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Dear Lake Eau Galle Property Owners and Users:

The Lake Eau Galle Lake Association (LEGA) received an education and planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in February 2023 to address concerns that have been expressed related to the condition of Lake Eau Galle. LEAPS was hired to help administer the activities in this grant.

Many things can negatively impact the quality of a lake. Native and non-native aquatic plant growth, loss of depth due to sedimentation, excess nutrients that turn the water green, and how the lake is used by property owners and visitors are just a few examples. Planning and implementation of actions to control aquatic plants, address sedimentation, and other aspects of a lake is dependent on what the populace is willing to support, what the WDNR will allow, the capacity of LEGA to lead the efforts.

The survey attached to this letter seeks to gather additional information about how Lake Eau Galle is perceived by those that live on and use it. It also seeks to determine the extent of property owner knowledge related to issues that affect the lakes. Many of these issues are discussed in this survey, along with the management actions that could lessen their impact on the lakes.

Every property owner on the lake has been mailed this survey. There are more than (insert a number here) property owners included. In addition, the survey is being made available for other interested people to respond to. Individuals are encouraged to complete their own survey. Please take the time to read through and respond to this survey.

Your responses to the questions in this survey are completely anonymous, unless you choose to add your contact information at the end of the survey. All surveys will be sent to back to LEAPS for tabulation. Only the results, not the actual surveys will be shared with LEGA, so you can be completely honest in your responses. Survey results will be incorporated into an Aquatic Plant Management Plans for Lake Eau Galle in 2023. A final report will be completed and a public presentation made at a later date to discuss survey results.

Please take the time to complete this survey and send it back to LEAPS in the return envelope provided. Responses received back by **June 11, 2023** are guaranteed to be a part of the Final Report and Presentation. Your participation is important to the overall success of any management on Lake Eau Galle. Thank You.

Sincerely,

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Lake Eau Galle, Dunn County Lake Use and Concerns Survey

SECTION 1 – Residency

These first few questions will help to determine who is responding to this survey.

1. Do you own or rent property on Lake Eau Galle?

   ___ I own and rent property
   ___ I rent property
   ___ I own property
   ___ no (skip to Section 2)

2. What type of property do you have on Lake Eau Galle? If you have more than one type of property, please report on only the property you have owned or rented the longest. (please select one)

   ___ permanent residence
   ___ seasonal residence (a month or more at a time)
   ___ vacation, weekend, and/or holiday residence
   ___ undeveloped land
   ___ business
   ___ other (please specify) _____

3. How long have you owned or rented the property indicated in Question 2? (If less than 1 year, please write '1' in the space provided)

   I have had the property for _____ year(s).

4. The map included with this survey shows two different basins of Lake Eau Galle. Please indicate in which basin you own or rent the property indicated in Question 2.

   ___ Upper ___ Lower

5. During a 12-month period (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) how many days are you, members of your family, or guests at the property indicated in Question 2? ***(please provide your best estimate in the space below)***

   There are people at the property approximately _____ days a year.

6. On average, about how many people are at the property each time it is being used? _____

SECTION 2 – Lake Use & Lake Issues

1. From the list below, check all activities on Lake Eau Galle that you, your family, or guests participate in.

   ___ A. fishing from the shore ___ E. ice fishing ___ I. wildlife viewing
   ___ B. fishing from a boat ___ F. speed boating ___ J. rest/relaxation
   ___ C. pontoon boating ___ G. jet skiing ___ K. water skiing/tubing
   ___ D. canoe/kayak/paddle boat ___ H. sailing ___ L. swimming/wading

   ___ M. other (please list) _____
   ___ N. I don't participate in activities on the lake *(skip to Question 3)*

2. Which 3 activities from the above list do you or members of your family participate in most often? *(Write the letters of the corresponding activities in the spaces below)*

   I (We) participate in _____ most often, _____ 2nd most often, and _____ 3rd most often.

3. Below are numerous issues that may negatively affect your use of Lake Eau Galle. From the list below, please mark all of the issues that are of concern to you.

   ___ A. poor quality fishing ___ H. lake depth (too shallow)
   ___ B. too much public use ___ I. lake depth (too deep)
   ___ C. too much weed growth ___ J. overdevelopment of the shoreline
   ___ D. not enough weed growth ___ K. foul or offensive odor
   ___ E. poorly maintained boat access ___ L. "icky" or "green" water
   ___ F. low water level in the lake ___ M. floating vegetation
   ___ G. high water level in the lake ___ N. too many rough fish (carp)

   ___ O. nuisance wildlife (please specify) _____
   ___ P. excessive or uncontrolled water skiing or use of personal watercraft
   ___ Q. introduction of undesirable aquatic plants and animals (invasive species)
   ___ There are no issues affecting my use of the lake *(skip to Question 5)*

4. Which three issues from the above list are of the most concern to you? *(Write the letters of the corresponding issues in the spaces below)*

   I am most concerned about issues _____, _____, and _____.

5. During the open-water (no ice) season, how frequently do you, your family, or guests use a boat or other watercraft on the lake?

   ___ never ___ 1 or 2 times/month ___ several times/week
   ___ 1 or 2 times/season ___ 3 or 4 times/month ___ daily

6. During the open-water (no ice) season, how frequently are you, your family, or guests swimming or wading in the lake?

___ never ___ 1 or 2 times/month ___ several times/week
___ 1 or 2 times/season ___ 3 or 4 times/month ___ daily

7. In the time since you started visiting/using Lake Eau Galle, would you say lake water quality is:

___ better ___ worse ___ stayed the same ___ I don't know

8. In your opinion, the current water quality in Lake Eau Galle is:

___ excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ poor ___ very poor

9. How often, if at all, has water quality in Lake Eau Galle kept you, your family, or your guests from using the lakes for any of the following activities? If you, your family, or guests have no interest in the activity, please mark 'N/A'.

Activity	**Never**	**Rarely**	**Sometimes**	**Often**	**NA**
Fishing					
Water skiing or tubing					
Swimming or wading					
Motorized boating (including personal watercraft)					
Non-motorized boating (including paddle boards)					
Enjoying the "view"					

10. In the time since you started visiting/using Lake Eau Galle, would you say the depth of the lake has gotten:

___ deeper ___ shallower ___ stayed the same ___ I don't know

11. How often, if at all, has the lake depth in Lake Eau Galle kept you, your family, or your guests from using the lakes for any of the following activities? If you, your family, or guests have no interest in the activity, please mark 'N/A'.

Activity	**Never**	**Rarely**	**Sometimes**	**Often**	**NA**
Fishing					
Water skiing or tubing					
Swimming or wading					
Motorized boating (including personal watercraft)					
Non-motorized boating (including paddle boards)					
Enjoying the "view"					

SECTION 3 – Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants and animals that are introduced into our lakes and streams and can potentially upset the natural balance of a lake ecosystem while decreasing recreational opportunities. This section asks a few questions about your awareness of aquatic invasive species.

1. Which of the following, if any, aquatic invasive species have you generally heard of?

___ Zebra mussels
___ Rusty crayfish
___ Spiny water fleas
___ Chinese mystery snail
___ Curly-leaf pondweed
___ None of these
___ Eurasian watermilfoil
___ Purple loosestrife
___ Yellow flag iris
___ Japanese knotweed
___ Common carp

2. Would you be interested in a training session to help you identify aquatic invasive species in the lake? This is not a commitment but rather a measure of possible interest.

___ definitely yes
___ probably yes
___ unsure
___ probably not
___ definitely not

SECTION 4 – Aquatic Plant Growth

Aquatic plants (rooted and floating) are an important part of any healthy lake system. However, excessive aquatic plant growth can sometimes interfere with or prevent certain lake activities and even impact water quality. This section of the survey evaluates how lake users feel about the aquatic plant growth in Lake Eau Galle.

1. In the time since you have started visiting/using Lake Eau Galle, would you say the amount of aquatic plant growth in the lake has:

___ increased ___ decreased ___ stayed the same ___ unsure

2. Thinking about current aquatic plant growth in Lake Eau Galle, would you say there is too little, too much, or about the right amount of aquatic plant growth?

___ definitely too little
___ probably too little
___ just the right amount
___ probably too much
___ definitely too much

3. How often, if at all, has aquatic plant growth in Lake Eau Galle kept you, your family, or your guests from using the lakes for any of the following activities? If you, your family, or guests have no interest in the activity, please mark 'N/A'.

Activity	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	NA
Fishing					
Water skiing or tubing					
Swimming or wading					
Motorized boating (including personal watercraft)					
Non-motorized boating (including paddle boards)					
Enjoying the "view"					

4. At what time period during the year do you consider the aquatic plant growth in Lake Eau Galle to be excessive? **(check one)**

___ April – June
___ July - September
___ October – December
___ throughout the open water season (April – December)I don't know
___ aquatic plant growth is never excessive
___ I don't know

5. Have you made any attempts to remove or control aquatic plants in the lake by your lake shore property? **(check one)**
___ yes, I did some myself and I hired someone
___ yes, I did some myself
___ yes, I hired someone
___ no
___ I do not own or rent lake shore property

6. Who do you feel should be responsible for managing aquatic plant growth in Lake Eau Galle? **(check all that apply)**

___ local township government
___ county government
___ Wisconsin DNR
___ Lake Eau Galle Association
___ individual land owners
___ "Mother Nature" (i.e. no management)
___ I don't know
___ other (please specify) _____

7. In the time since you started visiting/using Lake Eau Galle, would you say the amount of algae growth (both the small green particles suspended in the water and the longer, green slimy stuff attached to rocks, docks, and other plants) has:

___ increased ___ stayed the same ___ decreased ___ I don't know

SECTION 5 – Aquatic Plant Management

Aquatic plants in a lake can be managed in many different ways. Sometimes no management may be the best option. At the present time, no aquatic plant management has been completed in Lake Eau Galle. This section provides some limited information about different aquatic plant management alternatives that may be applicable in Lake Eau Galle, and then asks for your opinion about each alternative.

No Management

Contrary to popular belief, no active aquatic plant management is an alternative. This involves doing nothing and letting nature do what it does.

Physical Removal (hand and rake)

Physical removal involves only the use of hand and/or rake removal or cutting completed by property owners and/or contracted or volunteer divers (snorkel or scuba). Physical removal provides effective aquatic plant control in small areas, around docks, and for isolated plants.

Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH)

DASH is physical removal aided by a mechanical suction apparatus. Divers pull target plant species from the bottom of the lake by hand and then feed them into a hydraulic suction tube that carries it to the surface where it is collected for disposal.

Mechanical Harvesting
Mechanical harvesting involves the use of specialized equipment that cuts or pulls aquatic plants from a lake. Mechanical harvesting is effective for both small-scale and large-scale aquatic plant management, but can increase the amount of floating plant fragments found in a lake or washed to shore. It is not a selective management action as it does not target a specific species.

Application of Aquatic Herbicides
Aquatic herbicides are granules or liquid chemicals specifically formulated for use in water to kill plants or cease plant growth. Herbicides are approved for aquatic use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and are considered compatible with the aquatic environment when used according to label directions.

Biological Control
Biological control involves using one plant, animal, or pathogen as a means to control a target species in the same environment. The goal of biological control is to weaken, reduce the spread, or eliminate the unwanted population so that native or more desirable populations can make a comeback.

Bottom Barriers and Shading
Physical barriers, fabric or other, placed on the bottom of the lake can be used to reduce aquatic plant growth.

Dredging
Dredging is the removal of bottom sediment from a lake. It is not usually performed solely for aquatic plant management but rather to restore lakes that have been filled in with sediment, have excess nutrients, need deepening, or require removal of toxic substances.

Water-level Drawdown
Drawdowns alter the plant environment by lowering the water level to a certain depth in order to expose bottom sediments to seasonal changes including temperature and precipitation.

1. Please indicate if you support or oppose each of the following aquatic plant control methods for Lake. If you are unsure about these management methods, or would not accept any of them, please check the last column.

Management Alternative	Support	Oppose	Need more Information
No Management			
Physical Removal - hand-pulling and raking			
Physical Removal – snorkel or scuba diver			
Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH)			
Mechanical Harvesting			
Application of Aquatic Herbicides			
Biological Control			
Bottom Barriers and Shading			
Dredging			
Water-level Drawdown			

2. Please place a 1, 2, and a 3 in order of preference by the three methods that you would most support to manage aquatic plants Lake Eau Galle. If you are unsure about these management methods, or would not accept any of them, please check the appropriate blank.

___ No management
___ Physical removal - hand-pulling and raking in shallow waters
___ Physical removal – snorkel or scuba diver removal
___ Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH)
___ Mechanical harvesting
___ Application of aquatic herbicides
___ Biological control (using one live species to control another)
___ Bottom barriers and shading
___ Dredging
___ Water level drawdown
___ None - I am unsure and need additional information to make a decision
___ None - I would not accept any of these management alternatives

3. If you have other suggestions for managing aquatic plants in Lake Eau Galle, or have another outcome in mind, we would like to know about them. Please use the space below to describe.

_____
_____
_____

SECTION 6 – Public Participation and Community Support

Local, county, state, and federal resources will be sought in addition to Lake Eau Galle Association (LEGA) funds to implement management recommendations for Lake Eau Galle. Donations of volunteer time, services, materials, and equipment can be used as match funding for many grant programs reducing the overall financial burden to LEGA.

1. Which of the following activities, if any, would you be willing to volunteer your time for if additional assistance is needed? **(Please note this is not regarded as a commitment but rather to gauge potential interest.)**

___ watercraft inspection at the boat landings
___ lake monitoring for AIS
___ organizing LEGA fund raising events
___ water quality monitoring
___ shore land monitoring for AIS
___ raising beetles that eat purple loosestrife
___ photography to document lake conditions and improvements
___ native aquatic plant monitoring and identification
___ wildlife monitoring (ex. frogs, turtles, loons, other waterfowl, mussels & clams)
___ reestablishing rooted aquatic vegetation adjacent to your shoreline
___ helping property owners with the installation of shoreland buffers, native plantings, and rain gardens
___ improving fish and wildlife habitat by adding woody debris in the water adjacent to your shore line
___ I am not interested in volunteering any time **(skip to question 3)**

2. How much time would you be willing to contribute to support any of the activities in Question 1 above?

___ a few hours a year ___ a few days a year ___ longer periods of time

3. Professional services or special skills are sometimes needed to accomplish goals set by the LEGA. Do you have any special skills or services that you might be willing to provide if appropriate? Please check all services that you might be willing to donate to help the LEGA manage Lake Eau Galle. This is not a commitment but rather a measure of possible assistance if needed.

___ GPS use ___ graphic design ___ web development
___ grant writing ___ legal services ___ scuba diving
___ printing services ___ construction services ___ outdoor sign design
___ physical labor ___ gardening/landscaping design
___ sewing ___ gardening/landscaping implementation
___ other (please specify) _____

___ I am not interested or not able to provide any services

4. Prior to receiving this survey, did you know that there was a LEGA?

___ yes ___ no **(skip to Section 7)**

5. Have you ever attended a LEGA meeting?

___ yes **(skip to question 7)** ___ no

6. If you answered "no" in Question 5, what has prevented you from attending a LEGA meeting?

___not interested ___I don't have time ___I never know when they are occurring
___other **(please explain)** _____

7. What is your affiliation with the LEGA?

___ current member **(skip to Question 10)** ___ former member ___ I've never been a member

8. Please help us understand your reasons for not being a current member of the LEGA. **(Check all that apply)**

___ not interested ___ I disagree with what they are doing
___ membership dues are too high ___ I haven't been asked to be a member
___ I do not have enough time ___ I feel there is no benefit for being a member
___ other **(please specify)** _____

9. If you are not a current member of the LEGA, do you wish to be contacted to become a new member?

___ yes **(please fill out contact information in Section 7)** ___ no

10. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of LEGA activity? **(Please place a check mark under one column only for each activity)**

LEGA Activity	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Unsure	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
LEGA communication within the community					
LEGA meeting frequency					
LEGA meeting atmosphere (parliamentary procedure)					
Getting things done					
Promoting community cooperation to achieve goals and objectives					
Management of LEGA finances					
Listening to/addressing property owners concerns					

SECTION 7 - Final Comments

1. If there are any additional issues you would like the LEGA to address, or comments you would like to make, please use the space below.

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. Thank you for your time and your answers! Providing your contact information is optional, but if you wish to, please do! Contact information will be used for follow up if needed.

Name: _____
Address_____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone number: _____ Email address: _____