**Lake Socorro**

**Zebra Mussel/Invasive Specie**

**Transmission and Prevention Document**

The impact of an infestation of Zebra Mussels or other Aquatic Invasive Species to our lake can be catastrophic! The Lake Socorro Homeowners Board members recognizes this serious risk and over the past few months have been working on putting a protocol into place to protect our lake. The purpose of this document is to inform our homeowners regarding the threat of Zebra Mussels and other invasive species, share measures to protect our lake, and share expected decontamination permit to enter our lake.

Zebra Mussels are fingernail-sized black and white striped mollusks native to the Caspian Sea region of Asia. They came to waters in international shipping ballasts water and were discovered in Lake Clair near Detroit in 1988. Since then Zebra Mussels have spread rapidly throughout the Great Lakes and connected waterways of the Mississippi River including Arkansas, Illinois, Ohio and Tennessee rivers.

In 2010 Zebra Mussels were found at Lake Zorinsky, Omaha NE, and the lake was drained to prevent infestation from taking hold.

Zebra Mussels are one of the most aggressive species know to damage infrastructure around a lake and upset the ecosystem, causing fish population to decline. They adhere to hard surfaces, clogging pipes, drains and docks and cause damage to boats. They clump together and cover rock, metal, rubber, wood and even aquatic plants. Zebra Mussels or other invasive species would potentially devastate Lake Socorro because we are spring fed we do not have the option of draining the lake and property values would substantially decline.

**YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THEIR SPREAD!**

A. Adopt a vigilant and aggressive attitude….anything that comes into our lake from any other water source could be potentially infected.

B. Be aware/alert of any/all watercraft (boat, jet ski, etc.) entering our lake.

C. Restrict access – only homeowner owned watercraft allowed on our lake.

It is up to the homeowners to inform their family and guests of our HOA Rules and Protocols.

Measures to protect Lake Socorro:

1. All Service boats are required to complete our Decontamination Permit to Enter – [www.lakesocorro.com](http://www.lakesocorro.com/)

2. All returning watercraft should comply with either:

 a. Clean, Drain & Dry (5-14 days) process

 b. Proof of professional Decontamination

3. Treat and dry all minnow buckets, trailers, kayaks, canoes, paddleboats, stand-up paddle boards etc before bringing them into our lake.

4. Remove plants and animals from your boat, trailer, and accessory equipment (anchors, centerboards, trailer hitch, wheels, rollers, cables, and axles) before leaving the water access area of any lake that visit with any water toys, buckets etc.

5. Drain live wells, bilge water, and transom wells before leaving – empty onto land – never into water. Never dump live fish from one body of water in another.

**Lake Socorro Permit to Access Lake**

**Decontamination Protocol**

Homeowners anticipating the need to have watercraft / service boats access our lake follow these steps:

1. Contact the LSHOA Board

2. Complete “Decontamination Permit to Enter” document found on our website at lakesocorro.com

3. Return document to a board member for approval.