



April 30th 2020

The Muskrat Minute

McCarrons Lakefront Alliance

TIME FOR A CHECK IN!

Welcome to the second edition of the Muskrat Minute, the sporadic newsletter of McCarrons Lakefront Alliance! Before we get into association business, we want to take a moment to say we hope you are all taking care of yourselves and staying healthy. We know it's a crazy, scary time and we wish all of our neighbors the very best. We also want to give a special thank you to the healthcare workers, first responders, essential workers and others who are on the front lines keeping people safe. And thanks to those of you who are staying home for the greater good. We are all in this together!!

AN EXCITING UPDATE ON E. COLI

None of us want to see an extended beach closure due to E. coli again. We learned in March that in addition to its regular sampling of the beach, Ramsey County has agreed to do E. coli testing in other areas of the lake if necessary. Here's how it will work: The county will do routine beach testing, as always. But if sample tests go over the limit for E. coli, the county will return the next day and re-sample the beach and four other locations around the lake at the same depth, and at the same time.

If there's a multi-week closure, the sampling will be done each week the beach is closed. All results will be posted on the county's beach website, and perhaps on McCarronslakefront.org. In the event of another beach closure, additional testing will help us know if other areas of the lake are safe for use.

The county will also use a company called Driven Wild to see if trained dog harassment will help drive the goose population from the public beach. The county is investing in 16 weeks of Driven Wild's services.

The Capitol Region Watershed District has also noted expanded areas of E. coli testing as a goal in its 2020 management plan for the lake, so we hope this is a commitment that will extend beyond this summer.

ASSOCIATION FUN

McCarrons Lakefront Alliance also hosted our first winter social this February with a fire and s'mores out on the lake. It was a great time and wonderful to catch up with neighbors old and new! We are thankful for everyone who trekked out on the lake to join us, and a special thanks to those who brought goodies to share. We hope to make it an annual event!

If you know of neighbors who might be interested in receiving our information, refer them to our website ([link](#)) and we'll make sure to connect with them!

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ZEBRA MUSSEL SAMPLERS

Are you interested in helping monitor zebra mussels in Lake McCarrons? We are working with Ramsey County to create a monitoring program and would love for you to join! Send us an email so we can start planning. We are looking for volunteer docks around the lake to place samplers.



AIS DETECTORS

Would you like to be certified as an aquatic invasive species detector? If so, there are ways to do it through Ramsey County and the University of Minnesota ([link](#)). If you become certified, let us know! We'd love for you to share your expertise!

BOARD BUSINESS

Our first board meeting in February covered a lot of ground. We appointed board members, set goals for the year, outlined how membership will work, outlined a plan for future board elections, and we approved bylaws, which are posted on our website. ([link](#))

Our Board Members:

Amy Forliti – President

Robin Schroeder – Treasurer

Chris Sluis – Secretary

Frank Hess – Board Member

MEMBERSHIP

McCarrons Lakefront Alliance will have two tiers of membership: Voting and non-voting.

Anyone who owns lakefront property or has deeded access to the lake may apply to become a voting member. Those who rent property on Lake McCarrons may also be voting members. The only requirement is that you must fill out an annual application so we know who is an active member and who is not. In addition, there will be one membership (and one vote) per household. Any voting member is welcome to run for a board position.

Non-voting membership will be open to anyone else who wants to support the work we are doing and be involved! If you are an area resident, lake lover, local business, or just want to support our work, simply fill out an application and voila! – you are also a member!

All of our board meetings and gatherings are open to everyone. And of course, everyone is welcome to get involved. We'd love to have you!

Join Online – ([link](#))

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OUTDOOR RECREATION

With the warmer weather fast approaching, many of us are excited to get outside and on the lake. The MN DNR has published guidelines for enjoying the outdoors during this COVID-19 pandemic. Check them out at the DNR website ([link](#))

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Lake McCarrons has a wide variety of wildlife visitors and we want to see them! Send us your best unique McCarrons wildlife photos so we can share what fun creatures are in our backyard. Send photos to info@mccarronslakefront.org

NEW FACEBOOK GROUP

Check out McCarrons Lakefront Alliance on Facebook for another way to receive updates on the lake and connect with your lake-loving neighbors. We will do our best to keep posts directly related to the lake. ([link](#))

DONATIONS

McCarrons Lakefront Alliance will not have required dues, and membership benefits aren't contingent on any donations. That said, we do have start-up and operational costs, and we'd like to eventually build a reserve of funds in case opportunities for invasive species treatments come up in the future. Before the coronavirus pandemic, we planned to suggest an annual donation of \$50 per household for lakefront owners – with the clear understanding that households could donate more, less or nothing at all. But we know these times are uncertain, funds are limited, and right now food shelves and other organizations are in greater need. If you still choose to give to McCarrons Lakefront Alliance, remember all contributions are tax deductible. Donations can be made online or mailed ([link](#))

GET INVOLVED

There are several opportunities for members to get involved in McCarrons Lakefront Alliance activities (while social distancing!). If you would like to participate in one or more of these committees, please contact us at info@mccarronslakefront.org to learn more.

- Zebra Mussel Trackers: We are setting up a tracking program with Ramsey County in an effort to help collect data for possible future treatments, etc.
- Outlet Brigade: We are seeking volunteers to help clear the lake's outlet of debris.
- Welcoming Committee: We will be putting together a welcome packet for new lakefront owners, to say hello and educate them on invasive species. The materials would eventually also be distributed to local businesses and others to improve education efforts.
- Fundraising Committee: We are not actively fundraising right now, but if you have fundraising skills and would like to help implement a plan for the future, we'd love to hear from you!

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