

## **Greetings Fellow Big Portage Lake Property Owners.**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I'm working to coordinate boat lift installation companies on Big Portage Lake (BPL) this Spring. The goal is for the barge companies to install dock and lifts on BPL within consecutive days; however, many that will take. This will reduce their exposure to the lake of bringing aquatic invasive species (AIS) with them. I understand BPL is not a fertile lake however we have other AIS like Spiney Water Flea and others as well as shoreline erosion from barge waves.

I reached out to Waterworks in Eagle River and Eagle River Dock and Lift. Both said they are onboard in reducing the trips to the lake. I'm not asking you to switch companies, just help me limit the number of trips these barges are making to BPL.

### **Action Step**

If you are interested in having your boat lifts installed on these planned, "INSTALL DAYS" on the lake.

#### **Please send me:**

- **Your Name and Lake Address (please add a contact number or email for you).**
- **Add your Installation Company's Name, Contact and phone number.**
- **Date you want your lift installed (some want early for fishing and some later. (That's OK).**

### **The Issue**

Having worked as a "Clean Boat Clean Water" volunteer at the BPL boat ramp last summer, I witnessed several barges making multiple trips into BPL to drop-in lifts and docks within days. After questioning them, I found out they go to "three or four lakes" in one morning then launch in BPL. This is an invasive species crisis in the making.

### **The Goal**

- Limit lake-hopping barge traffic on the lake and ramp.
- Reduce the risk of introducing more invasive species.
- Reduce boat traffic on lake.
- Helps protect the health and life of the lake.
- Secure installation and removal dates from barge companies.
- Help installation companies reduce their costs and hopefully saving residents money.

***"EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) may never be completely eradicated from a lake but identified in the early stages of infestation, it's possible to manage and control small populations"*** -Three Lakes Waterfront Assoc.

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