants of Lake Agassiz. As this lake drained into the Minnesota River and the Great Lakes, it left behind flat land and fertile sediment. That is why the Red River Valley and the Minnesota River Valley are so productive for farming.

There are only four counties in Minnesota with no natural lakes: Mower, Olmsted, Pipestone, and Rock. Otter Tail County has 1,048 lakes, which is the most lakes of any county in the United States. We always say the Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes; however, there are actually 11,842 lakes in Minnesota that are larger than 10 acres!

The largest lake in Minnesota is Red Lake, which includes both the upper and lower portions. Second in line is Mille Lacs and third is Leech Lake. The lake with the most shoreline is Lake Vermillion at 290 miles.

The deepest lake that borders Minnesota is Lake Superior, which reaches a maximum depth of 1,290 feet. The deepest inland natural lake is Lake Saganaga in Cook County (240 feet deep), The deepest lakes in this area are Six, which reaches 140 feet and Otter Tail, which reaches 120 feet.

With all these lakes, it takes quite a lot of names to cover them all. There are a few names that were used abundantly. Naturally, these are names that describe the shape or the nature of the lake. There are 115 lakes in Minnesota that contain the word "Long". Coming in second is "Mud", which is used 92 times. Third most used is "Rice", covering 78 lakes.

Enjoy the lakes! This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465, [lakes@rmbel.info](mailto:lakes@rmbel.info)). To learn more, visit [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info).

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 & Ray Sickler, 16326  
 Palomino Ln., **320-247-2992**



## So we got some old but okay jokes then

Once my dog ate all the Scrabble tiles.  
He kept leaving little messages around the house.

I know they say that money talks... ..But all mine says is "Goodbye!"

What did the duck say when it bought lip gloss?  
"Put it on my bill"

How do you make a tissue dance?  
Put a little boogie in it.

How do you keep a fish from smelling?  
Cut off it's nose.

What did the left eye say to the right eye?  
Between you and me, something smells.

What does Charles Dickens keep in his spice rack?  
The best of thymes, the worst of thymes.

What's the most terrifying word in nuclear physics?  
"Oops"

What did the bald man exclaim when he received a comb for a present?  
Thanks— I'll never part with it!

What did the Tin Man say when he got run over by a steamroller?  
"Curses! Foil again!"

A blonde went to electronic store and she asked, "How much is this TV?"

The salesman said, "Sorry, we don't sell to blondes."

The next day she came back as a brunette. She asked the salesman how much the TV was. He said, "Sorry, we don't sell to blondes."

The next day she came back as a red head and asked the salesman how much the TV was. He said, "Sorry we don't sell to blondes."

She replied, " I came in here as a brunette and a red head. How do you know I am a blonde?"

"Because that's not a TV, it's a microwave".

Three women are about to be executed. One's a brunette, one's a redhead, and one's a blonde. The guard brings the brunette forward and the executioner asks if she has any last requests. She says no, and the executioner shouts, "Ready! Aim..."

Suddenly the brunette yells, "EARTHQUAKE!!!"

Everyone is startled and throws themselves on the ground while she escapes.

The guard brings the redhead forward and the executioner asks if she has any last requests. She say no, and the executioner shouts, "Ready! Aim..."

Suddenly the redhead yells, "TORNADO!!!"

Everyone is startled and looks around for cover while she escapes.

By now the blonde has it all figured out. The guard brings her forward and the executioner asks if she has any last requests. She says no, and the executioner shouts, "Ready! Aim..."

And the blonde yells, "FIRE!!!"

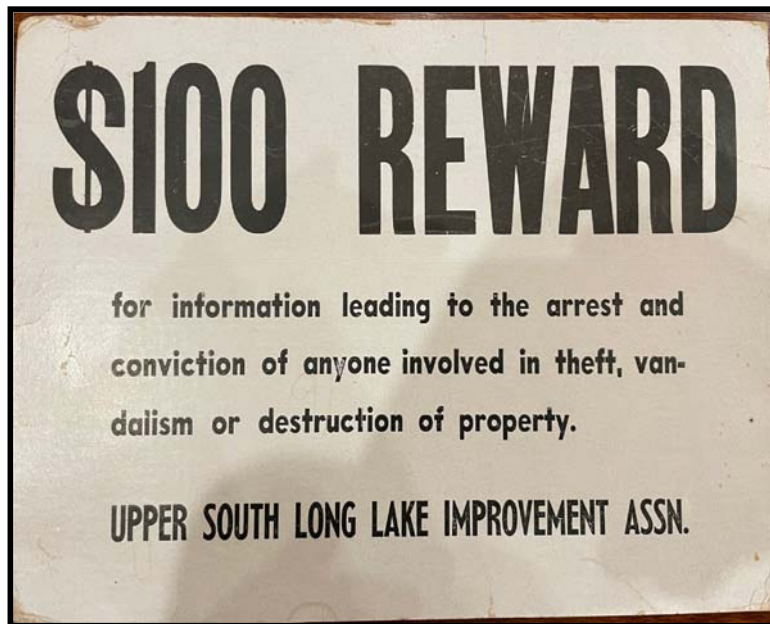


## Lets Take A Trip In The Way-Back Machine

By Tom and Linda Herzog

The sign is real, I remember it from my teenage years in windows of cabins around the lake. I believe a problem of a break-in (maybe multiple break-ins ?) at a lake cabin was brought up at an Upper South Long Lake Association meeting in the late 60's and acted on by the membership. The sign was designed to discourage break-ins. The signs were handed out, or available through the association to the membership.

In the late 60's membership meetings took place at Noka Sippi Resort at least for one year. A circle or group of assembled outdoors would conduct a hour or so to review discuss new were somewhat about 30 to 40 Dad , Bill Herzog, one year (?), at least perhaps there is a time with a list of



chairs would be and the current President meeting for about an past business and business. The meetings informal and attended by people as I recall. My was likely President for that is my recollection, written history from that past presidents?

My family joined the as the new owners purchased from the families. Both Huber ownership of the resort by residing in cabins on the lake. In the winter of 1970 we sold the resort on a contract for deed to the Wallace's who ran the resort until October 31, 1975, when Marilyn Herzog returned to the resort as the sole owner. Our family owned until 1984 when the resort was sold to Marv and Jan, (sorry don't remember the last name) Marv and Jan expanded the resort by adding a cabin and adding on to the main cabin/lodge that housed the small store. Three of the five Herzog kids that worked at Noka Sippi during our parents ownership currently own on the Lake.

lake in the spring of 1967 of Noka Sippi Resort, Herb and Otto Huber families followed their

Linda and I have been lucky enough to have family on the lake for years, me since 1967, Linda's relatives for much longer, her Parent's since about 1971. We have been residing on the east side of the Lake since 1990. About 10 years ago, moved and rehabbed Noka Sippi Cabin #1 as a guest cabin. Noka Sippi lives on today as an association living community for many families to enjoy the lake today!

Tom and Linda Herzog

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Upper South Long Lake Improvement District, P.O. Box 201 Brainerd, MN 56401.

The Upper South Long Lake Improvement District (USLLID hereafter) has contracted to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil, Aquatic Invasive Species in Upper South Long Lake in 2023.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted to the USLLID a waiver of the requirement that the improvement district obtains the signatures of approval of owners of lakeshore property. Instead, the USLLID will notify property owners of the treatment through alternate forms. This notice is one form that the USLLID is using to notify property owners. Other forms include but are not limited to notification on the USLLID member email list and Upper South Long Lake Improvement Association website.

With regard to the treatment for this year, 2023:

1. The proposed date for treatment: May 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023
2. The target species for the treatment: Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil
3. The method of control or product being used: EPA and MDA registered aquatic herbicides, such as but not limited to, Endothall, Diquat dibromide, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
4. How landowners may request that control not occur adjacent to the landowner's property:

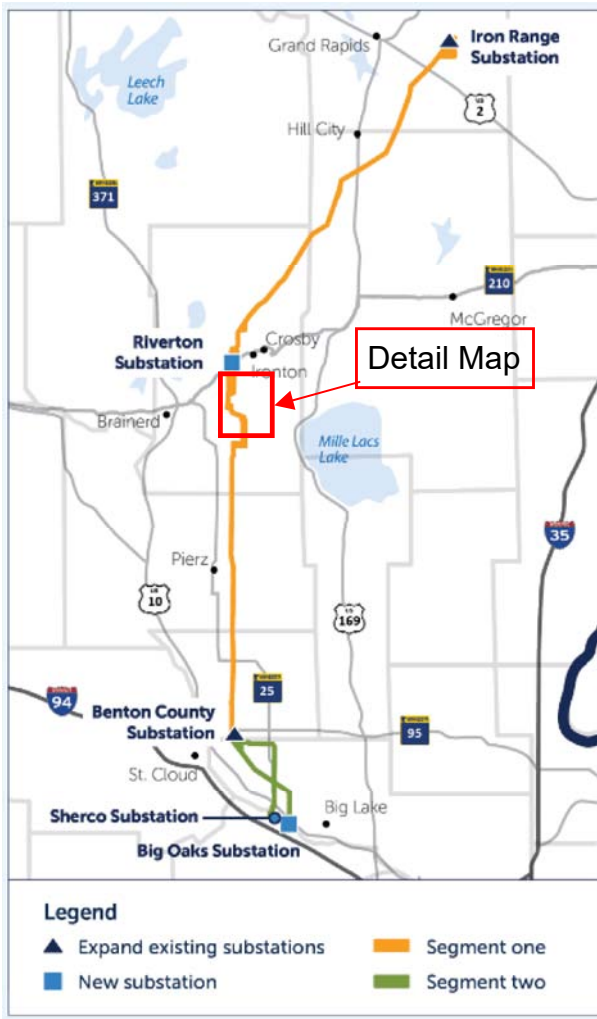
If you desire that the treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed or Eurasian Water Milfoil not occur adjacent to your property, please notify the USLLID immediately at the following address and email address below: P.O. Box 201 Brainerd, MN 56401, email address: raysickler@gmail.com

(April 19, 2023) 214420

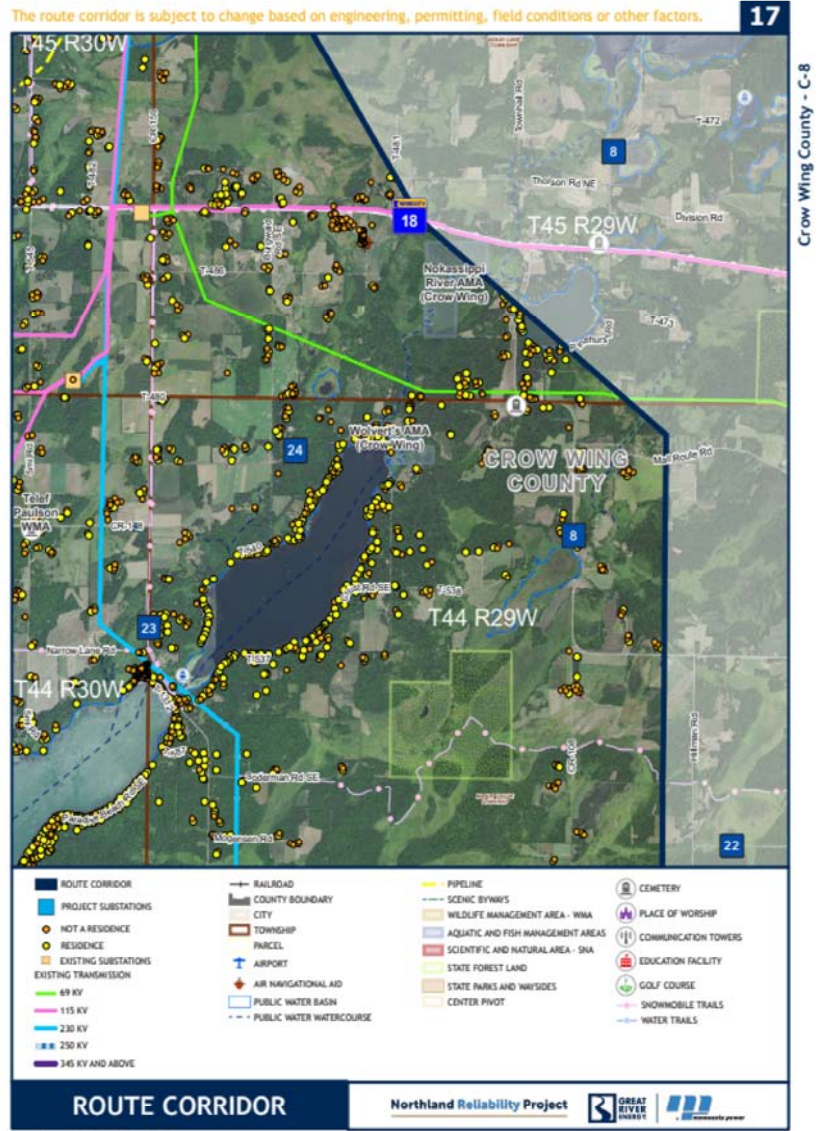
<https://www.brainerddispatch.com/legal-notices/notice-upper-south-long-lake-improvement-stratica-legals-214420>

# FYI: New Power Lines Are In The Works

By Josh Young



Overall Project Map



Detail Map

Just wanted to touch base with the lake association/LID boards after attending the Minnesota Power presentation regarding the new high voltage lines they will be installing.

If you aren't aware, these will be 180ft steel towers with 345,000 volt lines that will likely be placed next to the current power lines on the south side of the lake. The project is in the public engagement phase so if any resident has a comment this is the time.

Thought it may be appropriate to post on social media or disseminate to your email addresses on file to provide pertinent information.

These powerlines will likely be run over the lake/sensitive areas with the towers being quite visible from most vantage points as it is much easier to expand an existing right of way rather than finding a new path.

In some cases, these lines will be strung right over the top of a few parties' homes as well, so it will be quite impactful.

If you want to find out more, go to this link:

<http://www.northlandreliabilityproject.com/>