



July 18, 2023

Bear Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
C/O Mic Austin, Chairman
P.O. Box 68,
Hazelhurst, WI 54531

Subject: Correction to report of curly leaf pondweed in National Lake Assessment report

Dear Bear Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District,

The Wisconsin DNR completed a survey on Bear Lake in summer 2022 as part of the National Lake Assessment, a nationwide survey of the ecological, water quality, and recreational health of America's lakes. A report was provided to the lake district on the survey results in June 2023. That report stated that curly leaf pondweed was observed in Bear Lake. We were promptly contacted by Dean Premo of Water White Associates following their review of our report to glean more information on the curly leaf pondweed occurrence. Following further review of this report, we determined that the report of curly leaf pondweed in Bear Lake was likely incorrect for the following reasons:

- 1) Lack of any verification records such as photographs or voucher.
- 2) Multiple spring surveys specifically targeting curly leaf pondweed by highly trained and trusted citizen volunteers, White Water Associates, and Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department.
- 3) Dense population of *Potamogeton richardsonii* which is a known curly leaf pondweed look-alike.
- 4) The survey was conducted on August 8, which is a time when curly leaf is senesced as it is a cold-water species and rarely present in summer months unless there is a cold-water input which Bear Lake does not have.
- 4) Collector seldom observed curly leaf pondweed in the field.

Due to the lack of any verification of this species, we never added this record to our external - facing webpage. White Water Associates has agreed to help assess the location reported to have the supposed curly leaf pondweed.

- Boat landing
- 45.76841, -89.8054
- 45.77216, -89.8022

If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Maureen Ferry
Water Resources Management Specialist-Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

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