

On September 27, 2019, the Okauchee Lake Management District application for chemical treatment of the aquatic invasive species, Starry Stonewort, found in two defined areas on the lake, was denied by DNR Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, Heidi Bunk. The letter of denial offered two substantive reasons for its position:

1. The Starry Stonewort populations at the bridge near Foolery's and near the launch at the Golden Mast are not currently presenting material obstruction to navigation.
2. The treatment proposed by OLMD was claimed not to have been shown effective to control Starry Stonewort.

The Okauchee Lake Management Commission has asked for reconsideration of this decision. This is based on advice from our experts that the treatment proposed by OLMD, a combination of Cutrine Ultra-Hydrothol 191 has, indeed, been shown to be effective both locally and in studies conducted elsewhere. Following is a link to the study conducted on Lake Wawasee in Indiana demonstrating the treatment proposed by OLMD was effective - https://lakes.grace.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Lake_Wawasee_Starry_Stonewort_Report_by_Grace_College_Kosciusko_County_June_1_2017.pdf. While the treatment did not eradicate Starry Stonewort, any more than the current treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil has eradicated that invasive species from Okauchee Lake or other lakes, it did prove helpful as a tool in combating Starry Stonewort. OLMD Lake Consultant, Kathy Aron, has studied the effectiveness of local treatments, and concurs that our proposal for chemical treatment can help fight the spread of Starry Stonewort.

OLMD will continue to advocate for appropriate treatment of this lake, and work with Lake Consultant, Kathy Aron and other lake management districts and officials, so that appropriate and early treatment may be utilized.