



# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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Mr. Ron Purcell  
Waseca Lakes Association  
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Dear Ron and the good folks of the Waseca Lakes Association,

Thank you so much for all of your support in past and present endeavors. Maintaining a quality fishery at Loon Lake has been challenging at times, but your group's perseverance has kept us moving towards our goal. You are to be commended for your current fundraising efforts towards the purchase of new aeration equipment for Loon Lake.

As you know, Loon Lake has come on hard times. During the last fish population assessment in the summer of 2009, black bullheads, bluegills, and black crappies all showed the characteristics of a stunted fish population. Then, during the winter of 2009-2010, Loon suffered a strong winterkill that left the lake almost exclusively populated by small black bullheads.

The 2009-2010 winter was difficult for most small scale aeration units. Diffuser aeration units, like the one used on Loon Lake, have a tendency to weaken over time. It was observed that over the years, the amount of open water on Loon Lake seemed to be shrinking, and the aerator doesn't seem up to the task of providing enough dissolved oxygen refuge to get the fish population through the winter. With more open water exposed and a larger air and water interface, more dissolved oxygen enters the lake. Knowing that the aerators need to be upgraded, we are in the position where before a reclamation can be done, we need to have a working solution for aeration in place first.

The Waterville DNR Fisheries office has put in for internal funding to purchase aeration equipment and reclaim Loon Lake. Unfortunately, funding for these kinds of projects is derived from remaining dollars in the state DNR Fisheries budget after core activities are funded. The truth is, Minnesota DNR at this time has little or no money for these projects.

However, your fund raising will assist in our efforts to replace the aerator and reclaim the lake. Proposals with funding matches or donations are more likely to be funded. Replacement costs for new aeration equipment was around \$5,500.00. The costs for doing a rotenone chemical reclamation totaled \$17,500.00 just for materials. While we don't expect all of this money to

come overnight, we are hopeful that a modest start will get the ball rolling and that in time our proposal will be funded. We don't know how long it will take to get the proposal funded, but in the interim, we want to provide some angling on Loon Lake, so this spring we plan to stock approximately 300 pounds of bluegills and crappies.

The potential for Loon Lake is no mirage. We know from years past that there can be a viable and quite popular urban fishery in Loon Lake. Habitat projects around the lake show the city and community's commitment to a beautiful urban lake. The pieces are in place to make Loon Lake the inner city gem it has and can be. For your efforts in fundraising, we sincerely thank you.

Best regards,

Scott Mackenthun  
Fisheries Specialist