

# HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



July 25, 2007

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[www.horseheadlake-wi.org](http://www.horseheadlake-wi.org)

## District Members

Our annual meeting is just around the corner, so we're bringing you an update on what's been going on.

Summer's in full swing on our lake. Even though we've survived the rush of the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, our daylight hours are still long and there's much of the summer left to enjoy.

While reports come in that other lake levels are down this year, our water is where it belongs, thanks our abundant springs.

We've seen fewer fishermen on the lake this year, owing to what seems to be a decline in big Northerns, lately. Some big ones are still being caught off piers. Most of them have been released, which is good for our lake.

On July 17<sup>th</sup> all five commissioners met to formulate our proposed 2008 budget and take care of a few other agenda items. It looks like our tax levy will be lower than last year, which is good news to everyone.

## July 17th Meeting Notes

- Voted to publish our by-laws on the web site.
- Voted to dispense with our donation box at the boat landing.
- Discussed concerns with having our annual picnic at the "outlot" off Trout Road.
- Discussed getting a new design for the winter aerator lights that will meet DNR requirements.
- Confirmed Radley Watkins, Oneida Co. Invasive Species Coordinator, as our meeting speaker.
- Created our 2008 Proposed Budget; \$11,200 tax levy (17.3% lower than 2007).

## Horsehead Lake web site

[www.horseheadlake-wi.org](http://www.horseheadlake-wi.org)  
There have been over 1300 "hits" on our web site since it

debuted in January 2006. Stay connected to what's going on. The site is updated regularly.

## Special Membership Meeting

Tim Hoyman, Aquatic Ecologist with Onterra Lake Management, using charts, slides, and graphs, made an excellent presentation to the fourteen residents who attended the meeting. He mapped out the entire process of studying the lake. Since success of the study relies on cooperation and participation of district residents,

Four residents volunteered to be on the Lake Grant Planning Committee. They are Kris Batchelet, Hans Delius, Mary Ellen Zickus, Jim Watters, & Pat Donnick.

There will be approx. four meetings with several important tasks for the leaders to accomplish together:

- ◆ develop and tally a survey
- ◆ coordinate with residents
- ◆ evaluate final results of the study
- ◆ discuss possible recommendations for lake policies



## Weed Cutting

Weed cutting was done this year beginning July 14<sup>th</sup> by Cliff Schmidt of Schmidt's Landscaping, Iola, WI. Cliff was also contracted last year and did another excellent job.

Based on the abundance of weeds last year, we contracted for 80 hours of weed cutting rather than 54 hours.

For whatever reason, we had fewer weeds this year, and Cliff used only 40 hours but promised that if our weeds get out of control, he'd come back in August. We have the funds to cover more time, if needed.

## Donation Box

Commissioners met with Steven Petersen of the DNR on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and worked out a new fifteen year lease to allow placement of the aerator in its' present location. The DNR dropped its' fee to \$1.00 and the District agreed to several conditions important to the DNR:

- 1) Removal of excess wood, rope, concrete blocks, buoys, and stakes from state land,
- 2) Removal of our donation box at the boat landing,
- 3) Different placement of our winter aerator lights.

District storage of equipment on state land was becoming an eyesore, so a different location will be used. Using Wisconsin lakes is free to all, no other lake had such a donation box, the box has become an attractive nuisance to vandals, and only a very small amount of money is actually collected. For these reasons the commissioners agreed to remove the box. At present vandals have destroyed the box.

The commissioners are asking that residents encourage non-District lake

users to make a voluntary donation by mail to our treasurer, Beverly Fagan, if they wish to contribute to our improvement efforts.

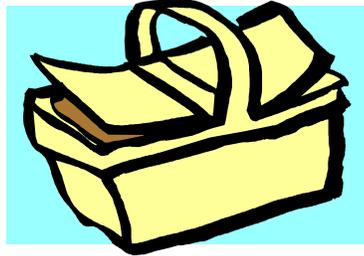
## Revised Bylaws

Our new bylaws have been revised and are ready for approval at the annual meeting. You may find them on the web page. Everyone is encouraged to read them prior to the meeting to help conserve time. The Proposed 2008 Budget is also on the web. Studying that in advance might also help to conserve time.

## What about a float next year?

The Fourth of July parade in Lake Tomahawk has become quite an event, drawing hundreds of people in recent years. This year some District residents wondered whether there would be enough interest in pulling a

Horsehead Lake boat in the parade. Lots of other groups do it. What do you think? Could we do it in 2008? Who's got a boat & trailer we could decorate in about an hour? Talk it up!



## Annual Picnic

The picnic committee (Diann Lane & Linda Delius) has been wrestling with the logistics of having our annual picnic at the Trout Road boat landing. While it would be a good idea to have it closer to residents, there were some problems could not be overcome: boat and car parking, shelter in case of bad weather. With all that in mind the committee has decided our picnic will be at the usual place - the American Legion shelter on the Rainbow Flowage off Hwy. D. If you decide to attend the picnic, please bring your eating utensils and a drink you enjoy. Also bring

either a salad, dessert, or other dish to pass. The district will provide brats, buns, condiments, and napkins. We always have a good time! It will begin at the American Legion shelter relatively soon after the annual meeting adjourns.



## Safe Boating Distance from Piers

Please remember to maintain at least a 100-foot distance from other's piers when operating a motorized boat. If not, your boat must have a "no wake" speed.

## Meeting Minutes

Minutes are available on the web page or by request to Linda Houghton-Bowen.



## From the Chair

By Dennis Batchelet

Now that our lake study is well underway, we can take a look ahead and imagine a time when we will have current scientific findings that will guide our policies. Too often in the past we have discussed how to improve the lake and it has seemed as though we were walking around in the dark. It has been difficult to reach agreement at times and controversy has diverted our attention from the big picture.

Having the lake study report will be a milestone for our District, but we won't be "out of the woods" so to speak. After that we will have to sit down and develop our policies suggested in the report and brought forward by

our Lake Grant Planning Committee. I've been thinking about how difficult it will be to get the necessary cooperation and participation we will need to REALLY improve our lake. We all know that without full cooperation and adequate participation, nothing will improve.

We must remain positive and open to new ideas so that we will get the best results possible.

We need to prepare ourselves for that time.

### Did you know?

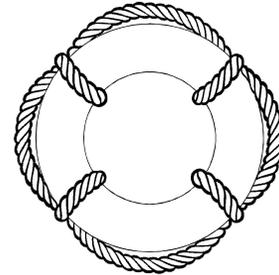
One pound of phosphorous in lawn fertilizer can produce as much as 167 pounds of weeds? We all need to do our best to limit nutrients entering the lake.

Personal Watercraft (Wave Runners) may not be operated after sunset and a person must be at least 12 years of age.

A water skier must have a spotter on the boat that is not the boat driver.

## 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](http://www.laketomahawkwi.org)



### Life Preservers

Be sure your boat has enough for everyone, including the correct sizes for children.

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

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