



# District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

**OCTOBER**

**2012**

## **2012 ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting opened with a presentation by Yvonne Wallace Blane from Fellow Mortals wildlife rehabilitators located in Lake Geneva. Subject matter included animals being rehabilitated and advice on dealing with injured animals and birds.

The Jefferson Island channel had been cleared of deadfall trees and accumulated plant material from beaver activity.

The treatment for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) is completed and involved approximately 9 acres total down from the 78 acres of EWM we treated 4 years ago. A post treatment survey will be available soon and posted on our website [www.districtofpowerslake.org](http://www.districtofpowerslake.org). Weekly water sampling for E coli at the Knolls Beach and other sites around the lake produced no elevated levels.

A resolution and certificate of appreciation was approved to be sent to the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) for their assistance in helping us formulate our Lake Protection Plan.

Discussion was held on the current conditions of the Jefferson Island Channel. An additional meeting of the DPL Board was scheduled for Friday, August 17th, 2012 at 5 p.m. at the Randall Town Hall to further determine future action.

During the budget hearing, funds were moved to facilitate funding for dealing with the Jefferson Island Channel. Approval of the 2013 Annual Budget and the tax levy followed. Nomination and election of candidates for office of commissioner resulted in the re-election of Brooke Jensen and Colleen Keating by unanimous vote.

## **AUGUST 17th DPL BOARD MEETING REGARDING JEFFERSON ISLAND CHANNEL**

During citizen comments, a number of residents spoke about their individual concerns regarding the condition of the channel. Dr. Jeffrey Thornton surveyed the channel situation and an e-mail from him regarding his assessment of the situation was read. The DPL Board had requested

David Kraft, from Hey and Associates, attend and lend his expertise in the areas of dredging, permitting and disposal.

Discussion then continued regarding development of a plan, working with Hey and Associates, to survey and clear the North channel inlet after researching permitting requirements and quantity estimates for removal and removal sites. This process could be considered Phase 1. Phase 2 will be a long term solution to keep this channel open and conduct a long term study to understand a long term needs assessment and estimate of cost. Then DPL will put a plan in place for future expense and budgeting if applicable. This plan was approved by the Board.

## **Lower Lake Levels**

A combination of low snow/ice cover, early ice out, above normal temperatures in March (resulting in increased evaporation), and the drought have all contributed to low lake levels throughout SE Wisconsin and increased plant growth. The increased plant growth feeds on nutrients to include E-coli so actually keeps our lakes cleaner. In light of this situation, we are reprinting the following article from Last October's newsletter:

## **TAKING CARE OF OUR LAKES IN TIMES OF DECLINING WATER LEVELS**

Because this newly exposed lake bottom is public land, all Wisconsin residents have a responsibility to be good stewards of this shared resource. During dry times, many calls come into the WDNR Service Center. In general, it is best to avoid removing vegetation and disturbing the exposed lake bed during low water times. These water level fluctuations are important for a lake's health, particularly, in the near-shore zone. Shorelines and shallow areas of lakes play a vital role in providing habitat for fish and wildlife and for protecting water quality. Until water levels return to normal, it is important for lake property owners to avoid inadvertently harming exposed lakeshore areas. Regulations for activities on the exposed lake bed are regulated by the WDNR and each county has a shoreland protection ordinance. The link to this article will show access to these sites. Several studies have found that modest water level



**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.

## TAKING CARE OF OUR LAKES IN TIMES OF DECLINING WATER LEVELS (cont'd)

fluctuations can lead to increased plant diversity. Periodic low water conditions can be beneficial for lake ecosystems. Sediments can consolidate and allow new plants to colonize the lakebed and provide habitat for rare plants and shorebirds. When water levels return to normal, an expansion of new plants become habitat for fish and wildlife, removes nutrients from the water, and can increase water clarity.

The full article on this subject is available through the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership in the Vol.34, No. 3 Summer 2009 issue at: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/laketides/vol34-3/Text-only.htm#1>

## QUARTERLY MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Friday, October 5th at 5:00 p.m. David Kraft of Hey & Associates will be speaking about the Jefferson Island Channel project. 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.