

Results of Community Survey...

In order to gather information on environmental issues for long-term planning, the TLC worked with a new organization in Lac du Flambeau, *Environmental Community Organization (ECO)*, and the *WDNR* to design and administer a questionnaire.

After reviewing the data, the TLC/ECO held three focus groups with residents to double-check some of the trends as well as probe more deeply into a few of the issues.

The survey included several questions on whether the quality of particular features of the environment, such as lake water, wetlands, air, have been changing over time.

Respondents chose one of four responses to each question:

don't know, improving, staying about the same, or, getting worse.

Table I shows the percentages of responses to this series of questions.

With respect to the quality of lake water, for example, 18% of the respondents believe the quality has been worsening, 57% believe it has been stay-

ing about the same, 6% believe it has been improving, and 15% said they don't know.

With respect to the environment overall, almost 6 out of 10 respondents believe the environment has been staying about the same over time, with about 1 of 10 declaring it has been getting worse, improving, or they don't know.

The survey included one question on whether respondents believe aquatic invasive species threaten particular features of the

	Worse	Same	Improving	Don't Know
Lake Water	18%	57%	6%	15%
Shorelines	23%	53%	6%	13%
Wetlands	15%	45%	5%	27%
Streams	13%	38%	4%	35%
Air	5%	67%	5%	17%
Forests	20%	49%	10%	16%
Grasslands	4%	48%	6%	35%
Overall	12%	56%	11%	13%

The questionnaire and the data are available on the Lac du Flambeau website and at the Town Hall.

The questionnaires were mailed to 500 randomly selected residents of Lac du Flambeau in July.

Follow-up post cards were mailed one week after the survey to encourage the completion and return of the questionnaires. As a result, more than 50% of the questionnaires were completed and returned to the TLC/ECO, a very good rate of response.

	%
Native Fish	87
Native Aquatic Plants	77
Shorelines	68
Quality of Lake Water	80
Quality of Air	16
Amphibians	46
Crustaceans	44

environment, such as native fish, shorelines, and amphibians.

Table 2 shows most respondents believe AIS is a threat to native fish, native aquatic plants, shorelines, and

...Results of Community Survey

the quality of lake water. Respondents are less certain about the relationship between AIS and amphibians and crustaceans, and see little relationship between AIS and air quality.

The survey included a series of questions on the extent to which respondents are concerned that aquatic invasive species already in Vilas County (but not now in Lac du Flambeau) may eventually be found in Flambeau.

On Table 3, column 1 is extremely concerned, 2 somewhat concerned, 3 not too concerned, 4 not concerned at all, and, 5 unsure.

TABLE 3	1	2	3	4	5
Eurasian Water Milfoil	60%	25%	2%	1%	8%
Curly Leaf Pondweed	45%	34%	2%	1%	13%
Chinese Mystery Snail	44%	31%	3%	2%	15%
Freshwater Jellyfish	44%	27%	4%	2%	17%
Spiny Waterflea	44%	28%	4%	1%	17%

The table shows that more than 70% of the respondents are extremely concerned or

somewhat concerned that Lac du Flambeau will be infested by each of the AIS in the future.

Table 4 shows that when asked whether they take the time to look for aquatic invasive species in a lake in Lac du Flambeau, almost 8 out of 10 respondents said they do not look for AIS regularly.

There are several strategies that can be taken to combat AIS once it has been found in a lake. The

survey included one question asking respondents to identify which strategies should

TABLE 4

No	58%
Yes, but no more than once a season	19%
Yes, but no more than once a month	15%
Yes, about weekly	4%
Yes, almost daily	1%

TABLE 5

Apply chemicals	25%
Use biological control	34%
Pull by hand	38%
Remove by machine	32%
Leave plants alone, do nothing	0%
Unsure, need more information	42%

be taken if an AIS, like Eurasian Water Milfoil, is found in a lake in Lac du Flambeau: apply chemicals; use bio-

logical control; pull by hand; pull by machine; leave plants alone; or, unsure, need more information.

Table 5 shows that not one respondent believes that nothing should be done and four of ten respondents need more information. Otherwise, respondents have no clear preference on how to remove the plants.

The survey included a list of items that reportedly have made it difficult for some residents to enjoy the lakes. Respondents were asked to identify up to three items on the list which they believe make it difficult for them to enjoy the lakes.

Table 6 shows that the presence of trash in the lakes, noise, and the use of personal watercraft are the respondents' primary concerns. The presence of fishermen is their least concern.

TABLE 6

Lights	12%
Algae	27%
People Fishing	1%
Shoreline Development	26%
Noise	35%
Water Skiing	18%
Personal Watercraft	40%
Aquatic Plants	18%
Trash	60%