

# HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



September 1, 2022

Chairperson:

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

Secretary

Laurie Barrett  
Lake Tomahawk, WI

Treasurer:

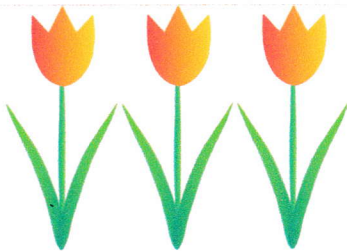
David Averbeck,  
Hartland, WI  
(262) 422-6882

Town Board:

Larry L. Hoffman  
(563) 249-1273

County Board:

Jim Winkler  
Rhinelander, WI  
(715) 499-0759



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

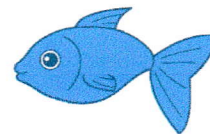
## Annual Meeting of August 13, 2022

- Our annual meeting was attended by 17 members at the Lake Tomahawk Pavilion.
- The membership voted to go forward with purchasing a 2<sup>nd</sup> aerator to be located on the property of Paul Evert (off the west shore close to the deep hole in the lake) and to finance it at a maximum of \$17,000 per year.
- The membership voted not to purchase the Lanphear property on Trout Road.
- Assuming we can get the 2<sup>nd</sup> aerator into the lake for the winter of 2023-2024, we will again stock 5000 bluegills and 5000 black crappies in the spring of 2023.
- Christy Seidel was elected as a commissioner to the board.
- The balance in the accounts as of June 30, 2022 was \$41,580.05.
- The next annual meeting is August 19, 2023. Please mark your calendar.

## Aerator status

The aerator committee is working hard on going forward with getting a 2<sup>nd</sup> aerator into the lake for the 2023-2024 winter. It is being purchased from Aquatic Biologists. Paul Evert has offered his property for the aerator and has agreed to provide the district with an easement. Electricity has to be run to the site. We are applying for a grant to help pay for a portion of the cost of the aerator and working through the permit process.

The original aerator is in need of repairs and Aquatic Biologists has also been retained to do that work and get it in working order for the upcoming winter.



## Fish Northern Pike

The DNR has encouraged us to keep the northern pike we catch while fishing due to high numbers on the fish survey and the stunted size of the northern pike in the lake. Removing some northern pike will also

reduce the predation on the panfish we are stocking.

Remember when fishing to follow the DNR fish limits of 5 northern pike per day with a 10 fish total possession limit per person. Any fish you keep and don't care to 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, Rhinelander  
715-362-9453  
Call ahead but they had coolers out front for donations.



**Thank you  
Bev Fagan!!**

In 1976, Beverly Fagan and her husband, Richard ("Doc"), came to Goose Road on Horsehead Lake from Illinois to raise their six children in the

Northwoods. Doc was a business instructor at Nicolet Technical College and Bev, as a former teacher herself, joined the beginning effort to form our District. Under a newly passed WI law, Horsehead Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District #1 became the first in the state. The effort to organize was started before, but it was in 1976 that our dam was built and plans were approved by the DNR to build our first aerator. Since the first aerator would be placed next to Fagan's property, a volunteer crew was organized and Bev pitched in to cook for them during construction.

Raising their busy family didn't deter Bev and Doc from being active in the District; both were elected commissioners numerous times as Secretary and Treasurer. Bev's civic interest prompted her to serve three terms as Supervisor on the Oneida County Board. Her connections with the Lake Tomahawk Town Board and Oneida County have been very helpful down through the years. As recently as just a few years ago, Bev was Horsehead Lake Treasurer and after her term ended, was always willing to substitute as Secretary when called upon. Many folks may

not realize that it was Bev who unfailingly bought the doughnuts and organized the coffee for our annual meetings. The last several years she helped conduct the yearly audit of our books.

Alone now, and after spending several recent winters at her place on Goose Road, Bev has left her home on Goose Road to live in Wausau. We will miss her leadership, goodwill, good humor and faithful civic spirit. So, we say, "many thanks for all you've done to improve our district and lake".

The district is providing a plaque to Bev Fagan to honor her for her work.



### **Water Testing**

We continue to collect water samples from the lake and monitor the lake water quality. Overall Horsehead Lake has good water quality. Results can



be found on our website under "Water Quality Data".

Paul Bursik will be doing dissolved oxygen testing this winter.

## Winter Open Water

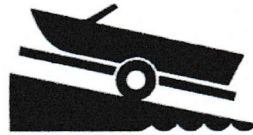


Please take note that we run our aerator on the lake during the winter months so there is an area of open water even when the lake is iced over. Please be sure to stay away from this area (located on the southwest side of the lake) and warn any guests about the open water danger on the lake.

## Lake Study / Management Plan

Onterra conducted an early season aquatic invasive plant water survey in June, 2022. Curly leaf pondweed was only found in the south part of the lake, near the boat launch.

At the end of July 2022, Onterra completed a point-to-point survey, where they look at all plant life (not just invasive species) in a grid pattern of the lake. The results will not be finalized until later this fall, but no eurasian watermilfoil was found.



## Boat Landing

Just a reminder that 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 easy way to deal with the damaged caused by power loading, as we have a shallow landing with a sandy bottom.

## Commissioner Meetings

The Commissioners will be meeting the following dates for the 2022-2023 year:

November 19, 2022  
April 3, 2023  
July 1, 2023

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.



## Weed Cutting

Weed cutting was not done this year. The lake was assessed for weed cutting by Deb Bursik, Paul Evert and John Ricchetti and all agreed the weeds 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.

## County Resources

Jim Winkler is now the representative from Oneida County on our board. He currently is the

chairman for the Oneida County Conservation and UW Extension Committee, which oversees the seven Lake Districts in Oneida County. Jim gave a talk at the annual meeting on shoreline restoration and funding available. We welcome Jim to our board!

### **New Commissioner**

Following our annual meeting, Christy Seidel informed us she was unable to fulfill the duties of a commissioner. Fortunately, Laurie Barrett has agreed to take over as Secretary. Laurie and her husband, Scott, have been on the lake since 2020. She has served on several other boards. We welcome you to the Board Laurie!!

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**If we have your Email Address, we can send you bulletins. Please send your email to [dbursik@new.rr.com](mailto:dbursik@new.rr.com)**  
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### **From the Chair**

By Deb Bursik

It was wonderful to see that, after discussion, all motions voted on passed unanimously at the annual meeting. We are grateful for the many volunteers and people who make our District run. When the workload is spread out, it is very manageable. We are fortunate to have many people willing to help. I encourage everyone to get involved with the District as the need arises. It is a learning experience. Thanks to Kevin Collins for serving as secretary and continuing on the aerator committee and in doing water testing. Also special thanks to Paul Evert for offering his property on the west shore to house the aerator and in providing an easement to the District for the aerator use. Thank you and your family for your generosity! We are grateful that we have a viable option for an aerator.

### **Our Volunteers**

#### Webmaster:

Deb Bursik

#### Aerator Committee:

Dave Averbeck, Lead

Dennis Batchelet

Kevin Collins

Nancy Collins

Dan Moran

Dusten Tornow

#### Secchi testing/water

sampling:

Kevin Collins

#### Dissolved Oxygen Testing:

Paul Bursik

#### Audit Committee:

Hans Delius

### **Did You Know?**



The normal life span of a loon ranges from 15 - 30 years and an eagle from 14 - 35 years.



Sincerely,  
Debra Bursik  
David Averbeck  
Laurie Barrett  
Jim Winkler  
Larry L. Hoffman