

# Alliance of Pigeon Lake Municipalities

## Public Update on Lake Water Quality Initiatives

August 6, 2014

The Alliance of Pigeon Lake Municipalities (APLM) formed an In-Lake Technical Committee last November following investigative work into possible approaches to mitigate water quality problems at Pigeon Lake. The goal of this Committee is to develop a recommended Action Plan based on the scientific validity of alternatives that have merit. The Committee began with a workshop to discuss and review all alternative methods of dealing with blue-green algae at Pigeon Lake.

Workshop attendance included Chris Teichreb and Ron Zurawell, scientists from the Alberta Government's Department of Environment & Sustainable Resource Development (SRD), two experts in lake management from the United States, representatives from the In-lake Technical Committee, WaterSmart, the Alberta Lake Management Society, and the University of Alberta. It was recommended that if a feasible and environmentally safe in-lake treatment option is found, a pilot project should be considered to test if improvements in water quality are possible.

Alberta Environment SRD's recently completed a report titled *Pigeon Lake Phosphorous Budget* and similar reports will provide input into APLM's efforts to improve water quality. It is recognized that In-Lake options are only part of the solution to improving the water quality of Pigeon Lake; controlling the in-flow of nutrients is also required.

The APLM continues to work with the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA), support the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan, and encourages property owners in the Pigeon Lake Watershed to reduce nutrients from entering Pigeon Lake by referring to the recommendations listed on the PLWA website at [www.plwa.ca](http://www.plwa.ca). We owe a debt of gratitude to the many people working on this project, most of whom who are generously donating their time.

Regards,

Brian Waterhouse  
APLM Chair