

# HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

NO 1



September 15, 2016

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) 525-1633

Treasurer:

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

Town Board:

Matt Michalsen  
7116 North Bluebird Rd.  
Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539  
(715) 614-4152

County Board:

Mitchell Ives  
Rhinelander WI 54501  
(715) 362-6222



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

## August Annual Meeting Notes (39<sup>th</sup>)

- Dennis Batchelet re-elected to President/Chair position. (3 year term)
- Voted to cancel one of two, non-interest-bearing checking accounts.
- Voted to continue weed cutting during the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> week in July, 2017.
- Voted 2016-'17 total budget \$51,612.91, with a tax levy of \$15,134.00.
- Mill rate for 2016-'17 set at \$0.6945, or \$69.45/\$100,000 property value.
- Noted total property value stayed the same as last year, 21,791,597, but gained \$2 million last year.
- Voted to become members of Wisconsin

Shoreline Initiative.

- Recognized Stuart Utley for his work in rebuilding our website.

### DNR Fish Planting

The worst winter in forty years (2012-'13) continues to leave our lake recovering from a sizeable fish kill.

Fishermen have been catching smaller northern perch, some over 10", and small sunfish & bluegills. Largemouth bass are being caught - under 6".

Lots of various minnow species have been seen all over the lake. In August, the DNR planted almost 19,000 largemouth bass, though the survival rate (to adulthood) is only about 10-12%.

### Notice of Winter Open Water

Notice is hereby given that no stakes or rope will mark open water during the winter season. Lake owners are obligated to make their guests aware of this to release them from liability. Large-print signs at the Kildeer landing warn of open water danger.

## **Managing Eurasian Water Milfoil**

Divers using GPS co-ordinates went out and found only a few Eurasian Water Milfoil plants - all near the Kildeer dock, and carefully hand-pulled them.

Our 2017-'18 lake study will give us an up-to-date picture of the EWM locations, if any.

## **Lake Water Testing**

Lake data for 2016 reveals that our lake continues in the Eutrophic category but remaining largely unchanged from our historic record averages. Water clarity was excellent in early spring, but during summer it has taken on a brownish tint with declining clarity.

We have incomplete data this year because we were unable to test the water in either July or August.

## **Aerator Maintenance**

Following replacement of two diffusers last fall by Mike Esler, we feel the equipment is ready for

winter. Money has been set aside to replace other parts on a rotating basis.

## **Clean Boats/Clean Waters**

Hallie Moline, will continue to be our lake volunteer, but reports we've experienced many fewer fishermen in the past two years. Risk to the lake from boats introducing Eurasian Water Milfoil is way down.



## **Weed Cutting**

Due to the unusual absence of surface weeds, our weed cutting was cancelled, again this year, for the third time, resulting in a savings of \$17,500. The District did have to pay a \$900 cancellation fee. Residents at the annual meeting feel being on Cliff's schedule is good "insurance" for the time when we will need cutting.

One-hundred hours of weed cutting has been scheduled for July 14-24, 2017.

## **We Need Your Email Address**

You can get timely info about the lake and:

- Newsletters (faster)
- annual meeting agendas
- budget proposals

- notification if something seems amiss at your place, like a sinking boat, or tree damage.

## **Check Your Boats and Trailers**

Be sure your boat/trailer have NO plant material attached 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.



## **From the Chair**

By Dennis Batchelet

Last year, Oneida Co. Supervisor, Tom Rudolph, finished our meeting with a summary of how Oneida County and local officials have had their shoreland authority usurped by Madison legislators. It occurred in the 2015-'17 Budget Bill. Instead of raising the standards for minimum shoreland lots, it lowered them and took away local authority to

protect the quality of water. Rudolph emphasized that water quality in the northwoods is our lifeblood and is the foundation for tourism.

Water, my friends, **CLEAN WATER**, has always been precious in Wisconsin, and never more since 2011. As your President/Chair, I feel obligated to share with you concerning developments regarding our environment.

Wisconsin means "Gathering of Waters". But never has access to CLEAN water been in more jeopardy than it is now. Why is that?

We have always counted on the Department of Natural Resources, joined by Wisconsin Association of Lakes, and other private groups, to be our watchdogs and protectors. No more - the DNR has been effectively neutralized by reorganization. The seven-member Natural Resources Board has been staffed by governor appointees - now a partisan group. Eighteen scientific positions within the

DNR, have been eliminated. Countless resignations and dismissals have left the DNR very shorthanded. Cathy Stepp, former McDonalds manager and former (R) state senator, was appointed to manage the DNR in 2011. Interestingly, no requests were made in the last two biennial budgets to increase staff. Since that time 94% of complaints against large farms and wastewater plants have been ignored. From 2014 to 2015 the number of citations against polluters has declined 78%. Our governor stated to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, this year, his goal is to reduce the citations to zero. Since 2011, 120 laws have been passed by our legislature, depriving local county, city, and town governments, authority to pass ordinances to control local issues. Safeguarding our water sources and shorelines, local control has always been taken for granted. Horsehead Lake P&R District #1 is all about protecting our lake environment. Since 2004, our state has seen an 80% increase in the number of DNR sanctioned high-capacity wells. Currently, there are 100 more high-capacity well applications under consideration by the DNR.

Further, WI **Attorney-General, Brad Schimel**, recently made a formal legal ruling that our DNR need NOT take into consideration how new high-capacity wells will affect surrounding wells or bodies of water - effectively negating our century-old "Trust Doctrine" - always required new wells MUST take into consideration how each would affect neighbors' wells, lakes and streams. The Little Plover River and Long Lake in central WI are only two of the many that have virtually run dry.

Our lake depends on springs to replenish our water as we have no inlet. We must be concerned about depletion of Wisconsin's deep-water aquifers.

C.A.F.O.(s) are part of the problem. C.A.F.O.(s) are Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and are growing in number. Farms with over 3,000 cows, pigs, etc., each require millions of gallons of water a year. They also produce millions of gallons of liquid manure that needs to be disposed of. Solid animal waste also is a problem if it is over-applied on fields. In the Central Sands region of

WI, the Wysocki Farm already has 33 high-capacity wells and wants more. Thirty percent of the wells in Kewaunee County, along Lake Michigan, with substantial bedrock, are contaminated with Ecoli and/or other bacteria.

Angered by these recent statutory changes, Plum Lake officials have spearheaded a movement to reverse this troubling trend and have engaged lobbyists to prevent further degradation of our local authority. There have been successes in turning back some of the worst-proposed changes. John Richter, the Plum Lake Association president, has built a coalition of 70 lake districts, associations, individuals, and lobbyists to reverse what has taken place - measures which appear to favor business developers. The coalition is called the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative and I am proud to say Horsehead Lake voted

to join with this coalition at our Annual Meeting.

If this issue resonates with you and you would like to send our Assembly representatives and Senators an email, letter, or call their office - it would help our state. Conscious of the threat to property values, state tourism, and our economy, Richter emphasizes the dire need of everyone to be sure they vote for folks who want to protect property rights, local control, and CLEAN water. You can get more information by contacting John Richter at [AJR5@aol.com](mailto:AJR5@aol.com) or [plumlakeshoreland@gmail.com](mailto:plumlakeshoreland@gmail.com). Following is a list of contacts, should you be interested in expressing your views:

Senator Tom Tiffany, [sen.tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sen.tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov) Phone: (608) 266-2509.  
Assemblyman Rob Swearingen, [rep.swearingen@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:rep.swearingen@legis.wisconsin.gov) Phone: (608) 266-7141.  
Assemblyman Adam Jarchow, [rep.jarchow@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:rep.jarchow@legis.wisconsin.gov) Phone: (608) 267-2365

Our district commissioners encourage your engagement with this important topic.

### **Law Enforcement on the Lake**

Suspect abuse of fishing limits? Contact Warden Tim

Ebert or report to 1-800-TIP-WDNR.

Got an issue with loud fireworks after July 4<sup>th</sup> or a situation involving loud noise or disorderly conduct? Contact the Oneida Co. Sheriffs Dept.

### **Did You Know?**

- 1) Wisconsin is the only state with no revenue funding for its state parks.
- 2) We have minor earthquakes in WI.
- 3) Our website has a link to Lake Tomahawk Official website AND a live webcam of the Lake Tomahawk landing. Shows weather/conditions.

### **Our 2016-'17 Volunteers**

Secchi testing/water sampling:

Audit Committee:

Hans Delius & Bev Fagan

Clean Boats/Clean Waters:

Terry & Hallie Moline

Nominating Committee:

Linda Delius

Lake Study Support

Committee:

Dave & Kathy Averbek

Linda Delius

Hallie & Terry Moline

Sincerely,  
Dennis Batchelet

Tim Desmond  
Mike Esler  
Matt Michalsen  
Mitchell Ives