

HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



September 1, 2021

Chairperson:

Debra Bursik
DePere, WI
(920) 339-8265
dbursik@new.rr.com

Secretary

Kevin Collins
Orland Park, IL
(708) 925-2551
kgcopil@gmail.com

Treasurer:

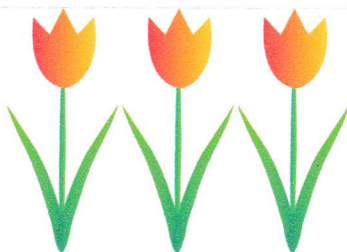
David Averbeck
Hartland, WI
(262) 422-6882

Town Board:

Larry L. Hoffman
(563) 249-1273

County Board:

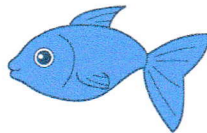
Mitchell Ives
Rhineland, WI
(715) 362-6222



www.horseheadlake-wi.org

Annual Meeting of August 14, 2021

- Our annual meeting was attended by 20 members at the Lake Tomahawk Pavilion.
- We again voted to stock 5000 blue gills and 5000 black crappies in the spring of 2022.
- In 2022, we will be conducting an early season aquatic invasive plant water survey and a point intercept survey, per our management plan. We are applying for a grant to cover a portion of the cost of these studies and the pre-application has already been submitted.
- The balance in the accounts at year end of August 31, 2021 is \$36,934.54.
- The next annual meeting is August 13, 2022. Please mark your calendar.



DNR Fish Biologist Meeting

On August 11 2021, we had a very productive Zoom meeting with Zach Wozniak, who is the

DNR fish biologist assigned to our lake. Zach was in agreement with stocking 5000 blue gills and 5000 black crappies and that we stock at that level over a 3-year period and then access. The fish that do best in low oxygen lakes are northern pike, yellow perch, black crappie and pumpkin seed.

Zach encouraged us to fish the northern pike, due to high numbers on the fish survey and the stunted size of the northern pike in the lake. By removing some of these northern, that will also reduce the predators after the fish that we are stocking.

Remember when fishing to follow the DNR fish limits of 5 fish / day / person and 10 fish total possession limit / person. Any fish you pull out and don't eat, can be donated. The following places accept donated fish:

Raptor Education Group:

N2160 W Rollwood Rd, Antigo, WI
715-623-4015
Call ahead but they had a bin outside last year for fish donations.

Wild Instincts:

4621 Apperson Dr, Rhineland
(715) 362-9453
Call ahead but they had coolers out front for donations.

Catch and Release



A reminder, at the annual meeting in August 2020, residents voted to recommend only catch and release for blue gills and black crappies from 2021-2023, giving these fish, that we are stocking, time to establish in our lake. Zach Wozniak was also in agreement with this practice.

Aerator

When the aerator was turned off on March 21, 2021, one of the blowers was not operating. After finding it was unrepairable, a new blower was installed on July 28, 2021. The three working blowers were serviced, and carbon vanes were replaced. The relief valves on all 4 blowers were replaced. Diffusers were also

checked and replaced as needed.

The aerator sits on State owned land and the Lease Use Agreement expires in 2022. We have secured a temporary land use agreement.

We are also exploring options of expanding the system with the DNR.



Horsehead Lake's MVP

Special thanks to Dave Averbeck, who not only serves as our Treasurer, but also handles our aerator. Dave did hours of maintenance on the aerator this summer, that included a dive to the bottom of the lake in making connections to the aerator. His service goes above and beyond. Without Dave, our district would be incurring great expense to hire out these duties.

THANK YOU DAVE!



Water Quality

We continue to collect water samples from the lake and monitor the lake water quality. Kevin Collins has been taking samples from various areas of the lake and working with a UWSP professor to see if any conclusions can be drawn. Overall Horsehead Lake has good water quality.

Lake Study / Management Plan

Onterra conducted an early season aquatic invasive plant water survey. Curly leaf pondweed was found in the northern part of the lake. The maps from 2017 and 2021 mapping the curly leaf pondweed are on our website. Next year we will be doing a point-to-point survey, which will monitor all plant life in the lake, not just invasive species.



Boat Landing

Just a reminder 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.

Commissioner Meetings

The Commissioners will be meeting the following dates for the 2021-2022 year:

November 20, 2021

April 9, 2022

July 2, 2022

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 citizens do not have 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.

Shoreline Living Booklet

A free copy of Shoreline Living can be viewed with the following web link:

http://midwestglaciallakes.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VBCD_2020_ShorelineLiving_WEB.pdf

You can also find it by searching Shoreline Living Booklet and clicking on the Midwest Glacial Lakes link.

The publication provides tips on keeping your shoreline natural and healthy which helps to reduce lake phosphorous levels that lead to weed growth.



Weed Cutting

Weed cutting was not done this year. The lake was assessed for weed cutting by Deb Bursik, Dennis Batchelet and Paul Evert and all agreed

the weeks were not in need of cutting this year. The purpose of weed cutting is to keep the lake navigable for boat travel and is done according to the permit and approval of the DNR.

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. It is unlawful to chase, harass or disturb wildlife.

Personal watercraft (such as jet skis) cannot be operated at faster than "slow, no wake speed" within 100 feet of any other vessel on any waterbody, 200 feet of shore on any lake and 100 feet of a dock, pier, raft, or restricted area on any lake.

Also be careful of the numerous submerged rocks in the lake.

Winter Open Water

DANGER

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.

Boating and Carbon Monoxide

Like any gasoline engine, boats emit carbon monoxide that can be dangerous for boaters. Because it is tasteless and odorless it can build up in a person's body overtime without notice.

The CDC has the below information on carbon monoxide and boating.

<https://www.cdc.gov/co/boating.htm>

There have been tragic news reports of

boaters being exposed to carbon monoxide, which can occur more frequently with inboard motors and if you are seated at the rear of the boat near the exhaust. Please be safe while boating.

<https://www.today.com/health/mom-shares-warning-after-son-dies-carbon-monoxide-poisoning-t192631>

If we have your Email Address, we can send you bulletins. Please send your email to horseheadlakePRD@gmail.com



From the Chair

By Deb Bursik

We were happy to hear that the DNR concurred with our fish stocking plans for the lake. During our conversation, Zach mentioned he handles 1100 lakes for the DNR. We are grateful that we have the personal attention of the DNR to get our questions answered and feel good that we are making the right decisions for our lake. We are now seeking out advice on exploring

aerator options so we can make the right decisions for the health of fish and our lake.

Our Volunteers

Webmaster:

Deb Bursik

Aerator:

Dave Averbeck

Secchi testing/water

sampling:

Kevin Collins

Dissolved Oxygen Testing:

Kevin Collins

Audit Committee:

Hans Delius & Bev Fagan

Did You Know?

A 6" blue gill is about 5 years old and an 8" blue gill is about 8 years old. A 9" crappie is about 5 years old and a 12" crappie is about 10 years old.

Sincerely,

Debra Bursik

David Averbeck

Kevin Collins

Mitchell Ives

Larry L. Hoffman