

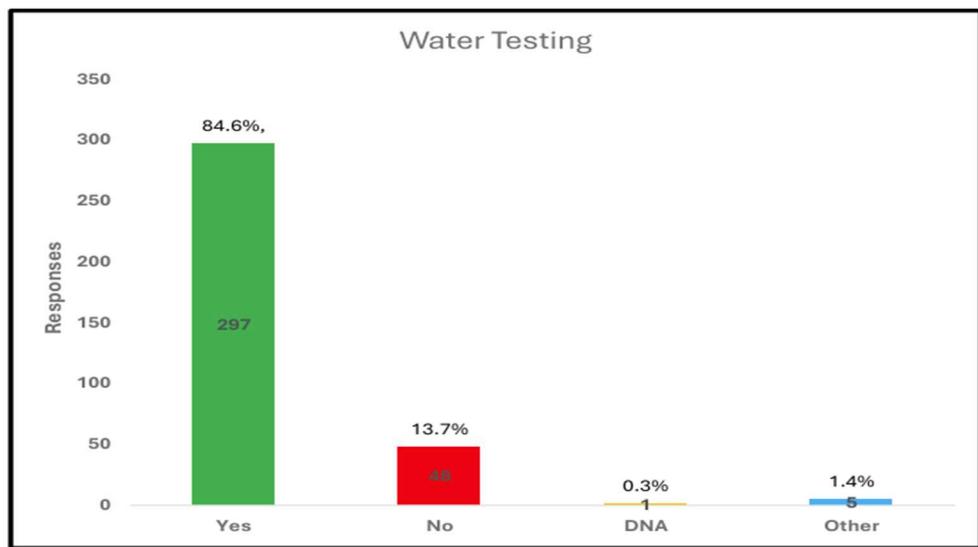
RLMC Survey Results – Fall 2024

Water Testing: Member Feedback and Recommendations

Question #2

For at least the past +12 years, RLMC has been testing both Little and Big Rainbow Lakes' water to provide transparency on the quality of both lakes; Do you consider water testing a valuable expense that should remain as part of the annual operational budget?

- 297 Yes
- 48 No
- 1 Did not answer (DNA)
- 5 Left comment only, did not directly answer question
- 13% (48 members) of the 351 respondents left a comment



Summary of Comments on Water Quality Testing

Members largely support (84.6% YES) the continuation of water quality testing. The 13% of respondents who offered comments emphasizing the following key points:

- **Transparency:** There is a strong demand for clear communication of test results and actions taken based on those results to maintain trust and ensure informed decision-making.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Members are concerned about the costs involved and suggest exploring more affordable testing options and potentially reducing the frequency of tests to save money.
- **Actionable Outcomes:** Testing should lead to concrete actions to improve water quality, with a focus on critical parameters such as bacteria and E. coli.
- **Addressing Pollution:** The impact of agricultural runoff and other sources of pollution needs to be monitored and addressed to improve overall water quality.

In summary, while water quality testing is seen as necessary, there is a clear need for greater transparency, cost-efficiency, and actionable results to address the lakes' environmental challenges effectively.

Water Testing: Member Feedback and Recommendations

Raw data as submitted by members

1. Yes, the testing of our water quality is very important, however I don't know that it is necessary for the frequency. Would once per year suffice and how much money would it save us? What about every other year?
2. Yes, Need to do something about the clarity of the water
3. Yes, with the unrestricted use of wake boats we need to watch quality of water even more than before, use of wake boats is PROVEN to damage lake bottoms and contribute to algae blooms.
4. No, I don't see much value in the water testing, but if there are potential short or long term benefits that should be considered, that should be noted as a potential risk of discontinuing.
5. Yes, A quick look on the Michigan EGLE website provides sufficient information to quickly conclude that this larger lake serves primarily as a settling basin for the agricultural producers upstream. Yes, it is rather obvious that for health and safety, monitoring should continue. This might actually become important information in the

event that there is ever any actual concerted effort to improve water quality within the watershed that feeds the lake.

6. No, Why test it if there is nothing you can do to improve the water quality.
7. Yes, Important for water quality HOWEVER the hike increase for the water bill raised three times the cost is terrible. As a senior the water should not cost me as much as a family with 6 children. Unfair. Lower the water cost for seniors, esp. on fixed incomes. Many do not even stay here 12 months. Unfair cost.
8. No, Most of the nutrients entering the lake is coming from up stream and the north part of the lake that is not connected to the sewer system. There is no value in testing if the same results are received each year or the current issues are not being addressed or out of the associations jurisdiction.
9. No, The water quality values don't seem to have changed much over the years and we don't have anything in plans to resolve any of the factors if there were. Due to this, there isn't a substantial need to finance testing of the lake.
10. Yes, Comments below
11. Yes, What can we do to clear up water.
12. Yes
13. Yes, Is this a state compliance that is needed, or is this something that we can decline.
14. I don't see the point as there is two creeks that run threw the lake , thus contaminating the lake continually. Al tho there might be a good reason for doing this.
15. Yes, Water is main attraction. It should remain relatively clean & usable
16. Yes, Water quality is a basic, necessary, expense that addresses the safety and use of our waterways.
17. Yes
18. No, This can be done by the local health department- Mid Michigan District Health Department Environmental Quality Division. What is the actual cost of this service?
19. Yes, but I would like to see the reports both past and present.
20. Yes, Members should be made aware of test results.
21. If the test are bad are we notified to stay out of the water. Does the testing have a change as far as material in it?

22. Not sure on this subject

23. No, Always going to be a farmers runoff lake. Fertilize your lawn then it runs into the lake then weeds and algae grow, Can't figure it out. But your lawn looks nice though. We are the problem for the lake health.

24. Yes, Yes, with caveat of who does the testing and what are the standards

25. Yes , Agree it is needed

26. Yes, but only if there something done about it. If it just testing alone than No.

27. Yes, At a minimum Little Rainbow. Rainbow lake has water flow from the river which should take care of its self.

28. Yes, You knoe its difficult to answer without knowing how much we are spending on these items. Water testing 2k? Yes. Water testing 20K? no.

29. Yes, This is essential. The water seems to be getting worse, looks bad and is in need of attention

30. Yes, Wish you could put the budgeted amounts for these services you are talking about That could change my mind

31. Yes, Any thoughts on having or adding continuous monitoring/testing? Or possibly having assistance from a university environmental program?

32. Yes, Even know the water is being tested it looks bad.

33. Yes, absolute necessity!

34. Yes, Excellent data points and information and is definitely doing the right thing for people who enjoy the lake

35. "

36. No, Yes,Only if we are doing something with the results to treat the lake to make levels safe for swimming

37. Yes ,Water testing is valuable with all the farmers dumping into the river area. But, how can we make the water nice like it used to be? Regardless if it is being tested or not it looks absolutely disgusting and continues to worsen each year.

38. I don't know much about it. maybe it could be done every other year as needed

39. No the quality has not changed in the past 5 years

40. No - Transparency what are results never seen and what have we done from results of test
41. Yes - but only for bacteria and ecoli. Phosphates etc will never change as long as we are a farm drainage district
42. Yes - necessary for lake safety of all residents using the lake
43. No Need more information to answer. How much does it cost? How often is it being tested? What is being done with the data?
44. No - test but not so frequently
45. Yes - explore testing options - another source of these services. Look for cheaper providers of this service
46. No, have dangerous conditions been detected in previous tests? if so, then maybe. No mention of critical lake conditions detected in previous tests were mentioned in the questionnaire. Which lead me to believe there weren't any. If there were, then how serious, and what was the necessary response taken to mitigate the condition? I want those answers before I would support continued testing.
47. Yes - farmer's pollute, check creeks coming into lake
48. Yes -results need to be shared w/property owners