



Our democracy in the United States allows all eligible people to exercise their franchise by voting in elections and thereby taking a stand on the issues presented. A common thought prevails that those that do not participate should not criticize the outcome. I would suggest a similar situation exists with Lake Tippecanoe Property Owners' (LTPO) efforts to control noxious aquatic weeds on our lakes. A sizable number of residents have voiced concerns about the weeds, but only a small group has participated in the LTPO program.

There are approximately 1,400 lake households (all of whom should have received a flyer on the weed program) and of those, 743 are currently members of LTPO. Of the 1,400, about 200 have made financial contributions totaling approximately \$13,000. The cost for treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly-leaf pondweed will cost \$45,650. LTPO received \$20,000 from the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) program, which leaves our organization with a shortfall of \$12,650 if the areas recommended by our consultants are to be treated. Keep in mind the areas to be treated do not include channels; those remain the responsibility of those individual landings. It is critical for more participation from our residents for this program to be successful. Past involvement by other lake residents on Webster Lake and the Barbee Chain has been a much higher percentage than what we have experienced to date. Please go to our website at www.ltpo.org for information as to how to make your contribution to the aquatic weed program.

While the use of herbicides to control noxious weeds is important, it does not cure the root problem. To that end, LTPO made a commitment that half of the funds raised by the program (another approximately \$13,000) would be used for prevention and education regarding nutrient loading. Landowners need to accept their responsibility for the water quality in which they live and recreate. Our residents need to voluntarily agree not to use fertilizers containing phosphorus (One pound of phosphorus can create 10,000 pounds of weeds. 5 TONS!!). Additional projects such as "Rain Gardens", that help eliminate sediment from entering the watershed may be implemented. Stay tuned for future projects.

The decisions and choices we make now will have a lasting impact on our lakes for future generations. The only way to have the most positive impact is for all of us to participate. Thank you to all that have made a financial commitment to date and please encourage your neighbors to participate in this meaningful program.

Ski you!

Mark Ennes, LTPO President