



President's Note

If you have read my notes in the past, you know I like to mention the weather. You all know what the weather is doing so I thought I would change the subject and mention that ELRA will be 22 years old in August. While not a significant milestone such as 25 or 50 years, it is worth noting we have been here for quite some time.

Looking back at the original documents I read, the original mission was to be an educational and environmental organization. They went on to say ELRA should promote stable water levels, high water quality, improve our fisheries and community outreach. Looking at our activities over the years, we have focused on those goals; especially the preservation and prevention side of the equation by doing AIS detection and control, fish stocking and water quality monitoring. Feedback from our members says to the board we are focused on the right concerns.

As we begin 2024, we will continue the work on these important goals. Can we do more? We would like to hear your thoughts on that question. If you have a comment or suggestion, please share your thoughts by emailing them to ELRA@emilylakes.org.

Look for more information about ELRA's 2024 plans later in this newsletter along with the recap of our 2023 activities. Take care and I hope to see you on the lake.

ELRA Board Members

President	Russ Boverhuis, Lake Emily
Vice President	Jason Herfel, Lake Mary
Secretary	Mark Seifert, Lake Emily
Treasurer	Randy Manlick, Lake Emily
Director	Randy Holz, Little Pine River
Director	Jean McLeod, Lake Mary
Director	Tori Ell, Lake Mary

2024 Membership Dues

The start of the year means it is time to renew your ELRA membership. Dues are only \$50 per property and have not changed since 2018. Please renew, or if you are not a member, we invite you to join now.

Joining is simple. Complete the enclosed membership form and send it, along with your payment to ELRA. Added donations are always welcome. Added funds will go to the projects you choose plus help ELRA fulfill our mission.

Two quick and easy ways to join...

By Mail

Fill out the membership form included with this newsletter or found on our website. Mail it and your check to ELRA, P.O. Box 111, Emily, MN 56447.

Online

Go to ELRA's website, www.emilylakes.org
On the homepage click the link...

CLICK HERE TO BECOME AN ELRA MEMBER.

Fill in the information and click **BUY NOW**.

Next, you will be directed to PayPal to complete the payment process. Note that a fee of \$3.00 is added to your membership to cover the PayPal credit card processing fees.

ELRA's membership is open to all property owners on Dahler, Emily, Mary, and the Little Pine River.

ELRA 2024 Goals

ELRA's goals for 2024 start with the continuation of the work our members always mention to the board.

- AIS Threats – This means checking the lakes for EWM and zebra mussels and applying treatments when called for. This year we are being encouraged by Crow Wing County to become involved in their starry stonewort and spiny waterflea programs. More research needs to be done on these programs.
- Fish Stocking – Stock walleye fingerlings in Lake Mary in the fall.
- Water Quality Monitoring – Monthly Secchi disk reading and new in 2024, lake level readings.

ELRA will also be taking part in a Study Group consisting of the City of Emily and the other lake associations in Emily. This study group plans to explore areas of common interest and decide if, by working together, we have more options available to each organization that help fulfill our missions.

2023 Activity Recap

Dam Repairs

ELRA advocated to have the dam repaired after being alerted by members of the need. The repairs were coordinated by the City of Emily and completed by the end of the summer. Thanks to the City of Emily for their efforts to move this forward and find funding.

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)

ELRA continued to check our lakes for EWM in 2023. We have been pleased with the work done by PLM and Freshwater Scientific, so we continued that relationship with them last year. Since treating the lakes in 2020, the lake surveys only found individual plants in a few locations. The solitary plants were removed during the survey. None of the areas where EWM was found called for further treatment. 2023 was our third consecutive year where no treatment was needed.

In December of 2023, the DNR opened the grant application process for 2024. ELRA applied for AIS grants for lakes Emily and Mary. We should know soon if ELRA was selected to receive any funds.

Fish Stocking

Fish stocking of walleye fingerlings in Mary resumed in 2023. Thanks to the generous donations from our members, along with our budgeted money, ELRA stocked Mary with the most fingerlings we have ever stocked. In early November we stocked over 140 pounds of walleye fingerling into Lake Mary.

Zebra Mussel Testing

Testing for veligers (zebra mussel larvae) was done in both Emily and Mary. Test results were again negative. ELRA supplies the labor to collect the water samples and Crow Wing County pays for the testing. The DNR also completed several surveys for adult zebra mussels and did their own veliger testing. Their results were also negative.

Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality testing continued thanks to Randy Manlick. Randy does monthly Secchi disk readings and reports that data to WAPOA and the DNR. The lack of rain the past few years has varied the results.

Emily Waters Committee

Steve Smith represented ELRA on the City of Emily's Water Committee. ELRA was awarded a \$4,800 grant from the Waters Committee for AIS control in our lakes. We used that money to pay most of the lake survey costs. We greatly appreciate the City of Emily's support.

Annual Membership Meeting

ELRA's Annual meeting was held Saturday, August 12, 2023. We had good member turnout again. Normal business was conducted along with a question-and-answer session. Topics brought up by the members included the dam, water quality and wakeboard boats. Elections were held with Russ Boverhuis and Tori Ell being elected to three-year terms beginning in 2024. The meeting recap can be found on our website.

ELRA 2024 Events Calendar

Boat Parade – Saturday, July 6

Annual Membership Meeting – Saturday, August 10

Board Meetings – Thursdays April 11, May 16, June 20, July 18, September 19