Citizen Resolution # 2004 2015

A Resolution to Control Cattail Vegetation in Rush Lake

The Problem:

After a new dam was installed for improved water level quality, Rush Lake was drawn down for carp control and to allow dry areas of the lake bed to seed new vegetation. The severe drought experienced in 2006 slowed the refill of the lake and allowed cattail growth to crowd out the native bulrush vegetation. Cattails now cover over 75% of the 3066 acre lake.

Rush Lake has a history of being an essential natural resource for waterfowl and fishing for many residents of the State of Wisconsin.

The cattail growth severely limits the waterfowl breeding habitat and migratory staging of waterfowl in the fall along with limiting the hunting, fishing, navigational and recreational use of Rush Lake. The return of bulrushes as the centuries old dominant vegetation is the goal in returning the lake to pre drawdown condition.

A healthy population of muskrats could eliminate much of the cattail growth. A controlled muskrat population would then balance the emergent vegetation of the lake.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Winnebago County on April 13th, 2015 recommends that muskrat trapping on Rush Lake be closed for three (3) years. The 3 year closure may be shortened if WIDNR should determine that the muskrat population may have reached an excessive level. When the season is resumed it shall be limited to a seventy day season.

Signed: Douglas Bohn Date: 4/9/15

Douglas Bohn, President

Rush Lake Watershed Restoration Inc.

Box 137 Waukau, WI 54980

(920) 572- 6066

Introduced in Fond du Lac County
by Otto W. Bowe
N4473 Triple T Rd
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057
920-922-6660
Fond du Lac County