

March 24, 2016

Re: Lake Bank Erosion and Cast-Net Fishing

This letter informs you that the HOA has contracted for cast-net fishing of several of the RW lakes (starting with lakes 7, 9, & 12) in order to begin addressing a bank erosion problem. (See HOA Lake map of RW LAKES on rwhoa website).

A recent study of the RW lakes shows significant erosion and partial collapse of the banks of several of the lakes. The eroded areas are fairly large and will require some preventive measures/repairs to prevent further erosion that might impact resident properties and/or cause levee failures. The repairs will be somewhat expensive and will need to be planned and scheduled over multiple years as budgeting is available. The HOA is already working with three firms to assess, plan and bid these repair projects.

The study showed that the erosion is caused by nesting tilapia, nesting armored catfish, and wind/wave impact. The cast-net fishing being planned is designed to remove the tilapia and armored catfish that are causing this damage. It will not get all of these exotic fish, but it will remove the majority of them and their removal will slow down the erosion process, as will subsequent plantings along the banks. The cast-net fishing and plantings are being done to minimize future erosion and to give the HOA time to prioritize and schedule the bank repair work over multiple years.

We have negotiated with a company that will begin cast-net fishing of the three most critical lakes in the next few weeks. Our contract specifies that this process will remove only tilapia and armored catfish, and it insures that the liabilities of the disposal of the exotic fish is handled appropriately. All native Florida fish will be returned to the lakes. Since the company will keep the exotic fish, there will be no cost of this cast-net fishing contract.

We will evaluate further cast-net fishing of HOA lakes after completing these three lakes. Note the lakes are on HOA property and therefore require HOA contracts for the cast-net fishing. While individual residents can "catch and return" fish in HOA lakes, residents are not authorized to cast-net fish.

Thank you for your consideration as we begin these lake erosion projects. We will inform you of further steps as they get finalized.

Syble Di Girolamo, HOA President
Rich Barbieri, HOA VP and Treasurer
Dan Salisbury, HOA Lakes