

30 August 2010

Dear: Whitemud Watershed Project Management Team

Re: Whitemud Watershed Integrated Watershed Management Plan Response

Lake Irwin is a tremendous regional asset. However, water quality deterioration is a significant issue affecting current use of the lake and its future potential. Nutrient loading results in extensive summer vegetative and algal growth that negatively impacts the lake. As a priority, the Lake Irwin Committee would like to see targeted and prioritized preventative programming in the upstream watershed to reduce nutrient loading with the goal of improving water quality. The Upper Whitemud Watershed Study identified a number of goals that were specific to nutrient loading. These would be worth reviewing.

Further, Lake Irwin is experiencing active bank and shoreline erosion from wind induced wave action which contributes to siltation and water quality impacts. Programming should be offered to stabilize the bank erosion.

Interest in ice fishing at Lake Irwin is growing. The Lake Irwin Committee will be requesting Manitoba Conservation to include Lake Irwin as a "special management lake" which will reduce the daily fishing limit to ensure the fishery is sustainable and healthy for the future. Any improvements to enhance sport fishing in Lake Irwin would be encouraged.

Thank you for requesting our input. We wish you well with your integrated watershed management planning process.

Sincerely,

Lake Irwin Committee