THE CITY OF LAKE ELMO

STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 20, 2021
CONSENT

AGENDA ITEM: Lake Elmo Lake Grant Request

SUBMITTED BY: Kristina Handt, City Administrator

BACKGROUND:
Included in the 2021 budget were funds for matching grants to the recreational lakes for water quality improvements like treating invasive species. This funding represents a 50% match, up to the maximum amount of $5,000 per lake. A match is required by the Lake Associations and any outside grant amounts received would not be included as part of the Lake Association match amounts.

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:
Does Council approve the grant request of $5,000 from the Lake Elmo Lake Association?

PROPOSAL:
The Lake Elmo Lake Association has submitted an application for matching grant funding to treat Eurasian Milfoil this summer. A copy of their application is included in your packet.

FISCAL IMPACT:
$5,000 from the $15,000 in the 2021 budget

OPTIONS:
1) Approve $5,000 for Lake Elmo Lake Association Eurasian Milfoil Treatment
2) Approve a different amount for Lake Elmo Lake Association Eurasian Milfoil Treatment
3) Do not approve any funding for Lake Elmo Lake Association Eurasian Milfoil Treatment

RECOMMENDATION:
If removed from the consent agenda:
"Motion to approve the Lake Elmo Lake Association lake improvement grant request of $5,000

ATTACHMENTS:
- Lake Elmo Lake Association Grant Request Form

City of Lake Elmo

Lake Improvement/Water Quality Grant Application

Name and Lake Association:	**Date:**
Lake Elmo Lake Association Contact: Elizabeth (Liz) Niehaus, Secretary/Project Lead	6/28/2021
Phone: 651-283-8794	**Email:** lakeelmolakeassociation@hotmail.com emnle3@hotmail.com

Description of treatment/improvements:

Lake Elmo Lake Association (LELA) has been actively monitoring and mitigating Lake Elmo for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) since 2015 with our first grant from Minnesota DNR. To date LELA has received five county grants and 2 grants from Minnesota DNR and have successfully removed approximately 61 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil from many areas of the lake. Removing the weeds by using divers to harvest which has had an added benefit to the lake by removing more than 100,000 pounds of Biomass that if chemically treated would be left in the bottom of the lake.

LELA has been successful harvesting milfoil and removing the plant material from the lake which reduces unnecessary nutrients that promote AIS plant growth. LELA also monitors the lake for clarity and water quality as well as weed growth and location on a regular basis. (Approx. every two weeks). Lake monitoring is a required part of the project and also advises our weed mitigation plans and DNR permit requirements.

A second requirement for the county grant is to conduct plant survey at the beginning and conclusion of the harvest. This work is completed by the Valley Branch Watershed District and the reports have shown continuous milfoil reduction. LELA continued to monitor the lake, purchase insurance, along with contracting out harvesting of milfoil weeds.

We are requesting reimbursement of LELA work to manage aquatic invasive species. The below outlines the expenses for 2021 and our request for available city matching funds:

Outline of total project costs (can be included on separate sheet or provide via invoice copies):

Premiere Harvesting (EWM abatement services)	$23,750.00
Liability Insurance	$923.94
Plant Survey	$1,047.00
Total	**$25,720.94**

Cost Share:

Washington County Grant	$6,800.00
MN DNR	$1,500.00
LE Jaycees	$2.000.00
LE Rotary	$2,500.00
LELA	$13,170.94

Amount being requested (***Note:*** The City will match 50% of the costs paid for by the lake association up to $5,000):
$5,000.00

Additional comments:
See attached project budget and report from harvesting vendor.

****Please also include any documentation for grants that have been requested and/or received from other entities****

Elizabeth Niehaus

Elizabeth L Niehaus

Applicant/Lake Association Representative Signature

6/28/2021
Date

LAKE ELMO LAKE ASSOCIATION

2021 EWM/HM Budget

INCOME	Proposed	Actual	Grant Expenses Paid Through: WACO	MN DNR	Jaycees	Rotary	LELA
Washington County Public Health and Environment	$15,000.00	$6,800.00					
Minnesota DNR	$5,000.00	$1,500.00					
Lake Elmo Jaycees	$1,500.00	$2,000.00					
Lake Elmo Rotary Club	$5,000.00	$2,500.00					
Lake Elmo Lake Association	$15,000.00	$13,170.94					
TOTAL INCOME	**$41,500.00**	**$25,970.94**					

EXPENSES	Proposed	Actual					
Liability Insurance	$1,000.00	$923.94	X				
Plant Survey	$1,100.00	$1,047.00		X			
EWM/HM Treatment (Premier Lake Harvesting)	$39,400.00	$23,750.00	X	X	X	X	X
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$41,500.00**	**$25,720.94**					

2021 LELA EWM Summary Report

Overview:

Premier Lake Harvesting provided services to Lake Elmo between the dates of 5/27-6/3, 2021 to remove Eurasian Water Milfoil for the Lake Elmo Lake Association. Listed below are the summaries for each section and metrics including time spent on each section and biomass removed.

Executive Summary:

Hours With Lake Harvester – 43 hours

Man Hours – 145 hours

Disposal Amount – 755 cubic ft.

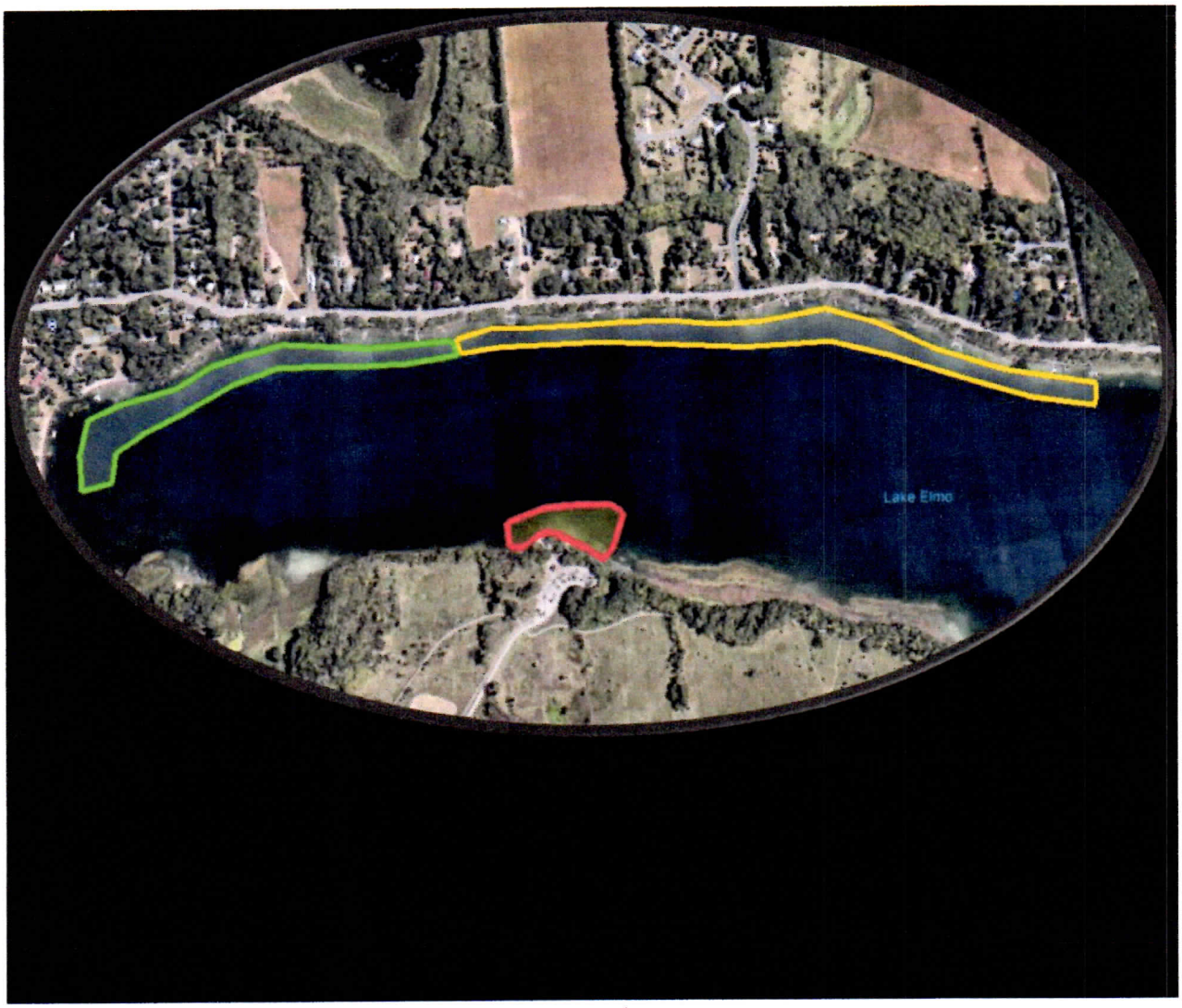
Acreage Covered – 15 Acres

Private Properties Contracted with– 2

Recommendations for future:

Overall, the project went really well. We saw positive signs of reduction in growth from year to year in Section One, area by landing, which is the only section we did back-to-back years. We saw extremely heavy EWM growth in Section 3 and think more time needs to be spent in that area in future years. This area appears to be the densest area of the lake for EWM. For future years, PLH has started designing a barrier system to section off sub-sections to help reduce the amount of time spent on cleanup and more time spent doing what we do best, remove EWM. In terms of man hours, there can never be enough time to cover such a large area, but more man hours would be beneficial to continue the fight against EWM. We see the boat launch as appropriately labeled top priority to keep EWM off of incoming and outgoing boating vessels. This is the best guard against furthering the spread.

Area Summary:



Harvester Hours – 43 Hours

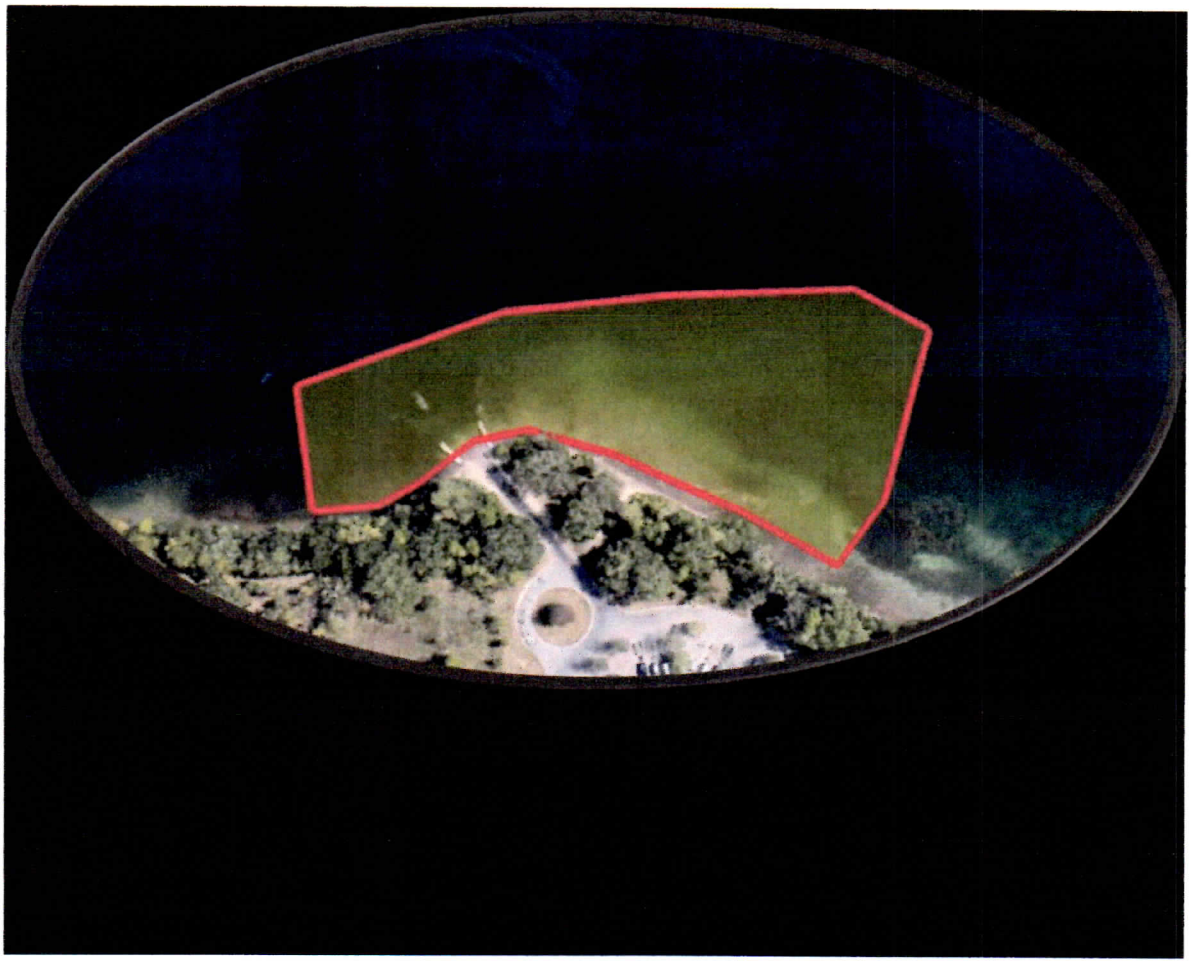
Man Hours – 145 Hours

Biomass Removed – 755 Cubic Ft.

Lakeweed Identification Observed:

- 70% Milfoil
- 15% Broad Leaf
- 10% Coontail
- 5% Other

Section 1 Area:



Section 1 Observations: We noticed less milfoil in section 1 (boat landing) than the previous year. The weeds were not as tall or dense as last year. They were growing in the same depth of water but at the outer weed edge the weeds were only 5-6 ft tall in comparison to last year when they were 10-14ft tall. The section is bordered with broad leaf and coontail. We removed 120 cubic ft of Eurasian Water Milfoil biomass from Section One.

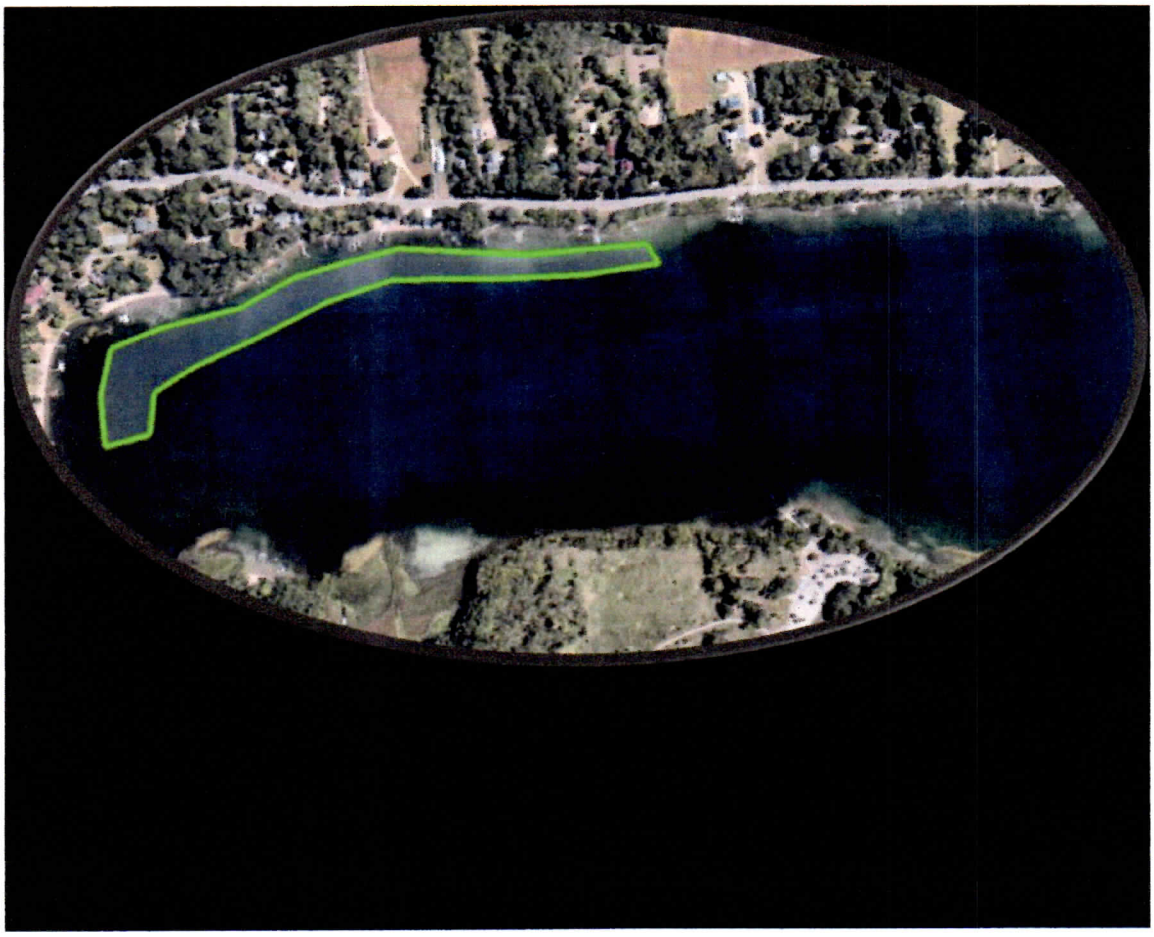
Area Covered – 2.1 acres

Harvester Hours – 12 Hours

Man Hours – 38 Hours

Biomass Removed – 120 cubic ft.

Section 3 Area:



Section 3: This area had the most weed growth and was extremely dense with milfoil. The milfoil starts further out from shore when the depth reaches approximately 9-10ft. of water and extends outward until 16-18ft. depth. Section Three was 50-75% denser than the other sections. Denser is defined as more milfoil stocks within a given square ft area. We removed 390 cubic feet of EWM from Section Three. We were not able to finish section 3 before we hit the man hours cap.

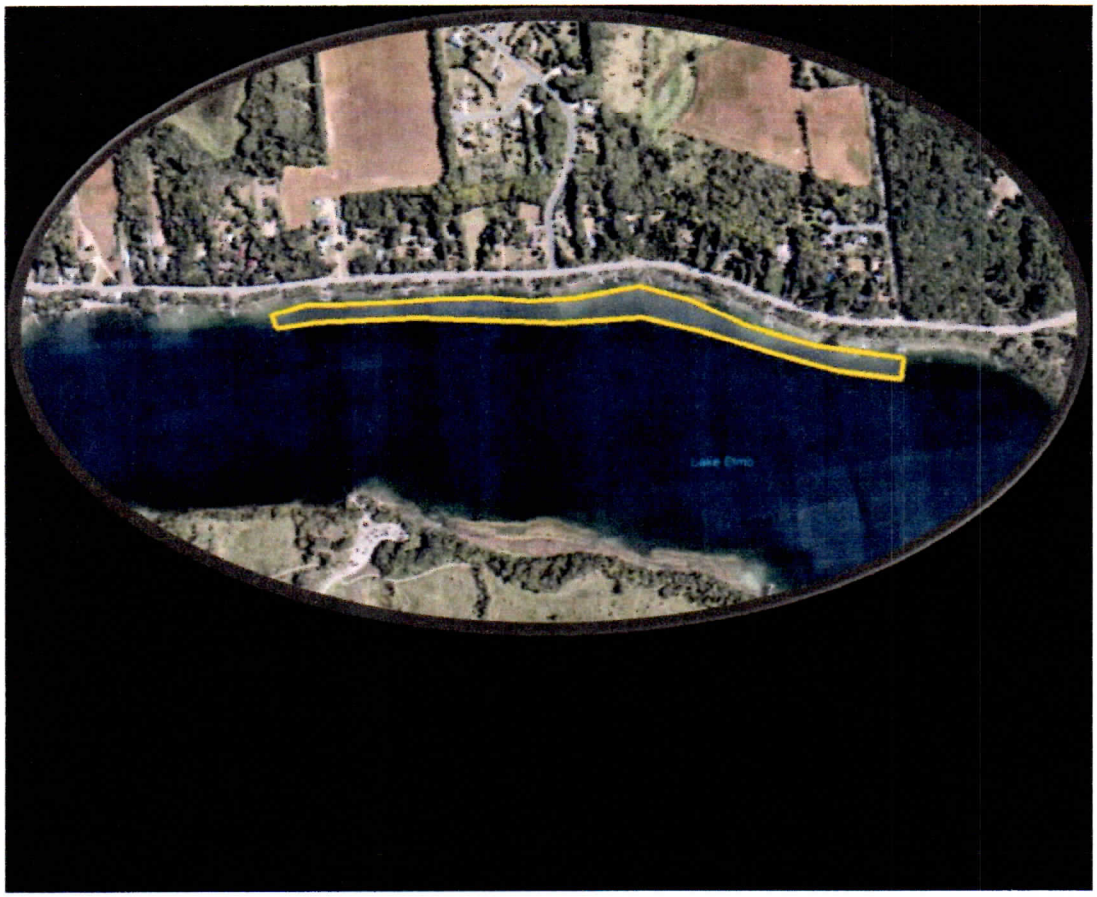
Area Covered – 6.5 Acres

Harvester Hours – 17 Hours

Man Hours – 61 Hours

Biomass Removed – 395 cubic ft.

Section 2 Area:



Section 2: This area had a lot of sporadic groups of milfoil in comparison to the other sections. There were groups of Milfoil that would stretch a few hundred feet along the shoreline and then the weed type would change to broad leaf and other natural weeds. The Milfoil patches started further out from shore than in section one. It started in about 7-8ft. of water and went deep to 14-18ft. of water. We removed 240 cubic feet of EWM from Section Two.

Area Covered - 6.4 Acres

Harvester Hours – 14 Hours

Man Hours – 43 Hours

Biomass Removed – 240 cubic ft.