

What is the DLIA Working On?

The DLIA is currently working on several important projects. Primary focus is around the watershed projects being conducted by the Town of Delavan and Kettle Moraine Land Trust/SEWRPC (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.) These projects consist of long-term studies and analyses of what could be done to improve the quality of Delavan Lake by improving the watershed. The KMLT/SEWRPC project has been going on for 2 years, funded by a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant, and plans to have a report in June. The report will consist of rural and urban remediation projects that could be done to improve water quality. The actual implementation of projects depends on willingness of landowners to improve practices and also in the availability of funding.

The Town's work will examine projects already done to improve water quality, to see if they need to be re-done or if other projects should be added to the list.

The DLIA will have a role when these plans are published in communicating them to the public and in educating the public about what everyone can do to improve water quality in the lake.

Another important area for the DLIA is farm conservation projects. Often there are small farm projects that cannot be funded by grants, to create grassy waterways that trap sediment and chemicals (particularly phosphorus) that would otherwise enter the watershed and the lake. We have four farms now where we compensate farmers for land taken out of production, and are looking for more. The Walworth County farm conservation agent works with us to find and monitor the farms.

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) is a statewide program where volunteers are trained to identify aquatic invasive species. At other lakes, the volunteers report to County specialists or the DNR but in Delavan, volunteers work with Charlie Handle, Lake Operations, from the Delavan Lake Sanitary District. Four DLIA volunteers were trained in 2014. After classroom training, the DLIA volunteers had field training from Charlie and reported conditions to him during the summer. CLMN is a growing program with training available in 2015 and anyone who has a few hours during the summer to monitor for AIS in their neighborhood is welcome to join.

The DLIA is proud of its active communication program, where four newsletters are published each year and the website contains current and useful information. The DLIA also relies on membership dues to fund these programs, and also encourages people to join so they can stay up to date on lake issues.