

2020 PROPERTY OWNER SURVEY

PRESENTED BY GENE MCLAIN



Mink-Somers Lake Improvement District

2020 Property Owners Survey Analysis



Mink Somers Lake Improvement District of Wright County, Board of Directors conducted a Property Owners Survey to better define and update our Lake Management Plan.

A property owner survey was sent out to 147 property owners representing the 175 parcels that border Mink or Somers Lakes.

The purpose was to gather demographic data on property ownership, how the lake is used, what the issues and concerns are, awareness and knowledge and gather information to better implement future planning for our Lakes.

SURVEY RESULTS



- There are 175 parcels that have lakeshore on one of the two lakes
 - There are 143 owners of those parcels
 - 147 survey questionnaires were sent out
 - We received 53 responses
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- Of the surveys returned ...
 - 3 were from owners with property on both lakes
 - 33 were from owners with property on Mink Lake
 - 16 were from owners with property on Somers Lake
 - 32 were permanent residents
 - 10 were Summer Seasonal owners
 - 10 were year around seasonal owners

Answers – Water Level



Question 1A: Is your property in danger of flooding during spring melt or large rain?

All 51 responses indicated no threat to flooding. This is important to the board for Planning for the future and protecting the lake from flooded septic systems.

If you know or learn of any lakeshore property that may flood, please contact the board so they can work with owner on a solution.

Question 1B and C: Do you prefer the lake level higher or lower?

48 responses preferred higher water levels while 3 Somers Lake owners like the water at lower levels. This was important at the time as we thought we could raise or lower the lake level by changing the outlet.

Mink and Somers are Recreational Development lakes and only receive water from rain and snow or runoff from the surrounding fields and properties. The lakes do have an outlet during times when the water level becomes too high due to spring thaw or a large rain event.

The MSLID is addressing the Outlet and working with the watershed to increase input quality.

Answers - Muck



Question 1D: Do you feel the level of muck has increased over the years?

26 responded that they feel there is more muck now than in the past
16 did not.

The cause of muck is a combination of inorganic silt and soil runoff mostly during spring thaw and heavy rain events on areas where natural vegetation has been removed, landscaping practices or agricultural activity where inadequate berms or settling areas are not available.

Another contributor to the muck level is decaying organic material such as dead aquatic plants some of which we create by spraying. A certain amount of muck is needed to provide food for aquatic life and nutrients for plants. Too much organic matter not only creates the slimy bottom swimmers don't like but natural decay consumes oxygen which could lead to need for aeration in winter.

Reducing muck is a costly process, no matter which method is used such as aeration, physical removal, microbe insertion, alum treatments, etc.

Answers – AIS

Aquatic Invasive Species

- ▶ Are there more Invasive plants than in the past?
- ▶ 32 responded they feel there are
- ▶ 7 felt there are less invasives than in the past
- ▶ 8 said there has been no change
- ▶ All but one felt that AIS is and important issue
- ▶ 2 noted they didn't know wat AIS is.

The MSLID board contracted with Limnipro Aquatic Science, Inc. to create a Lake Management Plan. The First step was a point intercept plan where the plant conditions were physically checked for each acre of both lakes.

In 2020 Curly Leaf Pondweed was present in 71% of Mink Lake and 42% of Somers Lake. Eurasian Milfoil was present in small pockets in both lakes but less than in the past.



Curly Leaf Pondweed – CLP
Eurasian Water Milfoil – EWM

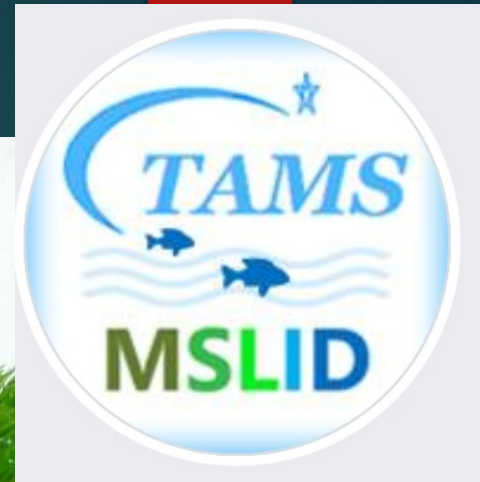


UGA1624031

Aquatic Plant Survey



Filamentous Algae



FISHING



► Walleye have been stocked as fry, fingerlings, and adults since the reclamation and the lake is currently stocked with fingerlings every other year. The catch of Walleye was lower than reported in 2011, but within the expected range of values for similar lakes. Walleye ranged in length from 20 to 28 inches with an average length of 24 inches. Northern Pike were never stocked in Mink-Somers Lakes but established populations by 2001.

Anglers are encouraged to harvest smaller pike (under 22 inches) and release the larger ones to help achieve a more balanced fish community and promote good growth rates. Lower pike numbers may also increase the survival of young Walleye and Yellow Perch. Higher perch populations are desirable as they are an important prey species for both Walleye and Northern Pike.

Largemouth Bass were sampled by night-time electrofishing on June 19, 2016. Eighty-seven bass were sampled in 0.92 hours of effort for a catch rate of 95.0 fish/hr. This is higher than the average night-time catch rate for Sauk Rapids Area lakes (73.6 fish/hour). Largemouth Bass ranged in length from 3 to 20 inches with an average length of 13 inches and numerous bass longer than 15 inches.

The catch of Yellow Perch was significantly higher when compared to recent surveys and well above the range of expected values for similar lakes. Yellow Perch ranged in length from 5 to 8 inches with an average length of 6 inches.

Bluegill catches were slightly lower than previous surveys, but still within the range of expected values for similar lakes. Overall, Bluegill ranged in length from 3 to 9 inches with an average length of 6 inches. The trap net catch of Black Crappie was also slightly lower than previous surveys, but within the range of expected values for similar lakes. Whereas, the gill net catch was higher the previous survey and higher than the expected values for similar lakes. Black Crappie ranged in length from 4 to 12 inches with an average length of 7 inches.

In 2001, Common Carp were present in high numbers in Mink and Somers lakes (9.4/gill net and 3.4/trap net, lakes combined). However, as the average size of Carp increased, the catches decreased such that in 2016 no Carp were caught in the gill nets and only 1.1/trap net.

Pumpkinseed Sunfish were the only other fish species sampled during the survey.

► Source: [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#)

WATERFOWL

Do you think there are more or less or the same amount of Waterfowl as in the past?

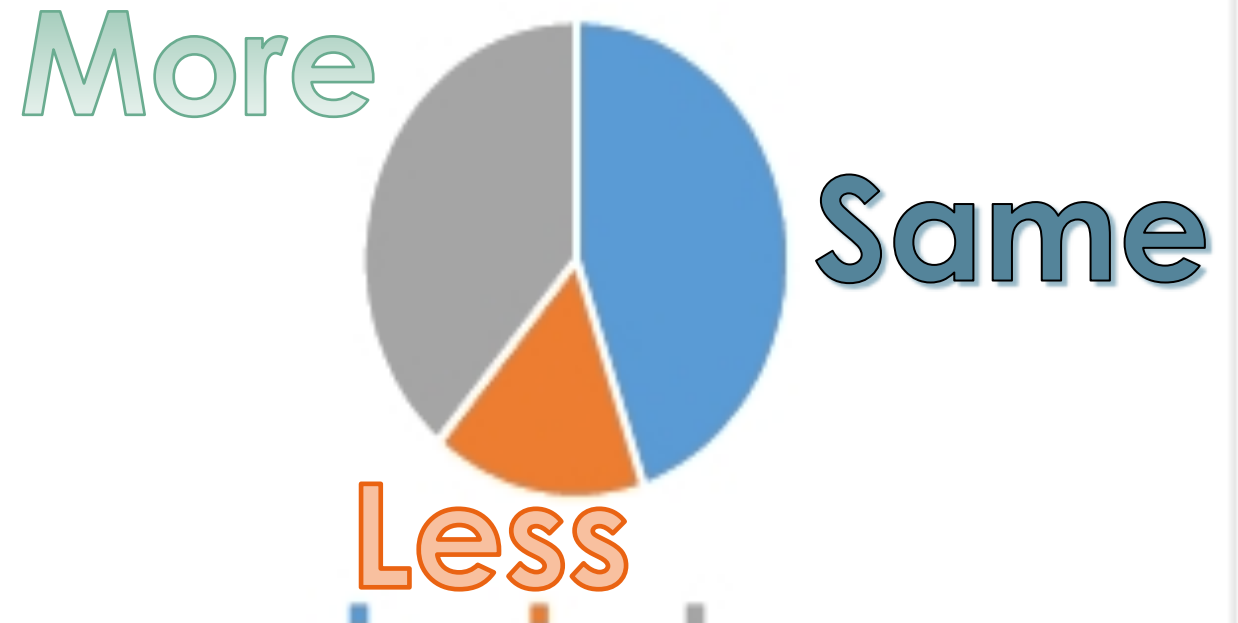
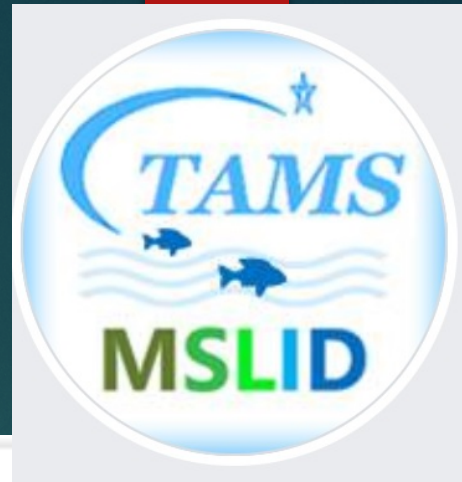
Waterfowl would include Ducks, Geese, Cormorants, Pelicans, Loons and other birds that use water for food source.

More 22

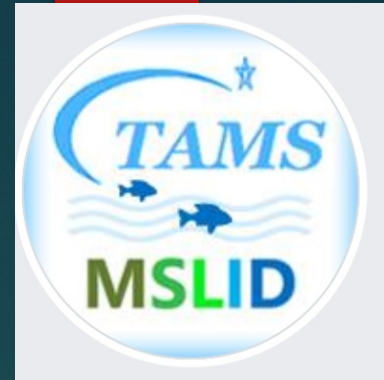
Less 8

Same 19

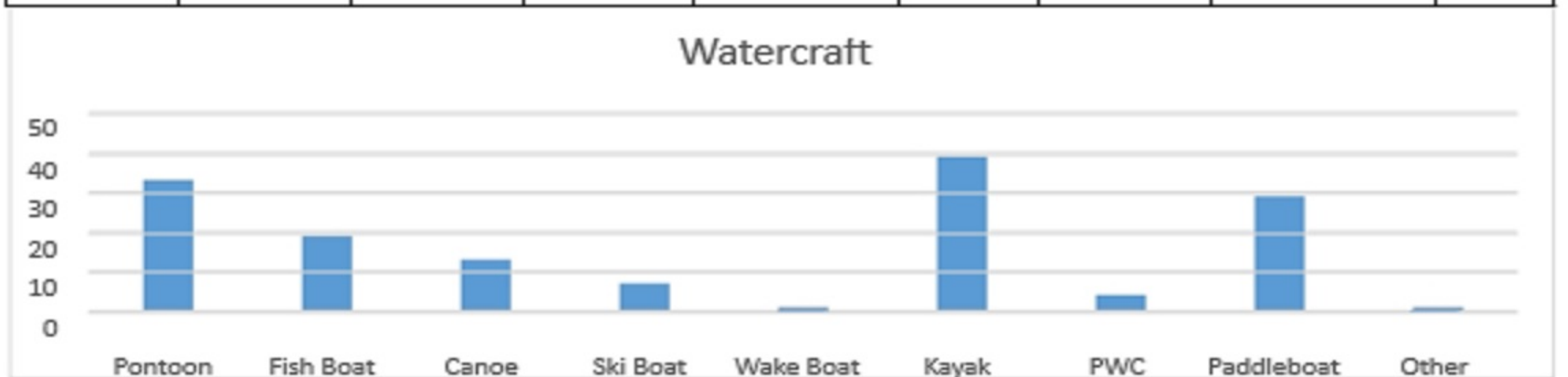
Important Yes 25 No 8



Watercraft



Pontoon	Fishing	Canoe	Ski Boat	Wake Boat	Kayak	PWC	Paddle Board	Other
33	19	13	7	1	39	4	29	1



Wastewater

Septic Systems	24 all with recent service
Holding Tanks	26
Grey Water	0

Faulty holding tanks, leaking or flooded septic tanks, or outdated drain fields can send high nutrient level wastewater into the lakes and increase the growth of plants and weeds and cause harm to wildlife and the environment.

If you have or know of any septic systems that are failing, please contact the Wright County Soil and Water Department (WCSWCD). The current contact is:

Troy Johnson • Environmental Health Officer • (763) 682-7335
Tips on possible nonconforming septic systems will remain
confidential.

. Excessive nutrients in the lakes contribute to the overgrowth of aquatic plants, both invasive like Curly Leaf Pondweed and native like Coontail.



Septic System Professionals

Wright County has a list available of Septic System Professionals.

For any Septic System questions:

Troy Johnson : (763) 682-7335
troy.johnson@co.wright.mn.us

TAMS MEMBERSHIP



- ▶ 10. TAMS membership
- ▶ Yes 41 No 10
- ▶
- ▶ The **A**ssociation of **M**ink and **S**omers is a volunteer non-profit organization to promote lake ownership and use by education and social activities. Ideas for ways to make life around, in and on Mink and Somers lakes are welcomed by the board of Directors. Some of the current efforts include the <http://minksomers.org> website, regular newsletters with updates and interesting information concerning the lakes, organization of a 4th of July boat parade, a yearly summer picnic which changes locations. Please volunteer your property as a host to the summer picnic.
- ▶
- ▶ 11. The TAMS/LID newsletter was valued by everyone but 1 owner

CONTACT

12. The preferred contact was

Email	34	Snail Mail	15
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Communication is the key to every success story.

This survey after researched, designed and printed took the efforts of five people over three days to get the addresses verified, envelopes addresses, surveys copied, envelopes stuffed, stamped and mailed at a cost of \$284.20

If the board needed to mail information to each property owner on a monthly basis based on this amount, it would use over \$3400 of our budget that could be used to treat lake conditions. Electronic communications save time, money and are more timely as they can be sent as needed

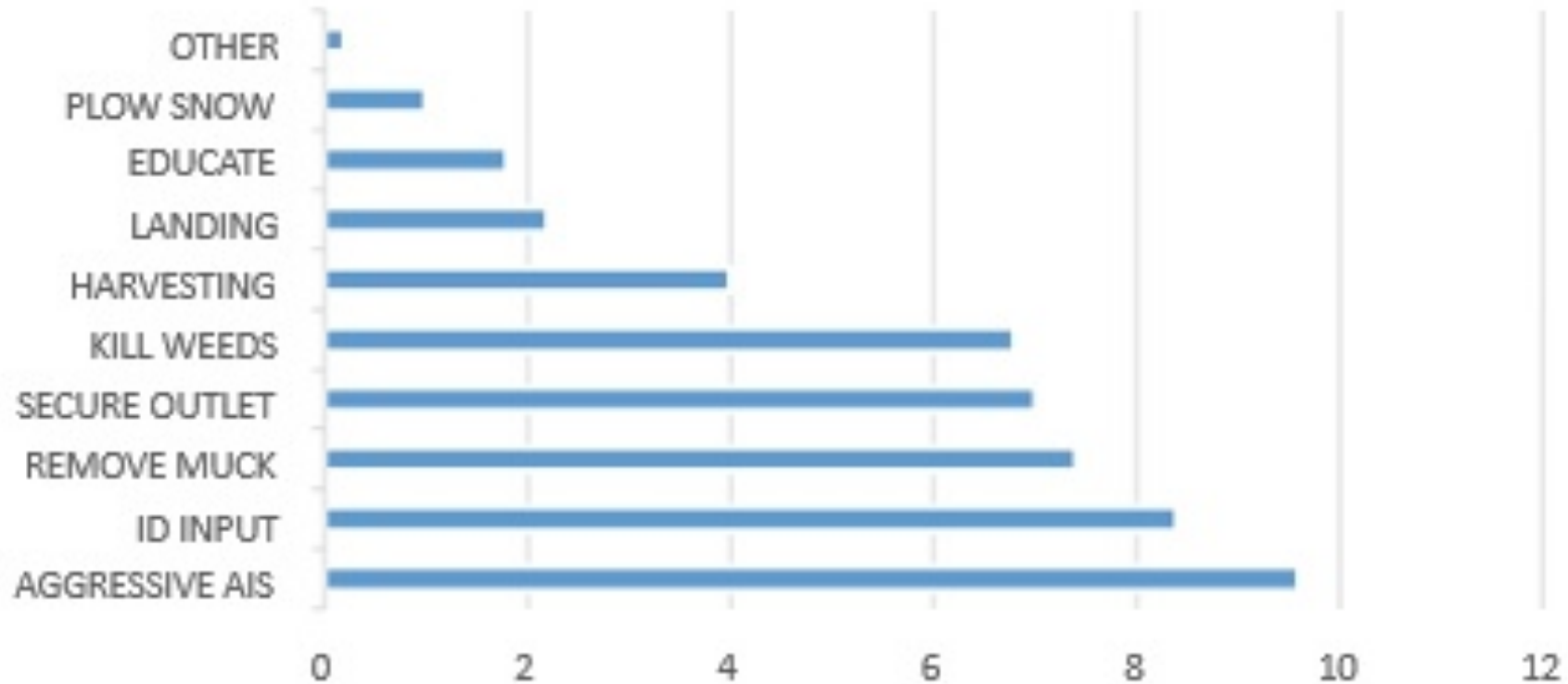
ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBORS TO COMMUNICATE VIA EMAIL !



PROJECTS



PROJECT RANKING



JOIN MSLID OR TAMS

- ▶ **M.S.L.I.D.** - MINK – SOMERS LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
- ▶ GOVERNMENT SUB-COMMITTEE DIRECTING TAX DOLLARS TOWARD PROJECTS TO IMPROVE LAKE AND OWNERSHIP QUALITY
- ▶ FUNDING FROM TAX APPROPRIATION TO RIPARIANS
- ▶ CURRENTLY MEETING MONTHLY

- ▶ **T.A.M.S.** - THE ASSOCIATION OF MINK AND SOMERS

- ▶ 501 (C) (3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
- ▶ VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION
- ▶ FUNDING FROM MEMBERSHIP DUES CURRENTLY \$25 PER YEAR FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE LAKES

