

Circle Lake Area Association

2005 Survey Results

Association Purpose

1. **Would you be willing to support a private or public funding initiative to purchase private property around Circle Lake?**

Yes: 23 No: 4 Undecided: 9

64% yes. Given the financial impact to individuals, the actual activity is questionable. The support is most likely in favor of any involvement the association could have in the public considerations to area property.

2. **What are three things that you would like to see your association accomplish in the coming year?**

18-water quality, 7-keep residences informed, 7-aerator, 6-raise water level, 4-work with regulators, 4-fish stocking, 6-slow development, 3-dredge, 2-social, 2-lake management plan

Water quality and interest in general. Primary concerns include aeration system and water level concerns.

3. **What do you feel are the benefits of our association?**

13) unity 9) info/communication 6) water quality 4) social 2) quality of life

Continued coordinated effort and the association is important.

4. **Would you like to become a CLAA board member within the next couple of years?**

11 Yes
 25 No

There appears to be significant interest in participation. Possibly encourage participation in the meetings. Look for a way to communicate and increase involvement.

5. Do you know landowners who have property on the west side of county road 9 in which the county ditch flows through?

- 9 Yes
- 31 No

6. Would you be willing to work with the association and landowners towards the possible improvements of this ditch to help pollution control through this ditch?

- 23 Yes
- 8 No

If yes, to what degree?

9 Time 6 Money 3 Any

7. Would you support an increase in association dues?

- 24 Yes
- 12 No

If yes, how much? 5-\$25 increase 3-\$50-100 2-\$10

Given the right purpose, people seem interested in contributing.

8. Should we continue to support our website of Circlelake.org?

- 23 Yes
- 3 No

Consider improving links, communication and tools.

9. Are you interested in attending our monthly meetings?

- 25 Yes
- 14 No

If yes, what is the best way to let you know the times and date?

13 e-mail, 4 mail, 3 phone

Summary: 64% interested in attending, 65% communicated through e-mail

10. Please list, in order, the 5 most critical issues to you concerning Circle Lake.

23-water quality, 15-fishing, 12-water level, 10-development, 10-surface growth, 11-wildlife, 4-weeds, 3-boating

Water quality, including surface growth and level, clearly dominate the concerns. Fishing is another significant consideration.

11. Do you have any input from others who utilize Circle Lake but are not members of the association?

Yes: 5 No: 12

If yes, what are their concerns?

3) water quality 2) poor fishing

Not much response or interest.

Lake Use

1. Which of the following is important to you?
(✓ all that apply)

- 32 Swimming
- 38 Boating
- 28 Fishing
- 19 Ice Fishing
- 14 Ice Skating
- 13 Snowmobiling
- 35 Viewing nature, plants and wildlife
- Other _____

Summary: Swimming 18%, Boating 21%, Viewing/nature 20%, Fishing 16%
Surprisingly diverse uses including swimming.

2. What do you think affects the quality of boating activities on Circle Lake?
(✓ all that applies)

- 37 Lake water level
- 5 Boat use during the year
- 5 Boat use during holidays
- 13 Boater's use (personal water craft) and observation of safety and shoreline protection rules
- 16 Trash/refuse discard in lake and around public landing from boaters
- 13 Condition of public landing and its access road
- 13 Boating or personal water craft noise (circle which or both that apply)
- 5 Boating wakes

Water level is 2x higher than any other factor. Add to the conclusion the water level concerns from questions 3,4,5.

3. Name two things that have gotten worse about Circle Lake.

7 Low water level, 6 multiple lake associations, 6: new construction, 5 water quality, 4 each fish population, dead fish, sediment, 3 road trash, 2 dead heads

Water quality and level dominate if combined. Construction and coordinated association efforts should also be considered.

4. Would you prefer the water level on Circle Lake to be

- 27 higher
- 14 about the same
- 0 lower

Vast majority would like to increase the average lake level.
27 of the 41 said higher, 14 said the same and none said lower.
66% higher, 34% same, 0% lower

5. Would you support a formal process to increase the water levels on Circle Lake?

- 30 Yes
- 7 No

Majority support the pursuit of a formal process.
30 of the 37 respondents said yes, 7 said no
84% Yes, 16% No

**6. What factors do you think affect the quality of fishing on Circle Lake?
(✓ all that apply)**

- 24 Game fish population
- 26 Rough fish population
- 23 DNR stocking program
- 37 Winter aeration program
- 6 Fishing pressure

Most existing support programs should be continued.

7. How many months per year do you use your lake home/property?

- 12 30
- 6-11 5
- 1-6 8

Vast majority are full time residents.

8. How do you feel the DNR has managed Circle Lake as a resource?

- 6 Meets your expectation
- 14 Not meeting your expectation
- 11 See an improving trend

If not meeting your expectations what else could be done?

4) fish stocking 3) rough fish control 2) control runoff

Fish stocking, bullhead control and runoff management are the biggest concerns.
Possibly a communication issue as the board feels the DNR is doing a good job here.

9. Other comments? 2- improve boat launch

Water Quality

**1. What do you think affects our lake water quality?
(✓ all that apply)**

- 32 Algae level
- 36 Phosphorus levels
- 25 Coliform levels
- 20 Noxious or exotic aquatic plants
- 25 Sediment sources
- 26 Septic systems
- 38 Agriculture runoff
- 21 Residential runoff
- 13 Shoreline erosion
- 20 Inadequate government regulation and enforcement of pollution sources and zoning restrictions
- Other _____

Agricultural run-off, phosphorus and therefore algae levels dominate the responses as top contributing factors. Encouraged government regulation enforcement can be linked with several other factors to become a large consideration.

2. During the past 3 years, would you say the quality of Circle Lake was:

- 6 getting better
- 23 about the same
- 7 getting worse

*If your answer was getting worse, what is your thought of why?
(six answers, no duplicates)*

Broad response indicating no significant change for better or worse.

3. Name two things over the last few years that have gotten better about Circle Lake.

5 aeration, 4 dam, 4 algae, 3: septic, 3 water quality, 2 ea: more interest, less weeds, water quality, island

Summary: 1) Aeration (Tri-lakes)
 2) Dam (County)
 3) Algae/water quality (???)
 4) Septic Systems (Development, County)

Very little responses relative to the number of surveys returned. Indicates little significant improvement worth noting by most individuals.

4. What is the age of your septic system?

13-<3 yrs: 11-4 to 8 years, 2-9 to 19years, 2-14 to 20 years, 3-21 plus years

Over half of the responses are over 12 years. Maintenance and education are important to the lake and the environment.

5. What kind of system do you have? (mound 17, drainage field 12, curtain 2 community/cluster 11 or other (other 0, please explain)

No significant findings or concussions.

Communication and education.

6. Are your purchasing decisions for lawn fertilizers, laundry detergents and dishwasher detergents influenced by the phosphorous contents?

33 Yes (*If yes, please circle each that applies.*)

8 No

33 of the 41 said yes and 8 said no.

80% Yes,

No could mean not planning on purchasing fertilizer.

Awareness is very good.

7. Please ✓ each of the following that you feel contributes to poor lake quality on Circle Lake.

- 38 Pollution due to agriculture runoff
- 20 Inadequate response of public officials
- 12 Lakeshore erosion
- 22 Aquatic plant growth
- 33 Algae growth
- 23 Water pollution due to faulty/substandard septic systems
- 20 Over all water quality
- 19 Zoning ordinances not properly followed
- 14 Water level fluctuations
- 10 Improper alterations to shoreline
- 8 Noise from personal watercraft
- 20 Too few fish
- 10 Litter
- 5 Not enough law enforcement
- 13 Density of development
- 6 Boat access
- 15 Fish stocking
- 21 Rough fish control

Matching conclusion to question 2. Water quality is dominant factor for most respondents.

8. Have you participated in weed control in the past years?

Yes: 24 No: 11
68% Yes

9. Have you used manual cutting or other means of weed control? If other, what was it? Yes: 28 No: 9 Other means: 3 chemical

Dominant number of weed control individuals have used the weed cutters. Very little chemical control being used.

10. Would you like to see another aerator installed in Circle Lake? If so where would you suggest. Yes: 28 No: 2

3-West bay, 3-Wolf creek inlet, 3-W. of island

28 respondents said yes with 2 saying no. There were no suggestions for placement on my sheet
Assume 67% suggest West bay or West of island

11. List three priorities on how the association dues should be spent.

12-water quality, 10-newsletters/information, 4-monitor pollution, 4-aerators, 3-fish stocking, 3-lake projects, 2-raise water level, 2-annual party, 2-runoff cleanup

Water quality is at the top of the list by a large margin. Second is communication.

12. How do you feel Rice County has managed Circle Lake as a resource?

- 3 Meets your expectation
- 20 Not meeting your expectation
- 6 See an improving trend

If not meeting your expectations, what else could be done?

5) enforce regulations

Need continued communication with Rice County officials at advertised CLAA meetings.