



HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



www.horseheadlake-wi.org

September 4, 2017

Chairperson:

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

Secretary:

Debra Bursik
431 S. Good Hope Rd.
DePere, WI 54115
(920) 339-8265

Treasurer:

[position pending]

Town Board:

Open seat pending appointment

County Board:

Mitchell Ives
Rhinelander WI 54501
(715) 362-6222

August Annual Meeting Notes (41st)

- Debra Bursik elected to Secretary position. (3 year term)
- Voted to reserve weed cutting during the 2nd-3rd week in July, 2018.
- Voted 2017-'18 total budget \$41,100, with a tax levy of \$29,025.99
- Mill rate for 2017-'18 set at \$1.3320, or \$133.20/\$100,000 property value.
- Noted total property value stayed the same as last year, 21,791,597, but gained \$2 million in 2015.
- Voted to continue membership in Wisconsin Shoreline Initiative.
- Recognized Stuart Utley for his work

- in rebuilding our website.
- Recognized Kris Batchelet, Beverly Fagan, & Linda Delius for volunteering as acting secretary.
- Voted to approve creation of advisory committee to study weed cutting.
- Announced 2018 Annual Meeting date - Aug. 17th, 2018

Who Can Vote on District Business?

According to current state law, 1) any person listed as owner on a deed within Horsehead District, supplied by Oneida County, 2) the spouse of a listed owner, 3) an "elector", who does not own property, but resides in the district over half the year - such as a renter.

Also, it does not matter how many parcels of land a person owns, it's one vote per person defined above. If there are multiple owners, the trust or other designation, may appoint a maximum of two listed owners to cast votes (per legal advice August, 2017).

In order to bring our district up to current state law, we will be making a few changes in voting

procedures next year to avoid confusion. And, we'll be updating our bylaws.

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

Pending results of our current lake study, divers were cancelled this year. Early word from the Onterra Lake Management team - no Eurasian Water Milfoil plants were found.

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

Lake Water Testing

We have incomplete data this year because we were unable to test the water in either July or August of 2016.

But, Hallie Moline has taken up the job and says our lake is very clear. Water clarity was excellent in early spring, had a short period of algae and brown water, but has reclaimed clarity after weed cutting. Joe Helmuth has

volunteered to assist with this work for 2017-'18.

Aerator Maintenance

Money has been set aside to replace other parts as needed.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters

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



Weed Cutting

Ninety-three percent of our weeds this year were Flat-stem Pondweed, a grass-like, very difficult weed to harvest. Our contractor reported the long grass wound itself up on his equipment, causing a breakdown his second day out. Usually, the other (3), more course weeds, (Coontail, Elodea, and Fernweed) wrap around the smoother and longer Flat-stem and bring it into the harvester. He hauled 39 loads off the lake and did the 60 acres allowed by our DNR permit. Those weeds will not become part of the biomass to fertilize the lake; the most important ecological reason for cutting.

Weed cutting began July 12th and ended the next week, including several days off for repairs.

Some residents at the annual meeting expressed a desire to cut weeds in late June rather than the 2nd week in July. A spirited discussion ensued. To explain, a letter is being sent to all district owners. Please refer to that for further details.

One-hundred hours of weed cutting has been scheduled for the 2nd week in July, 2018.

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

At the outset, I feel compelled to share a few thoughts on making sure our district continues to operate in the best interests of the lake and lake environment. These are my views based on the last 13 years as President/Chair of the Horsehead Lake Board of Commissioners.

First, it is **IMPERATIVE**, that more Horsehead residents take an active role in annual meeting attendance! In order for our district to continue as a viable force in wise lake management, we need your good judgment, wisdom, and input when important decisions are being made.

It's no secret that the subject of "weeds" provokes the strongest catalyst for debate, not just in our district, but throughout the area.

As individuals, we tend to view our own situation and set a course to make our lake experience better - and nobody likes to feel weeds when they swim or need to stop their boat and clean off the propeller. So, it's natural to think limiting more of the weeds would

be a good thing. But, we all have to understand that our residents have a wide variety of priorities for their lake experience. For some, fishing is their main interest and fish need weeds. For others it is water skiing, or kayaking, tubing, swimming, etc. As a district, our commissioners must take all these interests into consideration and attempt to balance them in a way that preserves the ecology of the lake. We have a lake, not a pool; that's what the DNR and Onterra Lake Management tell us. We are allowed to cut approximately 1/3 of the south end of the lake - and it costs between \$16,000-\$18,000. When we cut this "natural vegetation", we want to do it at the optimum time. We need to prevent as much weed mass from sinking and adding to the biomass that already exists and serves as fertilizer. Past history and experience has shown that our four main weed types, and Curly-leaf Pondweed isn't one of those, mature regularly after the July 4th holiday. That's when the seed buds are just breaking the surface. That's when the mechanical harvester, that cuts at a 5 foot depth, can get the most weeds. Keep in mind, the weeds will continue to grow after cutting at many inches a week. Cutting too soon

results in getting few weeds cut, and the real possibility that in July or August the vegetation will break the surface again. If there are insufficient weeds in late June, and we cut, we're not getting much. Further, weed cleanup really increases after cutting - and that would be right during the holiday. If we pass on cutting, we've lost our slot on weed cutter's schedule - which is reserved 10 months in advance. So, we're risking either being without money in July or August when we've cut too soon, or we've missed our reserved time slot. Since there is typically a \$900-\$1,000 set-up charge, cutting more than once would be hard to justify.

For more detail, refer to the special mailing, containing two letters, mailed Friday, Sept. 2nd.

At our annual meeting, those who favor June cutting, passed a motion to study the weed issues and prepare an advisory to the commissioners on their findings by our November 17th Commissioner's meeting. Only property owners and "electors" can be on either the Lake Study Committee or Weed Advisory Committee.

Non-property owners and non-resident renters can't be on the committees since they have no vested interest. The Weed Advisory Committee report

will only be "advisory", but may serve to acquaint more folks on the complexities of cutting our "native vegetation", including weather variations. Every year is different. It is believed the over abundance of the grassy Flat-stemmed Pondweed, this year, resulted from the many days of rain (washing nutrients into the lake) and favorable cool weather in April/May, which was ideal for the grass and not very advantageous for the other weeds.

Changing the subject a bit, State protection of water resources has been on the decline and a bill to remove water licensing/enforcement by the DNR has been introduced. Water quality in the north woods is the foundation of tourism.

You can get more information by contacting John Richter at AJR5@aol.com or 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 Phone: (608) 266-2509.
Assemblyman Rob Swearingen, rep.swearingen@legis.wisconsin.gov Phone: (608) 266-7141.
Assemblyman Adam Jarchow,

rep.jarchow@legis.wisconsin.gov Phone: (608) 267-2365

I encourage your engagement with this important topic.

Late-breaking News

Tim Desmond, our district treasurer, has tendered his resignation, effective September 1, 2017. His expanding job responsibilities and travel have required him to hand the job to someone else. We are grateful for his many hours of dedicated efforts to keep our financial records in tip-top shape. The district will need an interim person to serve the remaining one year of his 3-year term. He has graciously agreed to help in the transition. Please contact Dennis if you are interested or know of someone who might be.

Our 2017-'18 Volunteers

Secchi testing/water sampling: Hallie & Terry Moline & Joe Helmuth

Audit Committee:

Hans Delius

Clean Boats/Clean Waters:

Terry & Hallie Moline

Nominating Committee:

Linda Delius

Lake Study Support Committee:

Dave & Kathy Averbek

Linda Delius

Hallie & Terry Moline

Kris Batchelet

Weed Study Advisory Committee:

Jason & Kristi Balge
Travis & Samone Groth
Jennifer & Sean Cameron
Joe Helmuth

Sincerely,
Dennis Batchelet
Treasurer - pending
Debra Bursik
Mitchell Ives, Oneida Co.
Rep.
Lake Tomahawk Rep. -
(pending)