

# HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



September 10, 2005

Chairperson:

Dennis Batchelet  
6461 Pigeon Road  
Lake Tomahawk, WI  
54539  
(715) 277-4212

Secretary:

Linda Kay  
Houghton-Bowen  
7717 Trout Road  
Lake Tomahawk WI  
54539  
(715) 277-3123 or  
277-2261

Treasurer:

Beverly Fagan  
6459 Goose Road  
Lake Tomahawk WI  
54539  
(715) 277-2080

Town Board:

Gary Sowatzka  
7273 Kelly Drive  
Lake Tomahawk WI  
54539  
(715) 277-4591

County Board:

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



## District Members:

Environmentally, the threat of invasive species has placed the entire Northwoods, indeed, the state of Wisconsin, in a new era. Protecting the quality of our waterways is vital to the enjoyment of our outdoors and the health of our economy.

Horsehead Lake is at a crossroads in our continuing struggle to improve the recreational and aesthetic beauty of our lake.

In keeping with this new era, members who attended the annual meeting made some dramatic and bold decisions to ensure the continued quality of Horsehead Lake.

The weightiest issue dealt with how to manage our growing native and invasive weed problem with the traditional

funding we have had in place for many years.

Realizing that funds were not adequate to harvest the weeds this summer, members voted down the proposed '06 budget. In a vote of 25 to 7, the '06 budget was reformulated following presentations from Sandra Wickman, DNR specialist in invasive species, and Jim Goheen, lake chemist from Aquatic Biologists. Both speakers clearly explained our weed problems. The proposed \$6,000 operating budget was increased to \$22,500 to cover anticipated costs related to weed control issues.

Included in the motion was the provision that a Grant Committee is established to investigate and apply for DNR grants to help in fighting Curly-Leaf Pond Weed, the sole invasive species on our lake, at present.

To safeguard Horsehead Lake from the introduction of Eurasian Water Milfoil plant, the "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" Program was also authorized. Volunteer hours count toward our district's obligation in the shared funding formula.

Obviously, combating invasive plant species is an

expensive but essential path to follow if we wish to keep our lake as healthy as it is and, perhaps, improve it.

During the week of Aug. 15-19, in 30 hours, weed harvesters from Midwest Aquatics gathered 74 harvester loads [38 dump truck loads] totaling 228,000 pounds of weeds. Unfortunately, this represented approximately 1/3 of the weed problem, costing \$4,200. Our finances did not permit further harvesting this year.

Acting on commissioner's recommendations, members voted unanimously to maintain the present lake level indefinitely.

Other actions taken were:

- 1) Linda Houghton-Bowen elected to a new 3 year term as commissioner,
- 2) Authorized commissioners to work with individual members in finding solutions

- to shoreline problems,
- 3) Authorized yearly inspection & maintenance of aeration system.
  - 4) Made provision for weed cutting in '06 should it be needed.

## Tax Implications

The mill rate for this year will be .0021606; roughly \$2.16 per \$1,000 property valuation.

## Thanks to our Volunteers in 2006

- **Nominating Committee:**  
Carol Niebler  
Linda Houghton-Bowen
- **"Clean Boats, Clean Waters":**  
Kris Batchelet  
Pat Donnack  
Joanne Erickson
- **DNR Grant Investigators:**  
Kris Batchelet  
Diann Lane
- **Aerator Conduit Burying Party:**  
Don Niebler  
Hans Delius  
Dave Lane
- **Winter Stakes/Roping:**

- Bernie Farbiak  
Hans Delius  
John Nemcek
- **Audit Committee:**  
Christy Nemcek  
Linda Delius  
Hans Delius
- **Picnic Committee:**  
Dolores Kania  
Linda Delius  
Christy Nemcek
- **Secchi Monitoring/Oxygen/Chemical Testing:**  
Dennis Batchelet  
Kris Batchelet
- **Lock Box Stewards:**  
Pat Donnack  
Joanne Erickson
- **Wisconsin Lakes Convention delegates:**  
Dennis Batchelet  
Kris Batchelet  
Andy Bowen  
Linda Houghton-Bowen
- **Spring Stakes/Rope Cleanup:**  
John Nemcek  
Bernie Farbiak  
Hans Delius

## Next Annual Meeting Date

Saturday, August 19,  
2006  
9:00 A.M.

Sloan Community Center

## Commissioners' Meeting Dates

November 7, 2005

April 5, 2006

3<sup>rd</sup> - to be determined

6:00 P.M. Sloan  
Community Center in  
Lake Tomahawk

## What You Can Do To Help

- 1) Be on the alert for Curly-Leaf Pond Weed and Eurasian Water Milfoil Plants. If you find Curly-Leaf Pond Weed in your beach area, pull it out by the roots. It is the cheapest and most effective way of getting rid of this near-shore invasive.
- 2) Urge you neighbors to be diligent in their efforts to get rid of invasives and protect our lake.
- 3) Wash your boat with soap and water whenever re-launching from a nearby lake.



## From the Chair

By Dennis Batchelet

My thanks to all members who attended the annual meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Though it was difficult to wrestle with significant lake problems, the cooperation and dedication of district residents was very evident. As the chair, it was gratifying to witness support at every turn for policies that will move our lake quality forward and to meet new challenges.

In a stunning, and even historic move, members unflinchingly committed themselves to pay significantly higher taxes to ensure the vitality of Horsehead Lake.

I view the 27 to 5 balloting of our remodeled 2006 budget as a strong vote of confidence for your board.

We have already contacted several

reputable companies who study lakes from a scientific standpoint. Our Grant Committee will recommend one firm to the commissioners. The firms engaged will help us get DNR grants to map and study underlying conditions producing our weed problem. After that, we will continue applying for DNR grants to rehabilitate the lake according to a well-determined, long-range plan. Problems with native weeds as well as invasives will be addressed.

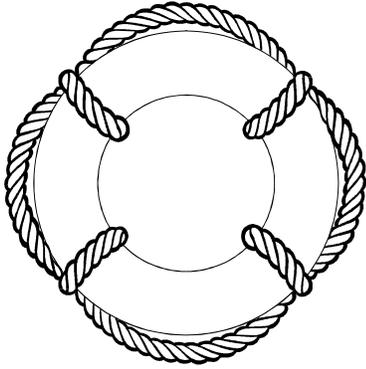
**Did you know?** Inter-lake fishing contests promote the quick spread of invasive plants. Minocqua Lake, Lake Tomahawk, the Eagle Chain, and Big St. Germain all have Eurasian Water Milfoil plants.

## Meeting Minutes

Minutes are available by request to Linda Houghton-Bowen, our secretary.

## Let's be safe out there.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Batchelet,  
Beverly Fagan,  
Linda Houghton-Bowen,  
Tom Rudolph  
Gary Sowatzka



**Let's be safe out  
there.**

Sincerely,  
Dennis Batchelet,  
Beverly Fagan,  
Linda Houghton-Bowen.