



BREAKING NEWS

January 7, 2019

For years a great many of you have been voicing concerns about our plight with swimmers itch. Our recent survey results reveal [it's](#) only gotten worse. On December 14, 2018, the ILA Board of Directors voted unanimously to move forward on developing a science-based [swimmer's itch](#) control program for Intermediate Lake in 2019. Our initial step will be to enter into a contract to conduct an assessment of [swimmer's itch](#) conditions in our lake. A lake assessment report is required for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildfowl Division (MDNR-WFD) permit. The permit is required to implement a three year control program. In addition to certifying our need at the onset, the assessment results will provide us a road map for designing and implementing an Intermediate Lake specific [control program](#) to be conducted over the ensuing [three years \(2020-2022\)](#).

Our decision to move now was prompted to take advantage of a [Michigan state grant](#) before it expires early this year. The grant stipulates [that](#) a finite dollar amount be made available to approved [Michigan lakes](#) to provide 50% matching funds to help them defray the cost of the required preliminary Lake Assessment [Report](#). We interviewed the two certified service providers that were recommended to conduct the assessment. After much consideration we chose to go with [FreshWater Solutions \(FWS\)](#). Their Comprehensive Lake Assessment Proposal cost was quoted [at](#) \$6,000. After deducting the \$3,000 matching funds grant our expense will be \$3,000; with a payment option for a [down payment](#) of only \$1,200 with an option for the balance to be structured over a two year period as needed.

The initial lake assessment phase would be done in the Spring of 2019. (March-May sometime). The report that follows will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildfowl Division along with our request for a three year Control Implementation Permit (plus an estimated \$300 state permit

fee payment). Once a permit is assured we can pursue available options for a suitable control program. Then, based upon the scientifically defined primary causative issues in our lake, as revealed in the FreshWater Solutions Comprehensive Lake Assessment Report's recommendations, we can seek out appropriate control program cost proposals.

Today's increased population of lake riparians desiring carefree usage thereupon has spurred the development of new technologies and the methodology needed to produce effective effort/results in addressing this long existing problem. Notably, most of this recent progress has been achieved due to the continuing focused efforts of FreshWater Solutions in collaboration with the University of Alberta.

Prompted by the closing timeline for financial assistance, and based upon the positive improvements shown in follow up test results on nearby participating lakes, your ILA board decided to move now. Realize also that maintenance costs for the control efforts will be ongoing. Our costs going forward through 2020-2022 could approximate an additional \$1,000-\$2,000/year in non-budgeted expense. This estimated cost could be lowered significantly if we supplement the cost with some volunteer labor. Several of the other lake participants have done so by taking advantage of the free training programs offered by the provider. Hence, our decision to establish a dedicated Swimmer's Itch Control Donation Support Fund. We have already received donation pledges amounting to \$675.00. Our goal is to reach \$8,000 by year 2020. The fund proceeds will remain long lived and dedicated only to carry forward required long term swimmer's itch control efforts. The Board elected to jump start this program by making a \$1,200 commitment to FWS now for reasons explained above. We remain hopeful that future fund raising amounts will cover the additional costs going forward.

By February 1, 2019 PLEASE confirm (Yea or Nay) your approval & support of the Board's above stated action plan by clicking "reply to" on this email with your response noted in the "Subject" line.

Also, please consider making your contribution, with checks having "swimmer's itch" in the memo line made out to Intermediate Lake Association and sent to

Intermediate Lake Association, PO Box 795, Central Lake, MI 49622.

Jim Gilleylen

ILA VP & Swimmer's Itch Committee Chairman

P.S. For more details click on the "Swimmer's Itch" link on our web homepage