



Van Etten Lake, Iosco County

November 2, 2021

2021 Lake Management Report

2021 was the first year of the current Special Assessment District (SAD) for Van Etten Lake. Oscoda Township retained LakePro as the lake manager. Our lake management strategy was a continuation of our overall plan for the lake. The main goals were:

1. Locate and aggressively treat any Eurasian Milfoil
2. Locate and treat any other invasive species, such as Curly-Leaf Pondweed
3. Promote native plant growth, while keeping it below nuisance levels

In the spring, LakePro solicited bids for the herbicide treatments and Clarke Aquatics was awarded the contract. Clarke had previously been awarded the contract in 2016.

The following is a summary of lake management activities that took place in 2021:

June 17th

Lake Vegetation Survey #1

LakePro surveyed the aquatic plants in the lake. During this survey we did not find any Eurasian Milfoil, but native plant growth was present in a few shoreline areas of the lake. Growth was sparse compared to previous years at this time. Based on the results of this survey, we designed a custom treatment plan for review and approval from the Weed Committee.

July 19th

Herbicide Treatment #1

Clarke applied herbicides at several locations around the lake for algae and native plants. The treatment included 30.9 acres with contact herbicides and 75.0 acres with SeClear algicide. The total cost of the treatment was \$26,063.50. LakePro was also on the lake to ensure the treatment took place according to the plan and the notification signs were posted correctly.

August 4th

Lake Vegetation Survey #2

LakePro surveyed the aquatic plants in the lake. Our first objective was to check the previous treatment areas, and the treatment was very successful in controlling the native plants. We also looked for any invasive species, but did not find any in the lake. We then noted all the new areas of native plant and algae growth that were at or approaching nuisance conditions. Based on the results of this survey, we designed a custom treatment plan for review and approval by the Weed Committee.





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August 23rd Pre-Treatment Posting

This was the first time we requested the applicator to pre-post the lake a day prior to treatment. This was done in effort to give riparian's more time if they were unaware of the scheduled treatment.

August 24th Herbicide Treatment #2

Clarke applied herbicides at several locations around the lake for algae and native plants. The treatment included 39.2 acres with contact herbicides and algicides. The total cost of the treatment was \$19,404.00. LakePro was also on the lake to ensure the treatment took place according to the plan and the lake was postings were done correctly the day before.

Sept. 11 VELA Annual Meeting

Tyson Wood, LakePro, attended the VELA Annual Meeting to discuss the lake management strategy for the summer and answer any questions regarding the lake management.





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Summary

2021 marked another year without invasive species in the lake. This allowed LakePro and Clarke to focus on the nuisance native plants and algae.

For the first survey, LakePro surveyed the littoral zone of the lake and did not find any invasive Eurasian Milfoil or Curly-Leaf Pondweed. So, we marked the areas of nuisance algae and native plants for treatment. With approval, Clarke came out and treated 30.9 acres for those nuisance plants. This treatment also included the application of SeClear algicide to the entire developed shoreline of the lake, 75.0 acres, which is maximum area we were allowed by the ANC permit. SeClear was specifically selected for use due to another active ingredient in the formulation which binds phosphorus particles in the water. This provides the immediate effect of reducing the available nutrient in the waterbody. The goal for reducing that nutrient was to prevent or delay the cyanobacteria bloom that occurs in the lake annually.

Approximately two and a half weeks after treatment, LakePro conducted another lake vegetation survey. The previous shoreline treatment was very successful in controlling the nuisance pondweeds in the treatment areas. However, due to an extended period of time between Survey 1 and Treatment 1, new native plant growth had reached nuisance levels along other areas of the shoreline, as well as late season Eel Grass growth. So, based upon the survey results we planned another custom treatment for review and sent it to the VELA Weed Committee. Upon approval, we scheduled a treatment with Clarke for 39.2 acres, targeting the areas of densest plant & algae growth around the lake.

The 2021 lake management was successful. We met the primary goals of monitoring for Eurasian Milfoil, watching for other invasive species, and suppressing nuisance plants. The only challenge that remained was the cyanobacteria bloom. Based on our data, it appears the bloom may have been delayed about 2 weeks when compared to 2020 but we cannot be certain if that was due to the SeClear application or other factors, such as water temps and weather, throughout the season. As discussed at the fall meeting, in 2022 we may consider waiting and applying SeClear directly to the cyanobacteria bloom.

The aquatic plant management on Van Etten Lake is progressing efficiently, but is not complete. Continuing your efforts is vital to keeping the lake in the great condition we saw this summer. We must diligently search for new introductions of invasive species and continuing to manage native plant growth below nuisance levels to continue to make boating, swimming, and fishing better for everyone on the lake.

Thanks for another great summer on your lake,



Zach Goodheart
Director of Operations – LakePro, Inc.

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2021 Lake Management Expenditures

LakePro, Inc.	Lake Management Consulting	\$ 8,000.00
EGLE	Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit	\$ 1,500.00
Clarke Aquatics	Treatment #1	\$26,063.50
Clarke Aquatics	Treatment #2	\$19,404.00

2021 Lake Management Total: \$54,967.50

Historical Lake Management Expenditures

2021	\$54,967.50
2020	\$54,292.50
2019	\$31,315.00
2018	\$40,030.00
2017	\$20,404.00
2016	\$39,510.00
2015	\$38,120.00
2014	\$65,601.92
2013	\$38,897.50
2012	\$37,254.50
2011	\$58,475.25

