**Pokegama Lake Association**

**Water Quality Committee Report**

**March 2023**

**Subwatershed Analysis**

The PLA is in discussions with Pine County and the Pine Soil and Water Conservation District to complete a Sub Watershed Analysis for Pokegama Lake. This study will identify and quantify the sources of nutrient-rich runoff entering the lake. This runoff is referred to as “external loading”. A previous study estimated that about 60% of the phosphorous in Pokegama Lake comes from external loading. The Sub Watershed Analysis will identify areas where mitigation practices could be used to reduce runoff or treat storm water before it enters the lake. This study will enable the PLA and its partners to begin the long-term process of putting mitigation practices in place to reduce this external loading.

The study sponsor will seek a grant from the Snake River Watershed Management Board to cover 75% of the cost of the study. Funding for the remaining 25% of the cost will come from one or more partners. The scope and cost of the study will be determined in the next month or two.

**Water Quality Testing**

The Water Quality Committee is committed to having a comprehensive water testing program in place for the 2023 season. Later this month, members of the Committee will attend a joint meeting of the MN Pollution Control Agency, Pine County and the Pine Soil and Water Conservation District to determine the water testing protocols needed to support a comprehensive lake management plan.

**Individual AIS Treatment**

Thanks go out to Paul Kretsch for his excellent presentation last month on their individual aquatic vegetation management program. 47 lakeshore owners have signed up for the plan. Lake Restoration has already submitted the DNR permit applications. If you are interested in participating in this program, but have not signed up yet, please contact Lakeshore Restoration directly at (877) 428-8898. Lake Restoration will sign-up forms anytime before applications begin in mid-June.

**Education Briefs**

Watch the PLA website and Facebook page in the coming weeks and months for brief educational updates and informational tidbits from the Water Quality Committee. We hope to provide members with useful information in a brief and digestible format that will help us all to be better stewards of Pokegama Lake.

Submitted by your,

***Water Quality Committee***

*Tom Gohman Al Johnson Luranne McLean Ben Wiltse*

*Jim Grisim Jill Jakuz Kathy Nielsen*

*Nick Hugo Tom Kubitschek Nik Snyder*