

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a resident requested comment by the lake club on grass in the lake and noted that subsurface lake grass was becoming a problem for residents along the southwest area of the south lake. Steve Babin (Lake club) investigated and three grass types were identified which were the same grasses that caused problems in 2008-2010.

On May 31, 2022, an additional resident invited the Lake club members to come see the grasses growing by their dock. Steve Babin (Lake Club), Dimy Cossich and Bruce Sofge (HOA board, Lake Club) met with the homeowners. Grass surveys of the entire lake were conducted by Dimy and Kirk Songy; a marine biologist was consulted; and options identified. A meeting of the HOA Board was held on June 2, 2022 to review status and options.

### **Background/History**

In 2008, water grasses were becoming a problem for swimmers, boaters, and jet skis. In Dec. 2008, 1500 grass carp were added by the HOA and then an additional 1800 were added in 2010. That year, surface grass covered roughly 50% of north lake per reports.

As it takes the carp about two years to grow to a size to become effective at keeping the grass in check, the additional 1800 was unnecessary (and the 1500 in 2008 were most likely too many). The result - all of the aquatic vegetation, SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE, was completely removed, leaving only a brown mud colored lake heavily dominated by catfish and carp for a few years until the carp started dying off and some catfish removed. Bass fishing was very poor during these years. The carp decimated the grass but also stir up the silt on the bottom when feeding.

Why are we seeing grass in of the lake now?

1. The grass eating carp added in 2008 and 2010 are gone due to their 8-to-10-year life span.
2. lower water level and
3. clearer water due to low rainfall and carp not stirring up the silt.
4. Potential excess nutrient levels in the lake from fertilizer runoff, waterfowl waste, and uneaten feed.
5. possible transporting of grass from other lakes on boats/trailers

Actions the board is pursuing to address the issue in 2022

1. Continuously monitor lake grass (acreage, surface vs subsurface grass)
2. Investigate ways to raise the lake level
3. Add appropriate small numbers of sterile carp in the fall/winter.
4. Hiring a contractor to mechanically remove grass in shallow areas

Recommended actions for all residents and homeowners:

1. Stop feeding any waterfowl. Geese and ducks eat grass and hungry waterfowl will eat more grass in the water and add no net-nutrient to the lake.
2. Minimize or eliminate fertilizers on lawns and beds.
3. Physical removal by residents of undesirable grass in swimming and boating areas near bulkheads and docks.
  - a. Bonus – if you have a garden, use the grass as mulch or compost. If no garden, give it to a neighbor with gardens or composting system
4. Discontinue harvesting of carp from the lake. If you see carp, send a picture to [board@lakeramsey.com](mailto:board@lakeramsey.com). Do not kill. Release if caught.
5. Wash boats and trailers that have been in other lakes before launching in Lake Ramsey

Do not put carp in lake – the HOA is closely monitoring the situation to determine if, when and how many carp are needed to achieve the correct balance.

Other options considered and dismissed as impractical.

1. Herbicide in the lake – cost prohibitive (\$100k or more) and could be toxic to fish.
2. Draw down the lake – From Nov 1st to Feb 28th- 4 months.

Respectfully,  
Bruce Sofge  
Vice-President, Lake Ramsey HOA