

HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



May 1, 2020

Chairperson:

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Co-Chairperson:

Dennis Batchelet
Hartford, WI
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Co-Secretaries:

Kevin & Nancy Collins
Orland Park, IL
(708) 925-2551
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Co-Treasurers:

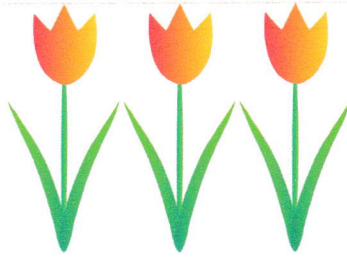
David Averbek
Kathy Averbek
Lisbon, WI
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Town Board:

Larry L. Hoffman
(563) 249-1273

County Board:

Mitchell Ives
Rhinelander, WI
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www.horseheadlake-wi.org

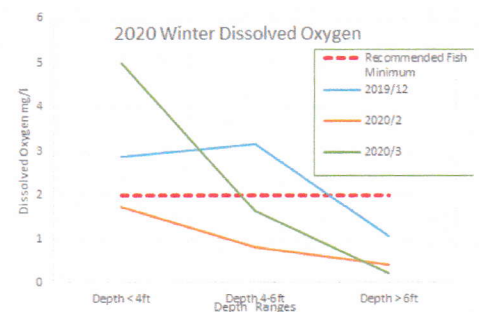
April 4, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting

- Due to the current pandemic, the board met virtually which allowed us to continue on with lake business. A new experience!
- We voted to explore options for searching for Eurasian Watermilfoil this year.
- The Lakes Convention was also held virtually, and Deb Bursik, Kevin Collins and Dave and Kathy Averbek attended some of the sessions. Good information was learned.
- Total funds on account are \$42,772.37 as of April 1, 2020.

Dissolved Oxygen Testing

This last winter, HLPD conducted tests for Dissolved Oxygen (DO). Ice formed early on the lake, cutting off the air/water oxygen

transfer. By late December, the DO in the lake was starting to deplete. This was more evident at lower depths. The depletion continued thru February. In March, an early thaw coupled with rain, began to refresh the upper and mid-level of the water column, however the lower depths continued to show depleted DO. The chart below shows DO readings at various depths taken in December 2019, February and March 2020.



Lake Study - Management Plan

We received the completed management plan / lake study from Onterra and it is available on our website. The study provides interesting information on the lake water and plant species in the lake and gives us a guide on how to manage the lake to keep it as healthy as possible.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday August 15, 2020 beginning at 9 AM at the Sloan Center. The Department of Justice has issued guidelines that we will follow as a result of the pandemic if we are not able to meet in person. We have Zach Woiak, Fisheries Biologist from the DNR, scheduled to speak to our group.

Every year there is always 1 commissioner position up for re-election at the annual meeting. Please consider running for our board.

Website Management

The Balge family have graciously agreed to manage our website. Kris Balge is providing oversight, while her sons, Nick and Ben, are providing the technical expertise. Jay Balge is also available for consultation as needed. Thank you Balge family!!

Managing Invasive Plant Species

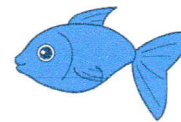
We have signed a contract with TSB Lakefront and Diving to provide 8 hours of a Meandering Boat Survey and 8 hours of diving to search for (Eurasian Watermilfoil) EWM and other invasive species. No EWM has been found on the lake since the summer of 2016.

Check Your Boats and Trailers

Be sure your boat & trailer have NO plant material attached when you launch your boat. Leave it out for a week or wash with soap and water before re-launching. There are invasive species, including EWM, in neighboring lakes.

Aerator Maintenance

Last summer, Dave Averbek and Kevin Collins replaced the blowers on the aerator. The board has voted to allow the purchase of new diffusers for the aerator that will be purchased and replaced this summer. By next Spring, we will know the status of aerator and can evaluate whether a second aerator is needed.



Fish Stocking

We have been researching fish stocking to the lake and will have this on the agenda for the 2020 Annual Meeting and a line item included in the proposed budget.

Our fish stocking history shows in August 2014, the DNR planted 9,175 large mouth bass. In 2014 we purchased 3100 black crappies at 4" long and 6000 bluegills at 2.5" long.

DNR Electro-fish Survey

The final report from the DNR was received on the electro-fish survey conducted in June 2019. It is available on our website, but primarily showed northern pike (average size 17") and yellow perch (average size 5.3"), with yellow perch being the most prevalent species. Pumpkinseed, golden shiner and bullhead were also found.



Weed Cutting

A contract has been signed with TSB Lakefront Restoration and Diving for cutting between July 6-24, 2020 if there are sufficient weeds to cut. We successfully obtained a DNR permit for the weed cutting.

The lake will be monitored in June 2020 to determine whether weed cutting will be necessary with our vendor ready if needed.



From the Chair

By Deb Bursik

It has been a busy first year learning all the regulations, laws and procedures involved in administration of a lake district. I am grateful to Dennis Batchelet for all the work he has done over the last 15 + years for our lake district and in the guidance he has

provided over the last year. Also special thanks to Stuart Utley for being our website manager for many years. His prompt and efficient service is great appreciated. Our volunteers are so important to keeping our lake district moving forward and we are fortunate to have so many talented people that are passionate about the lake. We are always looking for additional volunteers to help, so please consider volunteering. We do need someone for the clean boats / clean waters program for this year. If you would like to be involved, but are wondering how you can help, just let us know. As always, please reach out to any of your commissioners with any questions or concerns.

If we have your Email Address, we can send you bulletins. Please send your email to

horseheadlakePRD@gmail.com

Our Volunteers

Webmaster:

Kris Balge + family

Secchi testing/water sampling: Kevin Collins

Audit Committee:

Hans Delius & Bev Fagan

Clean Boats/Clean Waters:

Nobody, yet

Nominating Committee:

James Watters

Aeration System Research

Committee:

Dave Averbek

Paul Evert

Paul Bursik

Dissolved Oxygen Testing:

Kevin Collins

Dave Averbek

Did You Know?

Our comprehensive management plan showed that Horsehead Lake was 366.5 acres according to the 1968 DNR Lake Survey, 377 acres according to the DNR website, and 386 acres according to a heads up digitizing of the water level from a photo taken in 2015.

Sincerely,

Debra Bursik

Dennis Batchelet

David Averbek

Kathy Averbek

Kevin Collins

Nancy Collins

Mitchell Ives

Larry L. Hoffman