

BIG ROUND LAKE MEETING
January 5, 2011

ATTENDEES: Gordon Kill, Truman Roach, Don Makuch, Sallie Tinkham – Big Round Board Members

GUESTS: Steve McComas – Bluewater Science

Terry Margenau – DNR

Tony Havranek, Don Taylor, Chad Songetay, Kate Stariha – St. Croix Tribal Group

- Gordon Kill opened the meeting with a review of 2010 highlights for Big Round Lake.
- Steve McComas presented a review of Aquatic Invasive Species management guidelines for Big Round Lake.
 - Curly leaf pondweed is the only invasive species present in Big Round Lake.
 - Annual surveys will determine possible need for selective treatment if necessary.
 - No incidence of invertebrates – zebra mussels or rusty crayfish. However, Big Round Lake water has moderate suitability for zebra mussels.
- Tony Havranek reported on water quality for 2010.
 - Secchi disk readings were abnormally low this year – down to 1 foot in August.
 - Early reports of a brownish algae were present from the start of summer. Possible reasons were: early ice out and high temps in April/May timeframe.
 - The Ph/phosphorus levels remained somewhat constant.
 - The river water temperature was higher at the same depths as the lake. Why?
- Don Taylor covered Tribal activities for Fish management.
 - There were only 12 Walleyes speared off reservation in 2010. The low numbers may have been the result of turbid water or missing the peak spawn.
 - Spawn collection slightly higher than in 2009.
 - A collection of 35 yellow perch and 25 Blue Gills was performed for VHS virus testing.
 - The U of M testing lab results were negative.
 - The St. Croix Tribal Group stocked 56,809 Walleye Fry in 2010.
 - The lake District stocked 3,000 seven inch fingerlings in 2010.
 - The DNR has asked for 10,150 large fingerlings to be stocked in 2011.
 - There were no Walleye surveys reported in 2010.
- Don Makuch reported on fishing results for 2010.
 - Panfish were hitting well in early summer – May and June, but declined toward the end of the summer.
 - Bass were still prevalent.
 - Ice fishing was also slower than normal.

NOTE: A comment was made by Tony Havranek and Don Taylor that Big Round had been “HAMMERED” (high fishing pressure in prior years).

- Terry Margenau the DNR Fisheries Supervisor for the St. Croix Basin provided a DNR update.
 - The DNR will experience some cutbacks in staffing, especially with new government in place. Each person will be expected to cover additional areas.
 - Terry commented on our lake and mentioned the bass to walleye ratio. If bass are up, then the walleye population will be down. Then, possibly Big Round is a better bass lake.
 - Terry is planning to attend our annual meeting in June.

- 2011 Lake Programs and Projects
 - Tony commented that the St. Croix Tribal Group is planning on adding additional testing stations on the Straight River.