



www.districtofpowerslake.org

District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

JANUARY

2021

Resident Opinion Survey

Since 1990, the DPL in partnership with South Eastern Wisconsin Regional Planning {SEWRP} have compiled a resident survey on a 10-year cycle. Thank you to all who took the time to respond to this year's survey. Your feedback is important, and it helps the District to prioritize our efforts.

The survey was sent out this past spring and we recently received the final report which will be posted to our website after our January 8th meeting for anyone who is interested.

Meanwhile, below is a recap of some of the highlights:

- ≈ 300 Surveys were sent out
- ≈ 107 were received (35% response overall)
- ≈ 74% of the respondents identified their Powers Lake residence as a second home
- ≈ 80% have been on the lake more than 10 years
- ≈ 34% have been on the lake more than 50 years
- ≈ 83% use the lake for power boating
- ≈ 95% consider the lake to have good water quality
- ≈ 72% are satisfied with the Water Patrol
- ≈ 62% are satisfied with the sanitation regulations
- ≈ 85% thought the DPL was doing a good job

One part of The Mission of the DPL is to be responsive to the interests and concerns of the district residents and the public.

In doing so, we thought we would create a new section of the newsletter to highlight and clarify some of the issues that were presented in the survey. In this way, we can further educate and inform you on issues that seem to be recurring.

The new section will be called "Myth Busters" and our hope is that you will find it be educational and informative.

Myth buster #1:

Concerning the issue of sanitation regulations {solid waste disposal and sewerage regulations} on Powers Lake, 62 % of the respondents were either satisfied or well satisfied. 14% had no strong feeling, 9% were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied and 15% felt they needed more information. Respondent comments included the following:

- Municipal water and sewers should be installed
- Septic tanks should be banned
- Septic tanks are too close to the lake
- Septic tanks are leaky and are draining into the lake
- Septic tanks have not been checked in 35 years
- Lack of septic tanks means no condominiums, which is a positive for the lake
- There shouldn't be any waste disposal or sewage in the lake

FACTS:

≈ On a weekly basis during the summer months (June-August) The DPL tests the water for E-coli at the Knolls beach, the DNR launch and on occasion other random locations.

≈ The samples are collected by our resident volunteer Mark Halvey.

≈ The testing is completed by a certified testing facility.

≈ We have been doing this for approximately 20 years.

≈ During that time, there has NEVER been an incidence of septic leakage at a private residence.

≈ Since 1971, the State of Wisconsin has had a Three Year Septic System Maintenance law in effect. This law requires every private wastewater treatment system to be pumped, inspected and reported to the County in which the system is located.

≈ As a lakefront property owner, it is your responsibility to ensure your system is working properly

≈ All new construction is subject to the zoning regulations with regard to septic size and placement.

≈ In summary, there is ZERO statistical or anecdotal evidence that we have any issues resulting from faulty septic systems.

≈ The cost to convert to city sewer and water would be substantial and significantly raise your taxes.

Water Treatment

Approximately 5 acres were treated this year for invasive species. The post treatment survey was delayed this year and was done the 3rd week in September.

Aquatic Invasive Species {AIS}:

This is an email from Jim Scharl, Senior Biologist at Lakes and Ponds.

“We completed the survey on September 29 and found the plants were still green and growing. As a plant community in whole, the lake was in great shape. There were more native pondweed - clasping-leaf, white-stem, and others - than I recall seeing than in the past few years. This is excellent for lake health and fishery habitat. Remaining native species were the same assemblage as past surveys as well and appeared to be doing well. A fair amount of wild celery (eel grass) was noted washed up on the shore. This is a natural, yearly occurrence that happens each fall. Eel grass will uproot in mats and drift around.

The EWM in the lake is similar and a bit reduced from 2019. There were a fair number of individual plants of EWM located, marked as red dots on the map, and really only a few areas with

them close and dense enough to call beds. The individual plants are a good thing! This has been going on since the whole-lake treatment approach from around 2010/2011. We will never remove the entire population and there may always be some smaller, dense spots to manage. But, the native species are doing well and in a majority of the locations EWM is present only as scattered single stalks. EWM was primarily found in near-shore areas behind where people dock their boats. The wash-out bowl from boat props allows soft-sediment to fill in and create a micro-habitat spot for EWM to grow.

The treatment areas from this spring (2020 permit map) responded well. EWM areas C-F all responded well with excellent control and no need for retreatment into 2021. Most had upwards of 90% control.

Going into 2021 we did locate three small beds of EWM for targeted control (2020 post survey map). These total 1.4 acres. We also highlighted 3 locations for potential nuisance control. These are similar to year's past and spots where a dense mix of native and sometimes invasive species can cause a navigational nuisance. All spots are areas with a higher amount of boat traffic.

If you have any questions, please let me know and I'll be happy to assist.

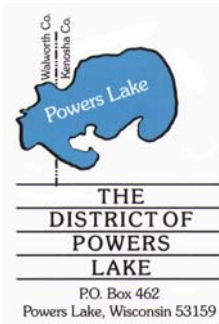
Thank you and take care,

Jim

--

James Scharl

Senior Biologist - Lake Services Manager”



Elected Commissioners:

Neal Kuhn, Chair
Lou Manfredini
Brooke Jensen, Treas.
Jim Michels
Dave Anstett

Appointed Commissioners:

Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.
Bob Stoll, Randall Twp.

Fish Stocking

The good news is the DPL and the Powers Lake Sportsmen's Club stocked the lake this fall with 2,550 5" to 8" Walleyes.

Stocking by the DNR has been completed for the year but there was no stocking of Northern Pike. This was the result of production shortages due to COVID which affected spawning for our state hatcheries this past spring. Fortunately, there is some natural reproduction of Northern Pike in Powers Lake.

This news makes our DPL supplemental stockings even more important.

The DNR Walleye stocking should be back on track for 2021 and is still funded for now.

Website Signup

If you have not already done so, please visit our website and sign up for notifications of lake events such as E. coli advisory/closure at the Knolls Beach or Slow No Wake.

www.districtofpowerslake.com

Quarterly Board Meeting



Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Friday, January 8th, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Due to Covid 19, this will be a Zoom meeting. Several days before this meeting, the Zoom link will be posted at the Randall Town Hall, the Powers Lake Post Office and on our website at www.districtofpowerslake.org.

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.