



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

A P R I L

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JEFFERSON ISLAND CHANNEL

On Saturday, March 2nd at 10 a.m. the DPL held its first telephonic meeting. Approximately 20 people including 6 DPL commissioners joined the meeting. The agenda included items regarding the Jefferson Island Channel project. A channel survey by Hey and Associates has been completed to include: a channel profile, depth of soft sediment, and adequate cross sections to generate topography for the channel from the southern point of the north project to the Jefferson Bay side. The Board also voted to approve a dredging investigation which will assist in determining the appropriate course of action for potential dredging of the channel. Hey will produce 3 channel cross sections to account for removal of :

- the minimum amount of material to improve navigation in the channel
- the maximum amount of material that can feasibly be removed from the channel and
- a middle alternative between the two.

They will also investigate the necessary dredging approach. This will include review of available information from SEWRPC and the WDNR as well as available anecdotal information from residents. Along with concept designs they will document the information including a discussion of likely benefits, recreational impact, ecological benefits, economic consideration and other appropriate criteria. This report will be presented at the upcoming DPL quarterly board meeting on Friday, April 5th.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT

Stantec, which provides our aquatic invasive species (AIS) treatment and surveys, has reported that our 2012 pre-treatment survey showed 0.26 acres of curly leaf pondweed (CLP), 37.84 acres of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM), and 0.26 acres of a mix of the

two. The whole lake treatment was on May 11. The post-treatment survey conducted on August 8 showed 0.6 acres of CLP and 5.95 acres of EWM. The CLP showed no reduction but since turions (reproductive structures of CLP) can survive in lake sediment for five years, there is likely to be more mapped and treated in 2013.

The EWM treatment resulted in an 84% reduction. Our native plant community statistics have remained stable and aquatic plant diversity remains high. It is important to remember that previous to this, the 2009 levels of EWM exceeded 70 acres. Complete elimination of these AIS from Powers Lake is unlikely and perhaps an unrealistic expectation. Current populations of AIS will fluctuate yearly and control actions should be altered accordingly. Stantec recommends that the DPL should continue a management plan or program reducing the ability of the AIS to spread within or outside of the lake by either riparian owners or visitors. EWM and CLP are extremely opportunistic plants and can grow to nuisance levels in a very short period of time. The DPL must remain proactive in their approach.

WISCONSIN LAKES PROPOSES ACTIONS AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES

Wisconsin Lakes, a statewide organization that works to protect the quality of Wisconsin's inland lakes, is asking the state Legislature to consider its proposal to control aquatic invasive species (AIS). The new rules are targeted at "super spreader" bodies of water, similar to Geneva Lake and Delavan Lake, where thousands of boaters annually launch and retrieve their boats for use at other lakes in state and out. It will be up to the state DNR, the governor and the state Legislature to decide what, if any,

parts of the proposal will wind up in the state budget.

John Keckhaver, lobbyist for Wisconsin Lakes, said the group surveyed its members, experts and other interested parties in 2012 regarding lake-related issues and concerns. It was no surprise that AIS was at the top of perceived challenges to protecting WI lakes and freshwater bodies. About 80% of the membership named AIS as an area needing to be addressed. The detailed plan introduced by Wisconsin Lakes had six suggested key elements to advance the effort against AIS. According to the proposal, these include:

- Develop a rapid response team committed to the containment, eradication and continued suppression of newly pioneering invasives.
Annual funding request: \$440,000
- Improve containment in key waterbodies with several points of watercraft access and large numbers of users. This also included funding for equipment and staff for decontamination units.
Annual funding request: \$1,300,000
- Use a watershed approach rather than a waterbody basis with 2 two year pilot programs to bring all lake stakeholders in a region together to work in partnership.
Annual funding request: \$100,000
- Reinforce enforcement by supplementing funding for AIS related law enforcement to increase the number of wardens and the time spent on AIS.
Annual funding request: \$1,337,000
- Maintain what is gained by continued vigilance and resources to prevent AIS from rebounding and migrating.
Annual funding request: \$400,000
- Create strong regional partnerships. Existing regional entities such as resource, conservation and development councils, regional planning commissions or other qualified watershed groups by funded to AIS prevention, containment, and control.
Annual funding request: \$1-2 million

These proposals are meant not to supplant but to reinforce current efforts and provide new funding sources. Keckhaver also said the state doles out grants for education programs around the state but demand for grants outstrips available funds.

Minnesota just approved \$8 million annually for its fight against AIS. The Wisconsin Lakes proposal calls for \$4.2 to \$5.2 million for its expanded efforts. Ted Peters, director of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, said he is aware that Geneva Lake is a "hotspot" for the possible transmission of AIS being home to EWM, CLP, and zebra mussels. Delavan Lake reports close to the same number of boats coming and going.

Audrey Greene, county lake specialist, runs the education program on behalf of Walworth County. She feels education of the public is key. On the other hand, putting decontamination units at each of the boat launches might be a bit much. Last year, the DNR brought a hot water boat decontamination unit to the public launch at Delavan Lake. Of the 50-60 boats that came out of the water, only 5 or 6 boaters agreed to have their boats decontaminated with the hot water unit. She is afraid it would be a huge expense and not sure we would get the bang for the buck. She feels the money is probably better spent educating people about the dangers of AIS. "It's all a matter of what we can and cannot afford." Said State Sen. Neal Kedzie (R-LaGrange), who chairs the Senate Natural Resources Committee. "Wisconsin has 15,000 inland lakes which makes the task look insurmountable. However, there are only a few lakes that draw a lot of cross-state traffic with boats entering and leaving in a constant stream- Geneva Lake and Delavan Lakes in Walworth County. I would like to see what the DNR puts forward from their proposals." Kedzie also said that he was encouraged that Wisconsin Lakes was looking for other ways to raise the funds for the program other than taxes.



The 35th annual Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention will be taking place at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay. This event is sponsored by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, a nationally recognized and successful collaboration of the University of Wisconsin Extension, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin Lakes. Information can be found at:

<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/index.php/wisconsin-lakes-partnership-convention>

QUARTERLY MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Friday, April 5th, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, Bassett, WI.



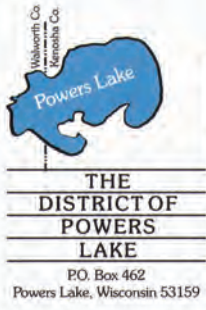
DISTRICT OF POWERS LAKE MISSION STATEMENT

Within the scope of the powers vested in it under Chapter 33 and in furtherance of the Public Trust Doctrine of Wisconsin, the mission of the District of Powers Lake is:

To support, protect, preserve and enhance the native ecosystem of the watershed, shoreline, and waters of Powers Lake as a natural resource for generations to come;

To be responsive to the interests and concerns of the district residents and the public; and

To proactively advocate when faced with potential damage to Powers Lake's environmental values, wildlife, natural beauty, peacefulness, safety and/or recreational value.



Elected Commissioners:

Jim Michels, Chair
Nancy Michael, Sec.
Brooke Jensen, Treas.
Neal Kuhn
Colleen Keating

Appointed Commissioners:

Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.
Michael Halvorson, Randall Twp.