

HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION
DISTRICT NO 1



April 15, 2008

Chairperson:

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www.horseheadlake-wi.org

District Members

If anyone doubts that Mother Nature and Old Man Winter keep their own calendars, they only need to look out a window and observe the knee-deep snow that remains on the landscape.

Numerous signs announce, "Think Spring", hoping that warm weather will bring on the flowers and chances to get outside to enjoy Wisconsin outdoors. Ah, FRESH AIR!

On Horsehead Lake, Tim Hoyman and crew are busy taking scientific samples and gathering other information for our Lake Study. We have received 50 completed surveys, which are being tabulated for resident opinions. All the information will be rolled into our Lake Study Report, which is expected later this year.

APRIL 7th Meeting Highlights

- Noted Lake Nakomis residents have petitioned Oneida Co. for District status.
- Dennis & Kris Batchelet will be attending the Wisconsin Association of Lakes convention on Friday, April 18th and meeting with Kevin Gauthier (DNR) and Tim Hoyman.
- Recognized Tom Rudolph, our Oneida Co. supervisor-commissioner being named Conservationist of the Year by the Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association (OCLRA). He has been instrumental in helping to preserve lakes and rivers in Oneida Co.
- Noted the hiring of Amy Holman as the new DNR Invasive Species Coordinator for Oneida Co.
- Voted to hire Jeff Ziembra and helper to retrieve our ice stakes & rope and to re-install them next fall.
- Set our next Commissioner's Meeting for week of July 7th.
- Noted over 2100 "hits" on our web site.

- Voted to consider District picnic in 2009; this year's picnic cancelled.

Repairing Our Dam

Ed Coffen, Lake Tomahawk Chairperson, has assured us that materials have already been purchased and plans made for replacing the boards in our dam.

Sometime this spring, the Town crew will build a coffer dam to hold back Horsehead Lake water. Then new boards will be inserted in the dam.

Lake Study Committee

The Lake Grant Planning Committee is comprised of Kris Batchelet, Hans Delius, Beverly Fagan, Mary Ellen Zickus, Jim Watters, & Pat Donnick.

As soon as the surveys have been tabulated, the committee will meet to interpret and discuss the results. We may not have the final report by the time of our annual meeting.



Weeds

Cliff Schmidt has once again been contracted for 80 hours in 2008 for the week of July 14th.

In the past, our primary concern focused on Elodea, Narrow Leaf Pond Weed, and Curly Leaf Pond Weed. With discovery last fall of Eurasian Water Milfoil, we all need to be on the lookout for it and carefully uproot the entire plant. Eurasian Water Milfoil, and Curly Leaf Pond Weed (most active when ice is going out) plagues many of our northern lakes. We need to be especially vigilant of the boat landing for signs of the Eurasian Milfoil, as that's where most of our off-lake boats enter the lake.

It should be noted that if weed cutting is not needed, we are allowed to cancel our contract and save the money.

Minutes

Available on the web page or by request to Linda Houghton-Bowen.

Lake Tomahawk's web site

If you want to see more about the Lake Tomahawk area, go to the following official web site of the town:

www.laketomahawkwi.org



From the Chair

By Dennis Batchelet

Since our survey is fresh in our minds, I thought I'd write about a few of the comments.

In the first week after we mailed our 100 lake surveys, lots came back. Then it tapered off and we now stand at fifty. We were hoping to get most of them back. Then we talked to people who are more familiar with sending out surveys. They said if we get back one-third we're doing well. So, we've read all the comments and are tabulating the other information to get a clearer picture of what our needs and observations are about the lake.

We had quite a few people express an interest in limiting the number of fish caught on our lake - especially Northern. Our lake has a daily limit of five but it isn't enforced very well. Personally, I catch and release the ones I bring in because I want to preserve the fish

numbers on our lake. It has been suggested that we set more restrictive limits - even size limits, on Northern caught. We looked into that but found out that it takes about three years and involves attending a once-a-year DNR meeting in Rhinelander, getting a resolution approved to present to the legislature, and then getting it signed into law. I have given my blessing to anyone who has the time and energy to shepherd this through, but nobody has taken me up on it. I'm all for it, though.

We had a couple of suggestions to dredge the lake to make it at least 15-20 feet deep. In the 1970's someone looked into it. That plan was estimated to cost \$1,000,000 then. I'm sure the DNR would have something to say about disturbing the ecosystem if we decided to pursue it. Enough said.

One person said, "Don't you dare raise our taxes again". My first thought was that someone thinks the commissioners raise District taxes. Actually, it is the people who

attend the annual meeting who make that determination. The commissioners explain what our finances are and make recommendations.

The District residents at the meeting set the budget by picking and choosing what they want to spend money on. In the past several years, we've had bumper crops of weeds to deal with. From comments, discussion, and motions made, it's obvious that our residents want to enjoy the lake when they come to visit.

Unfortunately, weed cutting isn't cheap.

I, for one, have appreciated the spirit in which our residents gather at the annual meeting to consider the issues before us. Since I have been the Chairperson, I have been impressed with the careful thought, and spirit of cooperation. It is evident that we share responsibility for the lake's care.

May the coming summer season be enjoyable and safe for all who come to enjoy our lake.

Did you know?

- ◆ No person may fish with more than (3)

hooks, (3) baits, or (3) lures.

- ◆ 25 panfish on most inland lakes is the limit.
- ◆ Northern season opens - 1st Sat. in May.

Thanking Volunteers

Hans Delius redesigned our red/green light setup on the aerator last fall to meet our agreement with the DNR. The lights make it possible to verify proper operation of the aerator at a glance all winter long.

Hans further volunteered his time to instruct Jeff Ziemba about past practice in setting up the stakes and rope danger warning for snowmobilers near the aerator.

Beverly Fagan designed and made two new "Thin Ice" signs.

Jim Watters mounted and secured the new signs at both the Trout and Kildeer Roads docks. Thanks to all three for their timely help.

If you can, drag floating debris off the lake.

Let's be safe out there.

Sincerely,
Dennis Batchelet,
Beverly Fagan,
Linda Houghton-Bowen
Rick Mazurczak
Tom Rudolph

