

January 25, 2024

Lakes Committee Update

The Lakes Committee met on January 24th to review the latest monthly and quarterly testing data.

Salinity levels were measured post Ian and this testing has continued monthly. While we have directional improvement in our salinity levels we did not have enough rain to flush out salts this rainy season to take action on fish stocking and this limits what type of littoral planting can be planted. Salt tolerant plants are an option and the committee agreed to pursue installing a few species such as needle rush and spartina. We also had salt water intrusion during Hurricane Idalia which somewhat offset the outflows we had in some ponds near the mangroves. Essentially the bay forced its way up the pipes and into our ponds via the outflow structures. Rare, but this in flow can happen during events like Idalia or even a king tide on a windy day.

The committee recommended cutting back on the monthly oxygen testing as the salt levels are the more important measure at this time.

As a result of the lingering high salt levels, our Midge are few and far between. We will be using a program in 2024 for more targeted midge treatments to our ponds. Essentially a triple dose would be applied over 14 days each quarter instead of standard dose once a month. In addition, the larvicide would be applied via a drop hose which distributes the product to the bottom of our pond instead of the surface. This treatment regime has proved more effective in other locations and we will adopt this to see if keeps any hatchings better managed. Salt levels remain too high for Midge and thus these treatments will commence once salt levels drop and or midge on site return. Committee members will continue to report on any increase in midge.

Eutrosorb is a product that absorbs nutrients such as phosphorus which we will pursue testing in an application to Lake 11. The last test was nullified by Ian's storm surge. We will schedule another application to test to Lake 11 but are looking for a little less salt so the product can be more effective. Lake 11 is a manageable size, high in phosphorus, and flows our larger ponds so is a good lake to test to see if the results flow down to other lakes. This is budgeted and is expected to be applied once that pond and salt levels allow for it to be effective.

(test results attached separately and are being uploaded to website)