

Water Quality Committee Report Spring 2018

Our committees last report was May 2017 and the following report will provide everyone with an update on what has been done and happening since last spring regarding water quality at Kip.

Regarding drainage from the South shore which is a major source of water coming into Kip we were able to make a significant step forward by arranging a meeting with Morsan Farms (new owner of 3L Cattle Co.) manager, Sask. Water Security Agency and Ducks Unlimited in Nov / 2017.

The new owners indicated an environmental concern and willingness to work with our committee in working to lessen nutrients coming into Kip and we will be working with them and DU in this regard over the summer. Ducks Unlimited will be allowed to come back on the land to monitor their flood structures which in wet years have allowed nutrients to flow into Kipabiskau lake, unrestricted.

Although this a major step forward the bigger problem is that the license for these structures has expired and would have to be renegotiated with all landowners affected plus the fact DU will not have budget to do any work on this project for several years.

We will continue to work with all parties in hopes of getting work done asap. Morsan Farms have already taken steps to lessen nutrients entering Slough Creek from their livestock operation and we are optimistic of a continued good relationship.

Another major concern for our lake is Zebra Mussels which would have a very negative effect on recreational use of Kip if they get established in Sask. and our lake. We have put up signs in the Park and Ken Peterson has trained our gate staff on the procedure for an out of province boat coming into Kip Park. Thank you to the 10 cabin owners who have agreed to a have mussel monitoring station placed on their docks and report any findings to the Carrot River Watershed Assoc. If you have company bringing their boat to Kip from out of province, please contact Ken Peterson for information on what to do. If you do not know about Zebra Mussels and the damage they could do to our lake, please take the time to look them up on the internet and please read the pamphlets available at the park gatehouse.

The Board has recently approved the Love Your Lake Program which is done through Carrot River Watershed Assoc. and involves inspection of lake lots and a strictly confidential report and voluntary suggestions on how your lot could be improved to lessen your footprint on Kip. More information will be provided when inspections are done this summer.

The University of Regina will continue to sample Kip spring and fall as they have done since 2002. In discussions with Dr. Bjoern Wessel he indicates that although nutrient levels especially phosphorus are significantly higher than 2006 levels Kip continues to improve, and we are lucky to be on a river system which allows nutrients to be flushed. He indicated that with continued efforts to lessen our footprint on Kip the lake should continue to improve however we will be unlikely to see 2006 levels again. He also indicated this may be the new norm as agriculture and our own activities are increasing nutrient levels in most lakes in the province. He stressed there is no magic pill to fix a lake and the importance to work with area farmers and users of our lake are essential.

Also, through our contact with the University of Regina, Kip will be participating in a monthly sampling program in 2018 to study 6 prominent lakes in Saskatchewan. This is a great opportunity and we will share these results as they become available.

In 2017 the Park installed septic tanks in the old RV section and completed hook ups on the lake front RV sites plus installed new tanks on the lake front bathrooms. In 2018 a new shower building is planned, and the remaining RV sites will be tied into septic tanks.

Thanks to Ken Peterson and staff for the extra work created in getting these projects done over and above the day to day requirements of the park.

Thanks also to the Cabin owners and RV sites that have repaired and done work on their septic systems. Everyone's little bit does make a difference to water quality. Please consider your own lot and what can be done to lessen your footprint.

If you have any concerns with pollution in the Park or have any questions, please contact a Board member or the Park Manager. Have a great summer and please help by doing your part to protect Kipabiskau lake.

Your Water Quality Committee