

HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



September 1, 2020

Chairperson:

Debra Bursik

DePere, WI

(920) 339-8265

dbursik@new.rr.com

Secretary

Kevin Collins

Orland Park, IL

(708) 925-2551

ncollins15335@att.net

Treasurer:

David Averbek

Hartland, WI

(262) 422-6882

Town Board:

Larry L. Hoffman

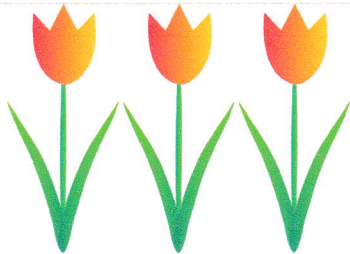
(563) 249-1273

County Board:

Mitchell Ives

Rhineland, WI

(715) 362-6222



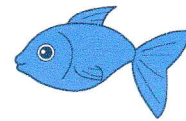
www.horseheadlake-wi.org

August 15, 2020 Annual Meeting

- We had a productive annual meeting that 17 people attended held outside at the pavilion in Lake Tomahawk.
- The 2020/2021 budget of \$42,730.00 was unanimously passed that included \$15,000 for fish stocking and \$3,740 for "a point intercept survey" for lake vegetation monitoring.
- The district also unanimously passed a motion recommending that catch and release is practiced for blue gills and black crappies from 2021-2023 to allow them time to reestablished.
- With our budgetary carryover of \$29,582.34 (from not cutting weeds and monies set aside for a 2nd aerator) we are looking at a tax levy of \$13,147.66.
- As of August 10, 2020, we have \$39,539.57 total funds on account.
- Hans Delius and Bev Fagan conducted an audit of the books and

all finances were found to be in order.

- Debra Bursik was elected to another 3-year term as a commissioner.
- Our next annual meeting is August 14, 2021. Please mark your calendar.



Fish Stocking

The intention is to stock 5000 blue gills and 5000 black crappies in the spring of 2021, contingent upon DNR approval as we obtain a DNR permit. We are looking to purchase fish around the 3-5" or 4-6" range. We want to give them time to establish in the lake adequately so we do not need to restock and they can prosper and reproduce on their own. Both blue gills and black crappies are fish that can survive with low oxygen and have thrived in our lake previously.

Aerator

Dave Averbeck will be replacing the diffusers on the aerator within the next year to continue to get the aerator to its peak performance. Materials have already been purchased. The DNR has given indication that they likely would not approve a 2nd aerator, so we are looking to maximize the system we have and believe that will be adequate.



Water Quality

By Kevin Collins

Per the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), "One measure of a lake's health is the trophic state, which relates to the amount of algae in the water. The average summer trophic state for the last 5 years was

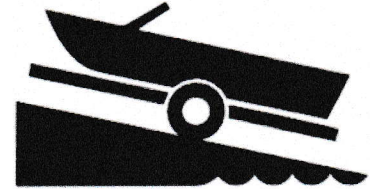
49 (Mesotrophic) and was determined using satellite water clarity observations data. For a Shallow Headwater lake, this is considered Excellent. Shallow lakes are those that do not stratify during the summer months, so the water near the surface may be impacted by re-suspension of sediments."

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) continues to be an issue on Horsehead Lake during the winter. Outside of the area where the aeration system operates, DO levels on Horsehead Lake drop to around 1-2 mg/l as winter progresses. DNR studies indicate that most fish become stressed at levels below 2mg/l. Ice depth and plant decay contribute to the reduction of DO. We are continuing to monitor the DO levels to determine extent of the DO depletion.

Lake Study / Management Plan

Per our plan, we engaged TSB Lakefront Restoration and Diving to conduct a Meandering Boat Survey and Diving to search for invasive species. This was carried out in June 2020 and fortunately no Eurasian Milfoil was found.

Next summer we plan to engage Onterra to do a point intercept survey for qualitative and quantitative vegetation monitoring.



Boat Landing

The DNR added stone to the end of the boat landing in late July. Power loading boats causes the lake bottom to be pushed into a berm at the end of the landing. Please avoid power loading your boat. There is no solution for this as we have a shallow landing with a sandy bottom.

Welcome Packet

We are in the process of putting together a welcome packet for new people moving into the district. It will consist of information about the lake and the area. Please watch our website to view this welcome packet.



Weed Cutting

Weed cutting was not conducted this year due to the lack of weeds hindering boat travel. Thanks to Dennis Batchelet and John Ricchetti for assisting in the lake survey where we assessed the weed status. We were not charged due to cancelling the contract with appropriate lead time.

Winter Open Water



Please take note that we run our aerator on the lake during the winter months so there is open water when the lake is iced over. Please be sure to stay away from this area (located on the southwest side of the lake) and warn any guests about the open water danger on the lake.

Board of Commissioners

Per Wisconsin Statutes, we are only allowed to have 3 elected commissioners on our Board. Kathy Averbeck and Nancy Collins subsequently resigned their positions when this came to light. We thank them for their service and graciousness in resigning their positions and hope they continue to be involved in the lake district.

The Commissioners will be meeting the following dates for the 2020-2021 year:

November 21, 2021

April 10, 2021

July 3, 2021

Per statute, the commissioner meetings are a time for the commissioners to do work and vote on how to manage the district. Citizens have a right to attend and observe these board meetings, but it does not grant citizens a right to participate or vote at these meetings. However, we always allow time for citizen input on the agenda for anyone attending to bring up concerns. You are also welcome to bring concerns to any of the commissioners at any time.

Safe and Courteous Boating

Please be sure to practice safe and courteous boating and jet skiing on the lake. The DNR regulates boat safety and prohibits operating your vessel within 100 feet of a shoreline, dock, raft, pier or restricted area greater than **slow or no wake speed**. Also be careful of the numerous submerged rocks in the lake. Many are located off the points of the peninsula and the island.



From the Chair

By Deb Bursik

I'm so happy the annual meeting went well given the circumstances we were dealing with due to the pandemic and very relieved the weather allowed for this to be possible. I am very glad so many felt comfortable attending and everyone was courteous of each other by wearing a mask. It is good we have

such a cohesive group and that all the motions passed unanimously. I like to believe it is in part due to your board doing their homework and being prepared for the meeting and responding to the desires of the district members. Our work as a board originates from the lake study and desires of the district. The goal is to keep the lake as healthy as possible, but this cannot be accomplished alone by the Board. It requires effort by many members of the district. We greatly appreciate your involvement and participation. Being able to hand off some duties is a great help.

Thanks again to Dennis Batchelet for staying on an extra year to share your knowledge and help with the transition!

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

Dissolved Oxygen Testing:

Kevin Collins

Audit Committee:

Hans Delius & Bev Fagan

Clean Boats/Clean Waters:

Nobody, yet

Nominating Committee:

Nobody, yet

Lakes Convention:

Nobody, yet

Did You Know?

Over 500 lake associations and 212 lake districts exist today in Wisconsin. Our lake district was the first formed in Wisconsin. We are #1!

Sincerely,

Debra Bursik

David Averbeck

Kevin Collins

Mitchell Ives

Larry L. Hoffman