

HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



May 15, 2014

Chairperson:

Dennis Batchelet
6461 Pigeon Road
Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539
(262) 670-5067
(262) 844-8193

Secretary:

Mike Esler
7753 Crow Rd.
Lake Tomahawk, WI
54539
(715) 277-4917

Treasurer:

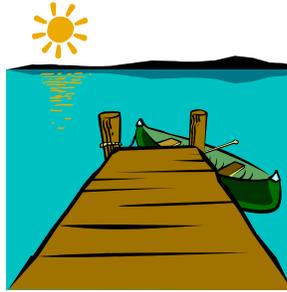
Tim Desmond
6509 Hwy. 47
Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539
(312) 310-9357

Town Board:

George DeMet
8075 Fawn Lake Rd.
Harshaw, WI 54529
(715) 277-2599

County Board:

Thomas Rudolph
1740 Larsen Drive
Rhinelander WI 54501
(715) 362-6222



www.horseheadlake-wi.org

April 10th Meeting Notes

- Noted signing 2014 weed harvesting contract with Schmidt's Landscaping.
- Noted progress on application for DNR limited-use permit for loading weeds on state land.
- Agreed to discuss and poll residents on when to cut weeds in 2015.
- Tabled insurance discussion to annual meeting.
- Recommendations for annual meeting:
1) change fiscal year to Sept.1-Aug. 31st,

2) consolidation of Legal & Equipment Funds.

- Extended thanks to Mike Esler for: 1) getting large aerator warning sign and placing it at Kildeer dock, 2) servicing aerator pumps in fall.
- Noted Horsehead Lake has pure strain of EWM, not a hybrid (good: means has not mutated).
- Treasurer's Report -
balances as 3/31/2014:
Checking: \$648.24
Money market:
\$18,149.49
Total Funds: \$18,797.73
Last levy amount due from Oneida Co. in August, \$5,929.09.

Invasive Species Update

Our most-recent lake study determined the location of Eurasian Water Milfoil in a handful of sites. Several were found near the Kildeer Dock and two were found near the Trout Road Dock. We hired a team of experienced divers and all plants were eradicated for a cost of about \$350. We will continue to monitor the lake and eradicate when necessary.

Aerator Maintenance

So far, our aerator has been operating effectively, Mike Esler is experienced in maintaining equipment like ours. He assures us that replacement parts are easily available and at reasonable cost. Mike's experience will save the district the need to set large sums of money aside for possible replacement or hire a maintenance service.



Weed Cutting

Maximum acreage allowed by our permit is 60 acres. Schmidt's Landscaping will be harvesting our weeds beginning July 11-20, if weather allows staying on schedule. In 2013, actual cutting began July 17th. Residents at the annual meeting agreed we needed cutting sooner. One-hundred hours has been budgeted for 2014. We will be discussing when to target the 2015 cutting at our annual meeting. Cliff Schmidt told me cutting could be

arranged earlier in July if need be, however, it might very well be less productive.

New Weed Uploading Site

Since the Trout Rd. dock landing has been sold, our district is not allowed to use the site for loading weeds for removal.

Therefore, the commissioners have been following several options to replace our removal site. To date, no alternate loading site has been arranged. Our first attempt has recently fallen through. We will now pursue the other two possibilities. One is on state land (SW of aerator); the other is through private land on east side of lake. We are hopeful we can reach agreement on one of the remaining two sites.

Check Your Boats and Trailers

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. Leaving it out of the water for a full week will substitute for washing with soap.



From the Chair

By Dennis Batchelet

If somebody asked me what the number one lake issue on everyone's mind is - I'd quickly reply, **WEEDS!**

If we should have a year when the weeds were cut JUST when needed, we should go out and buy a ton of lottery tickets because we would be in the middle of a very lucky streak. Of course it varies, depending on who you talk to, about WHEN weeds should be cut.

I should explain that a number of factors influence when we cut and how effective/satisfactory the cutting is: 1) we cannot sign up with Schmidt's until spring, 2) we have four different native weeds that take turns being our main problem - that mature at different times,

3) when ice-out occurs; natural warming of water & amount of

sunshine on plants, 4) amount of wind churning and motorboat activity, 5) Curly-leaf Pondweed, an invasive, finishes its growing cycle in late spring. At that time its "turions" would spread more easily if cutting took place, likely in June sometime.

Bear in mind that Cliff Schmidt has very late model and well-maintained equipment including GPS so he can resume cutting within inches of where he left off. He has saved us money in the past. If he's done cutting our weeds, he will go to another lake and not charge for unused hours on his contract. He also does not require a downpayment. For many years he has worked for us and is professional in every way. Yes, we could try to find another vendor, but how many would be as efficient, professional, and cost-effective for us?

Three residents met with our commissioners at the April 10th meeting, to express their interest in arranging weed cutting earlier than mid-July. In response, we will discuss

and survey our annual meeting attendees and reach a consensus about when we want weed cutting to take place in 2015. This year, and if all goes according to plan, our cutting will take place 15 days prior to last year. We want everyone to watch the lake and observe when they think cutting should best be done, **realizing it can change yearly.**

The commissioners will offer three choices and we'll see which one gains the majority.

Since I have been president/chair, we have always been able to express our concerns, put our heads together, and come up with reasonable solutions. I'm confident we can do it again.

Law on the Lake

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

If there is an issue about disorderly conduct, excessive noise, etc., please contact the Oneida Co. Sheriffs Dept. for assistance.

Did you know?

1) By law no aerator fence is needed in winter if residents are notified by letter AND a warning sign is placed at the dock.

2) Wisconsin law requires every boat to carry a life-preserver cushion kept in a ready-to-throw location in case of emergency.

3) In 1912, there was a proposal to dig a canal from Lake Tomahawk (lake) to Horsehead Lake. That would have linked the Minocqua chain to the Wisconsin River.

Our 2013-'14 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:

Mike & Kim Esler

Audit Committee:

Hans Delius (Need one more volunteer)

Clean Boats/Clean Waters:

Terry & Hallie Moline

Nominating Committee:

(we need 1-2 volunteers)

Let's be safe out there.

Sincerely,

Dennis Batchelet

Tim Desmond

George DeMet - Lake Tomahawk Rep.

Mike Esler

Tom Rudolph - Oneida Co. Rep.

