



Swimmer's Itch Project Update

There have been further developments since the initial announcement in December when your Association Board of Directors moved unanimously to enter into a contract with Freshwater Solutions (FWS) to conduct a lake assessment on Intermediate Lake in 2019. The contract proposal was posted on our web page, and members were asked for a vote to support spending up to \$3,000 to move it forward. The result: 42 (36% of total members) voted 38 in favor and only 4 disapproved. The motion carried.

Subsequently, the basic assessment contract scope was enhanced and the Watershed Council terms of financial support were increased. The modified contract now replaces the original on our website. The good news is that the cost to the ILA was reduced \$500 to \$2,500, and will be expensed in year 2019.

[PLEASE READ the modified contract for a detailed and informative summary of assessment objectives. You will find a [linked copy](#) on our website (intermediatelake.org)]

We should have the assessment results back by late summer. FWS will then prepare a Letter of Authority documenting all our lake's data for submission to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to obtain a three year common merganser trap and relocate permit for 2020-22. At that point we will need to have a committee staffed and available to consult with the provider (FWS) and learn about necessary control protocols for our lake. The committee can then study the provider options and solicit cost proposals.

Historically, Common Merganser trap & release costs have been estimated at \$1,000-1,500 per brood. Brood monitoring will need to be done annually over the three year permitted time period. In addition, it is likely the control program will require water samples be taken at designated riparian sites throughout the summer for continued monitoring of parasite DNA presence. The costs for this labor intensive task could be greatly minimized by enlisting our own volunteers to collect the water samples. The protocols for sample collection are said to be very basic and volunteer training could be arranged.

Membership support both in fund raising as well as volunteer help will be key requirements to moving this project forward. Control program costs cannot yet be firmed up, nor are they budgeted for. To prepare for this forthcoming need, the Board agreed to establish a special donation fund dedicated exclusively to support Intermediate Lake swimmer's itch control expenses. All donors will be recognized on our website. Receipts will be acknowledged as charitable, and earmarked for that use exclusively. Our initial goal for funding is to collect at least \$2,000 by year end to hopefully be able afford 2020 first year anticipated costs. Any surplus will carry over into year 2021.

A graphic charting fund amounts received and donor names will be added to our web page and kept up to date. To date we have had 11 donors and contributions totaling \$1,175. Our sincere thanks to all of you who have already stepped up to help fund this much needed effort.

We look forward to your continued support and in spreading the word about donating to ***“Help us take the bite out of Intermediate”***.

Thanks,

Steve Young, President
Intermediate Lake Association

April 1, 2019

P.S. If you want to financially support the swimmer's itch control effort, please submit a check made out to Intermediate Lake Association (“Swimmer's Itch” on the memo line) and mail to Intermediate Lake Association, PO Box 795, Central Lake, MI 49622.

P.P.S. In addition to financial support, we need committee volunteers willing to become involved in developing and overseeing control program implementation. If you are interested in volunteering to help out, please contact Jim Gilleylen, cell 989-274-7220 or email jimbo.gilley@gmail.com.