

HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

NO 1



September 15, 2010

Chairperson:

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County Board:

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www.horseheadlake-wi.org

August 14th Annual Meeting Notes

- Adopted our 2010-'11 Budget; \$18,563 tax levy. That translates into \$95.10 per \$100,000 property valuation.
- 90 hours of weed harvesting funding for 2011, same as 2010.
- Noted incomplete results in lake quality as measured by DNR lake sample data.
- Noted Audit Committee approval of financial records to date.
- Voted to authorize inspection and maintenance of aeration system in fall.
- Voted to authorize the option of hiring a person to sample our lake water and send to DNR lab in Madison - (maximum cost of \$300 a year - June, July, and Aug.)
- Voted Batchelet to a third (3 year) term as commissioner.
- Commissioners met later and voted the following posts: Batchelet - President/Chair, Fagan - Treasurer, Nemcek- Secretary.
- Received updated resident list from Oneida Co. *Want one? Contact a commissioner*
- Noted DNR intention to stock some Bass in our lake next year, if available.

DNR Fish Survey

Days ago we received preliminary figures on the fish survey conducted this spring. The survey hasn't quite ended, yet, but will be in September after a one-night shock treatment to count this year's hatch.

24,736 fish were counted with Yellow Perch comprising 53% of the total. 375 Northern Pike were found, representing less than 2%; average length 18" and maximum length 32". The most numbers of Northern Pike were in the 16-24" range. Those numbers agree with what experts expect on a lake like ours. Surprisingly, only

ONE Large Mouth Bass was found! John Kubisiak, DNR fish biologist, theorizes Bass virus may have devastated the population. He pledged his support for stocking some Bass next year if he can get them.

For a "pie chart" and further data of the fish study, go to our website (www.horseheadlake-wi.org)

One resident commented at the annual meeting that, in his estimation, the average pan fish size is somewhat larger than a decade or so ago.

Do Ice Fishermen Abuse Limits?

For several years, reports have circulated that ice fishermen are taking way too many Northerns from our lake. Observers have seen large numbers of Northerns in trunks and pickups taken from the lake. Attempts to get enforcement of fishing regulations have been in vain. We are hopeful enforcement will be stepped up in accordance

with recent comments made by DNR officials in Rhinelander.

Meanwhile, if you see or suspect abuse of limits, contact Warden Tim Ebert or report violations to 1-800-TIP-WDNR.

We are investigating whether "slot limits" for Northerns might be appropriate for our lake. If a slot limit were in place, one Northern over 32" could be taken a day, in season. A size limit of 24", 26", 28", or 30" could be substituted instead. There would be no limit on Northerns of smaller size. In this way, some Northerns would be allowed to reach larger sizes.

Two residents reported catching a small Muskie. It is possible that a few Muskies are in our lake. Normally, Northerns and Muskies are rivals and seldom does a lake have many of both.

Lake Study Update

Kris Batchelet reported that our lake study is currently being processed by Kevin Gauthier, Rhinelander DNR office, where it has been

for some time. When it has been approved, which is likely, we may then proceed to filing forms with the state for reimbursement (\$4,000+), part of our budget assets for the coming year.

Because we will have a current lake study on record, we will be able to obtain future permits to harvest weeds.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters

Our Clean Boats/Clean Waters volunteers, Pat Donnick & Joanne Erickson, made over 30 trips to our boat landing to inspect boats and talk to fishermen during the past year. Give them a thumbs-up when you see them for their dedicated and diligent work to protect our lake. They are our first line of defense.



Weed Cutting

It should be noted that if less plant/weed cutting is needed than we've budgeted, we can shorten the cutting time at no cost to the district. Cliff Schmidt of Schmidt's Landscaping, Iola, WI, has been contracted for the same week in July, next year.

Probably because of the early ice out, we had more

weeds this year, requiring 84 hours to collect 49 harvester loads. In 2009, 41 loads were collected in 64 hours. This year Elodea and Coontail were a minute amount of the weed harvest. This year, the weeds were mostly Narrow Leaf Pond Weed, a long grass that did not float on the surface. It is further proof that every summer season is different. As many of you know, roughly a dozen plants of Eurasian Water Milfoil was discovered at the Kildeer Road dock and carefully pulled out last year.

In a few weeks, Onterra Biological workers will be carefully checking the landing area again. Be sure your boat has NO plant material when you launch your boat in Horsehead Lake or take it out. Your boat and trailer should be washed thoroughly with soap and water before re-launching in our lake if it has been in another body of water. Police may give a \$500 citation to those who have weeds on their boat or trailer anywhere in Oneida Co.



From the Chair

By Dennis Batchelet

We had several comments at the annual meeting about how clear our lake has looked all season compared to previous years. Perhaps it is the result of our yearly weed-cut program.

Those ninety some tons of weeds taken off our lake cannot become part of the biomass that degrades the lake and fertilizes future weeds.

We are fortunate in being on a lake with ample natural springs that maintains our water level. Many other lake residents can't say the same.

Everyone enjoyed the friendly and cooperative atmosphere at our annual meeting again this year. Mark your calendar and try to attend next year on August 20th.

Did you know?

- 1) Wisconsin has more lakes (15,081; 6,044

are named) than Minnesota, 11,842.

- 2) Water skiing was invented in Minnesota (1922).
- 3) Jack Houghton, late of Horsehead Lake, served from 1978-1988 in gathering our lake data for official records. We appreciate his dedication on behalf of our lake.

Our 2010-'11 Volunteers

We had tremendous success in getting volunteers at this year's annual meeting. Thanks to everyone who stepped up to help out.

Secchi testing/water sampling

Audit Committee

Linda Delius
Dave Lane

Clean Boats/Clean Waters

Pat Donnicks
Joanne Erickson

Nominating Committee

Linda Delius
Dolores Kania

Let's be safe out there.

Sincerely,
Dennis Batchelet,
Beverly Fagan,
Christy Nemcek
Tom Rudolph
Shawn Tingley

