

NLMD

Summary of Financial and Committee Reports

Presented at the NLMD Annual Meeting

August 24, 2021

The following is a Summary of the Financial and Committee Reports presented at the NLMD Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. The summary does not include the questions and answers at the meeting and other anecdotal comments as well as graphs and pictures. In addition, due to time constraints, some of these reports were not presented at the Annual Meeting but are provided in this E-Mail.

Commissioners
North Lake Management District

Treasurer's Report August 24, 2021 (Don Reinbold)

June 30, 2021 Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet lists North Lake Management District's Assets, (Checking account, Money Market Account, and Property), Liability, and Fund Balance. Total cash on hand at 6/30/2021 is \$358,007.87. The NLMD Financial position is very good at this time. The NLMD Liability is the Aquatic Plant Harvester Loan.

In June, 2018, NLMD's prior law firm (Reinhart), accepted \$12,000 in full payment for \$27,060 for legal fees. The \$12,000 was paid from an advance from a North Lake Property Owner. If NLMD cannot raise donations to cover the \$12,000 within five years, the advance not repaid will be a donation to NLMD. At the time these expenses were incurred, we told the members of the NLMD that they would not be paid from NLMD funds. Please consider a donation to NLMD to help cover the payment of the advance. The donations are tax deductible if you itemize deductions on your tax return.

Fiscal 2021 Receipts/Disbursements

This report shows the NLMD Fiscal 2021 Receipts and Disbursements compared to the Budget. Receipts include the special charge (\$500 per property) to property owners, bank interest, and fish stocking donations. Receipts also include DNR grant for shore line buffer zones.

All disbursements were less than the budget except fish stocking program. Since fish stocking was paid by donations and not NLMD funds, it does not exceed the budget. Also Miscellaneous, Communication Costs and Lake Study costs were slightly over budget.

Proposed Fiscal 2022 Budget

The fiscal 2022 proposed budget is similar to the fiscal 2021 budget except:

Receipts:

1. DNR Buffer Zone Grant \$2000 to \$24,450
2. Grant from DNR for Lake Study \$0 to \$7,500
3. Donations to Dredge Channel Between Lakes \$0 to \$2000
4. No Loan Proceeds from BCPL

Disbursements:

1. Dredge Ice House Bay 0 to \$10,000
2. Lake Water Study \$15,000 to \$59,220
3. Buffer Zone Costs \$12,000 to \$24,450
4. No Budget to Purchase Highway 83 Property - \$340,000
5. Public Access Costs \$20,000 to \$10,000

Excess funds may be used to pay down the aquatic plant harvester loan

AUDIT We have a draft of the Fiscal 2021 Audit Report, and there are no qualifications, disagreements, etc. on NLMD financial statements for Fiscal 2021. In other words, a clean, unqualified report.



Terra Vigilis Environmental Services Group

North Lake Management District
Phase II Water Quality and Wave Impacts Study

-Preliminary Summary-

The Phase II water clarity and wave impacts study offers a series of preliminary research results to describe in this update. There are several domains of study in Phase II which include:

1. Water Chemistry ((Phosphorous, Total Suspended Solids, Dissolved Oxygen Levels and Temperatures)
2. Water Clarity
3. Lake Sediment and Redistribution Data
4. Wave Plume Development Dynamics
5. Wave Characteristics at Staggered Distances from Shoreline
6. Shoreline Baseline Metrics

Each of these study areas will be explained briefly and the results from current data review are provided. The reader is reminded that the Phase II study is a collaborative effort of Carroll University (Environmental Science, Chemistry and Aviation Science), Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and Terra Vigilis Environmental Services Group (TVES). In addition to conventional water quality measurements, commercial drone operations both aerial and subsurface, have been utilized during the study. The study design is supported in part by WDNR grant funds. A detailed report will be provided at a NLMD Special Meeting later in the fall of 2021.

Water Chemistry

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and SEWRPC use a measure of overall Lake quality referred to as the Lake Trophic Status Index (TSI). The common measures included within TSI include Total Phosphorous, Water Clarity and selected other water samples. The present study included Phosphorous and Water Clarity and added the measurement of total suspended solids (TSS) since the inflows directly impact North Lake as well as the outflows from North Lake impacting other lakes in the watershed downstream.

Water chemistry sampling has been conducted weekly for approximately 13 weeks at 7 sites on North Lake. This includes river inlets at the north and south ends of the large lake basin (Big Lake; including the Oconomowoc river, Mason creek and the inlet from Mud lake). Additional testing sites in the small lake basin (Little Lake) have also been sampled. State certified laboratory analyses have been conducted for these samples. At the completion of the Phase II study a comprehensive assessment regarding these samplings will be offered. This assessment will reflect TSI values and will also include commentary regarding Phosphorous levels relative to state WDNR acceptable standards. All these data will be presented in graphs and tables for review. Implications for protection of water quality will be addressed.

Water Clarity

Traditional measurements of water clarity have also been gathered with Secchi disk and commercial submersibles equipped with lighting and cameras. The measurement schedule matched weekly water sampling, thus extending across 13 weeks at 7 sites covering both lake basins. Variations in water clarity have been observed throughout the summer as a function of rainfalls, water temperature, and other factors including boating activity. These data will be depicted in graphs and tables for review. Implications for protection of water quality will be addressed and commentary regarding the effects of persistently high nutrient loads offered.

Lake Sediment and Redistribution of Bottom Sediments

Baseline measurements of bottom sediments have been gathered at selected sites throughout North Lake. Special attention has been made to the Wildwood Point reef which showed significant evidence of sediment re-distribution during the 2020 Phase I study conducted on North Lake. The early sampling schedule of the present study allowed for near pristine conditions on the bottom sampling as a basis for comparison in mid-September 2021. These data will be depicted with photographic and subsurface videography. Implications for protection of water quality (particularly TSI) will be addressed and commentary regarding the effects of vessel impacts on plume development and redistribution of bottom sediments will be discussed in detail.

Wave Plume Development Dynamics

The present study has completed engineering measurements which reflect differential prop downwash impacts from different vessel types in operation on North Lake. Particular attention has been paid to comparisons between common use vessels (Pontoons, fishing boats, PWC and Wakeboard Boats in “Surf” mode). Data has been gathered which shows significant prop downwash reaching depths of 20 feet from wakeboard boats in surf mode. This is an effect which has also been replicated in other studies. Implications for protection of water quality will be addressed and commentary for the importance of managing these vessel impacts will be discussed in detail.

Wave Characteristics at Staggered Distances from Shoreline

The present study design required measurement of wave impacts on shorelines from vessels in common use on North Lake. These vessels were determined by riparian owner reports on lake use in 2019 and 2020. The common vessel categories included pontoon boats, fishing boats, PWC and Wakeboard boats. These categories of boats were operated at specified marks 200, 300 and 400 feet from the shoreline in calm water conditions. The operational characteristics were standard for vessel type. All vessel design, technologies in use and engine horsepower were catalogued. Videometric commercial drone technology was utilized to assure precise and standard wave metrics including heights, troughs and wave lengths. Significant differences were demonstrated across vessels and by distances. The present 200-foot distance from shoreline does not appear to mitigate the impacts of wave surf mode operations on the small basin lake. This difficulty is complicated with the subsurface shallow ledge and size of the small lake basin. Implications for protection of shoreline will be addressed and commentary regarding the importance of managing these vessel impacts will be discussed in detail.

Shoreline Baseline Data

Commercial drone imagery has been completed providing 3d imaging of the entire perimeter of North Lake (both large and small basins). This data has now been archived for comparison purposes against annual measurements of impacts and correlated with measured lake water levels.

V/R

Research Team

NLMD Water Quality Study Phase II

Upper Oconomowoc River Summary Report – Thomas Slawski

Presenter: Thomas Slawski, Chief Biologist, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Tslawski@sewrpc.org

Meeting: North Lake Management District's Annual Meeting, August 24th, 2021

Title: Upper Oconomowoc River Summary Report (full citation: *SEWRPC Memorandum Report No. 258, Upper Oconomowoc River Nutrient and Sediment Study, June 2021*)

Hard copies of the Executive Summary were provided to the meeting attendees that can be found on the North Lake Management District's website at: <https://nlmd.org/lake-study/>

The full report can be found on the Commission's website at:

<http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPCFiles/Publications/mr/mr-258-upper-oconomowoc-river-nutrient-and-sediment-study.pdf>

As part of this study, the Commission completed an on-the-River field survey from Monches dam to North Lake during fall 2018 to examine streambank erosion, water depths, sediment depths and distribution, and general river morphology. Highlights of Commission observations, analyses, modelling results, and opportunities to reduce pollutant loading to North Lake are summarized within the Executive Summary, but due to limited time issues I would like to discuss 5 key findings as briefly summarized below.

- 1) No failed or excessively eroding streambanks were observed in this 3.6 mile stretch of the Upper Oconomowoc River immediately upstream of North Lake. Therefore, streambank erosion from this reach is not a likely significant source of sediment transported into North Lake. This stretch of River is also beautiful and I encourage you to paddle this section if you get a chance.
- 2) Much less soft sediment (approximately 6,750 cubic yards) was present in the River's bed during 2018 versus 2013, demonstrating improved instream conditions. The good news is that the sediments have moved out of the River, but the bad news is that sediment was delivered into North Lake. See more details in the full report.
- 3) Water quality monitoring data from the Upper Oconomowoc River reveal that the River's phosphorus concentrations often exceed State standards of 0.075 milligrams per liter and increased precipitation correlates with higher River phosphorus concentrations and loads. However, the proportion of exceedances of the State standard are substantially reduced from 57.6 percent above Friess Lake to 16.1 percent below Friess Lake to Monches millpond, and further reduced to 11.6 percent downstream of Monches millpond. These monitoring results support sediment and phosphorus load reductions estimated by modeling results and demonstrate how effective these upstream lakes and ponds are at capturing pollutants and protecting North Lake.
- 4) Using models, Commission staff estimate that these water bodies upstream of North Lake likely trap almost half (about 44 percent) of the sediment and phosphorus load transported to the Lake. The greatest percent contributions of the total sediment and phosphorus loads contributing to North Lake are estimated to come from among five subbasins (listed in decreasing order): Mason Creek (25.3 percent), Former Funk's Dam (21.5 percent), Little Oconomowoc River (13.1 percent), Flynn Creek (12.3 percent), and Monches Millpond (10.4

percent). Hence, these highest loading areas are where the North Lake Management District and partners should be focusing on to maximize effectiveness of dollars spent to reduce nonpoint source pollutant loads for phosphorus and sediment from getting into North Lake. The full report also includes prioritization parcels to implement Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) among these subbasins.

- 5) Many opportunities exist to trap or detain sediment in and along the River to work with landowners and other partners to address numerous high priority parcels identified in this report. The District is strongly encouraged to continue collaboration with the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program (OWPP) particularly within the Critical Source Areas & priority parcels upstream of the Lake (see plan for more details). Actively supporting producer-led initiatives that encourage participation in conservation practices, especially on high priority parcels identified, could be an extremely cost-effective strategy in reducing pollutant loads to the Lake.

Update from Tall Pines Conservancy on Mason Creek Restoration and Re-meander:

Recent work done by Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program (OWPP) has confirmed that Mason Creek is a significant source of phosphorous and sediment to North Lake. Although the creek has less than 1/3 of the flow volume of the main stem of the Oconomowoc River, it has an outsized impact on the amount of phosphorous entering the lake, as much as 40% based on in stream monitoring results. Efforts to restore Mason Creek are needed.

Tall Pines Conservancy has begun a re-meandering project on a parcel of land purchased from the Schmidt family, on Pleasant View Rd north of Hwy CW. The parcel includes a channelized section of Mason Creek, with adjacent farmland and invasive reed canary grass on the fringes. Tall Pines Conservancy received a grant from the DNR to design a re-meandered section of the creek that would reduce phosphorous and sediment runoff by integrating the stream course more gradually into the surrounding floodplain, allowing the water velocity to slow during periods of higher flow. Native vegetation will be planted to improve water filtration, and natural sequences of riffles and pools will allow sediment to settle out. In addition, taking the current channel offline sequesters the legacy sediment in place so that it doesn't move downstream in successive high flow events.

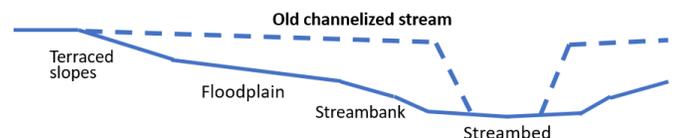
The total budget for the project is \$350,000 of which \$120,000 has been secured so far through two DNR grants and commitments from The City of Oconomowoc (OWPP), Tall Pines Conservancy, North Lake Management District, and private donors. This spring, NLMD submitted a grant request to the DNR for a Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant in the amount of \$220,000. *Update as of 8/31/21: we have received word that the Mason Creek grant request was ranked 8th in the preliminary assessment, with funding available for only the top seven projects. As a result, our desired start of construction in mid-2022 will likely be pushed back as we consider re-applying or seeking other funding sources.* Continued donations from private sources would be welcome, as construction costs may also increase in the current economic climate and project delays could affect this further.

In the meantime, Tall Pines Conservancy and the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program have funded the planting of prairie and pollinator habitat in two sections of adjacent farm fields that were previously in corn and soybean production. The 3.7 acre pollinator planting will further help the filtration functions of the surrounding landscape.

Proposed re-meandered pathway of Mason Creek north of CW.



Integrating Creek into Surrounding Floodplain



Winter 20/21 Prairie Seeding
on Fall Corn Stubble



Prairie seed germination, summer 2021

For further information:

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Prairie establishment in field that was in annual crop production two years ago

Dredge Ice House Bay – Mark Theisen

Due to the volume of this report, we are unable to include it in this E-Mail. You can find a complete copy of this report by clicking on the link below which will take you to the Web Page, and you can download the presentation: <https://nlmd.org/dredging-of-ice-house-bay/>

CHARA -- Mark Theisen

Chara is scratchy, stinky and doesn't have roots. However, Chara is good for North Lake because it removes Phosphorus from the water column and binds it to the marl bottom in the lake.

It also stabilizes sediment on the lake bottom and keeps it from moving around.

It prevents the spread of opportunistic invasive species by providing a solid cover over the bottom.

It provides habitat for zooplankton and insect larvae, which young fish like to eat.

Please don't remove Chara. If you want to clear it from your dock and swimming area, please move it to another area where it can do its job removing phosphorus and protecting the lake bottom.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Chemical Treatment of Invasive Aquatic Plants (AP) – Jerry Heine

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EM) and Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLPW) were chemically treated on June 9, 2021. Approximately 4.5 acres of EM and 5.3 acres of CLPW were treated.

The only areas treated were Ice House Bay, Jobie Hole, Schneider Bay and the area around Cornell Inlet on the Big Lake. The primary aquatic plant on the lake this year is Elodea which we do not have a permit to treat chemically. This plant was controlled by skimming/harvesting equipment. One good thing is that the area treated for EM for the past 5 years has been small. The bad thing is other weeds have taken over – Elodea, CLPW, Eel Grass, Etc.

There is no magic way to control AP in a lake. AP Harvesting/skimming and chemical treatments have advantages and disadvantages as follows:

Advantages

Harvesting/skimming (HS)

Remove AP plants from lake and thus remove a significant amount of nutrients and future AP's due to seed removal. We can harvest all AP's except Lilly Pads.

Chemical Treatment

Does not spread weeds to other areas.

Disadvantages

Spreads weeds to other areas of lake because the harvester cannot catch all weeds cut/skimmed. AP's grow faster as a result of Harvesting.

Adds nutrients to the lake when the AP's die. We are limited by DNR as to what AP's we can treat.

The major problem causing the growth of AP's on the lake is not Harvesting/Skimming but almost the entire lake bottom has a silt covering and a lot of nutrients from Mason Creek and Oconomowoc River.

Most of North Lake had a hard Marl bottom (combination of sand and clay) which does not promote weed growth. North Lake still has a Marl bottom but it has silt covering it now. The areas where the inlets (Oconomowoc River, Mason Creek and Cornell Inlet) are located have had significant silt and weed growth for many decades. Now the silt has spread around the entire lake and thus AP's are just about everywhere.

The best control of AP, silt, nutrients and algae is the clean up of our inlets –Oconomowoc River and Mason Creek which NLMD and its partners, Tall Pines and Oconomowoc Water Protection Agency are working on accomplishing. These are long-term projects and very costly.

Another major way to control silt, nutrients and AP is dredging which is described in Mark Theisen's presentation.

Water Sampling and Dissolved Oxygen (Jim Schneider)

Lake water monitoring results for this year were typical of prior years. May readings were great with 18' clarity, a depth record for the 15 plus years I have been doing this, and a good 6.0 dissolved oxygen (D.O.) reading at a depth of 70' increasing at 5 to 10' depths to 9.0 at the surface. June was ok with 8' clarity and D.O. satisfactory to 20'. July was a different story. An algae bloom decreased water clarity to 6' and D.O. was very low below 15' where the water temperature was 70 degrees. The August readings were little changed from July as water clarity and dissolved oxygen issues continued. Clarity was 5.5' and D.O. was only good to about 13' where the temperature was 75 degrees. There was heavy algae bloom and very green water.

Phosphorus and chlorophyll lake samples are taken monthly, processed, packed in ice and sent to the State lab for testing. All data is readily available on the DNR website Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. Latest readings were 0.197 for phosphorus and 6.48 for chlorophyll. Both are borderline high but relatively consistent with southern Wisconsin lakes.

Both the Oconomowoc River and Mason Creek were satisfactory from both a clarity and D.O. standpoint. There were no major silty stream flow events.

Fertilizing Lawns and Buffer Zones – Jerry Heine

Fertilizing should not occur when conditions exist for high run off. By ordinance, there is no fertilizing within 20 feet of the Lake shoreline, and fertilizer must be phosphorus free. The best solution for the Lake is no fertilizing.

Run off from our properties is a contributor of AP and algae. Each year, we ask owners to plant buffer zones. Please if you don't already have a buffer zone, plant one this fall or next spring. We can help in this effort. A buffer zone consists of native plants planted at the lake front. It is recommended that the buffer zone be 20' deep. It helps filter debris and nutrients from water runoff before it enters the lake. There are five good publications on the NLMD website (NLMD.org, click on Shoreland), that will help in designing a buffer zone for your property plus we can help you.

There is DNR funding for up to \$1,000 per property. NLMD can file for this funding. NLMD assisted in establishing and funding 4 buffer zones in 2019, 2 in 2020 and the Evergreen Condo hill in 2021.

Water Safety/Fish Management – Scott Jankowski

- 1) video presentation channel navigation through two lakes
- 2) video of Hummingbird Auto chart visual enhancement of the various natural North Lake Sand Bars, Clearwater Bar, Jobe's Bar, South Bar, Tall Pines Bar, Horseshoe Bar, East Bar.

Please protect our natural bars, most life begins in shallow water, primarily the first 2 feet of shoreline along with our natural bars. NLMD asks that you try and navigate around our natural bars. Take time to familiarize yourself with the lake and these bars.

Please be mindful of your Wisconsin boating regulations when navigating your vessels, and the Stewardship committee recommendations on lake courtesies, navigation distances, activity operations along with recommendations on weekend time operations. Questions can be directed towards a stewardship committee member.

Fish stocking will take place this October. All permits have been approved and issued by the DNR for 3500 6 to 7" walleye fingerlings. NLMD will be asking again for private donations from our lake family residents. Remember that your donation helps the ecosystem and balance of the lake. As an example, game fish feed on carp and we want less carp. Carp are very destructive to the lake as they uproot vegetation, create water turbidity in the lake reducing oxygen and water clarity. NLMD is striving to help with enjoyable memories for your kids, grandkids and environmental preservation. All good reasons to send a donation, just a reminder your contribution is tax deductible if you itemize, and NLMD wants to thank you for your support along with your past support.

NLMD will again be providing walleye clinics in 2022 in May /June time frame. We receive a lot of calls on this. Just to be clear we are not licensed guides, the fee is a \$400.00 donation for fish stocking (no payments are made to the service provider), all gear is provided for you and a guest. Techniques will be shared with you on how to boat a walleye, we do not guarantee fish but thus far have a 100% success rate on clinic days. Many of you have then applied these techniques and have been able to duplicate success on your own. That is our intent along with raising funds and having some fun.

Please take a photo on your smart phone of the map I have here today to help you and your family with a greater detailed lake map for your reference.

Monches Dam Committee Report (Walter Schaeffer)

The Monches Dam has been completed and has been functioning properly since 2014.

The dam continues to operate without problems.

George Strobl and Secret Strobl are the operators of the dam and also do the required maintenance. The maintenance which involves inspections and greasing the appropriate bearings and gears is routinely preformed.

Email Communication

The NLMD takes very seriously its responsibility to keep the property owners on the lake aware of a variety of items.

Please continue to update me with email changes and corrections. I am reaching about 90% of the riparian owners on North Lake. If you re not included, please email me at northlakemanagementdistrict@gmail.com and include your name, lake property address and email address.

Mail Communications to Riparian Owners

All official mail communications are sent to all riparian owner's address as they appear on the Waukesha County Tax Records. This is the mail address where your property tax bill is sent.

NLMD Web Site

Please visit the NLMD Web Site (nlmd.org). It has been updated and includes historical and current information on NLMD that will be useful to you.

Skimmer\Cutter Report 2021--Jim Bast

We were able to recruit 4 young adults all of whom had families with property on North Lake to work on the skimmer. It's very satisfying to provide summer employment for these kids and I believe they take pride in what they are doing to help clean up *their* lake. Along with a commitment by Chad Heine to return as the lead on the pontoon weed pickup program our crew was set. John Novak once again allowed his dock and property at the east end of Northwoods Dr to be used to dock the skimmer for the season. We are grateful to John for the use of his property.

The lake was treated for Eurasian Milfoil and Curly-Leaf Pondweed. The combination of the early treatment and additional chemical produced a significant beneficial effect for the lake by reducing the algae bloom normally associated with the treatment. Maintaining the lake this year was a real challenge due to the low water levels. We had to delay beginning operations until June 28th because shallow water prevented the skimmer from reaching the weed trailer. It is likely that this situation will continue to worsen unless the area around the trailer ramp is dredged.

At the time of this report the skimmer program has operated for about 9 weeks. During this time, we have removed approximately 70 trailer loads carrying over 800 cubic yards of weed waste. This is down about 20% from last year primarily due to low lake levels reducing what can be cut. We also had several mechanical issues which took the skimmer out of service for 1 or more days. The equipment is now 8 years old and older equipment tends to have more mechanical issues particularly given the environment it must operate in.

The dock pickup program began July 1st and made pickups every Thursday from piers on both the Big and Little Lake (as you know the skimmer is not permitted to operate in the Little Lake). At the time of this report the dock program has made a total of 130 pier pickups and about 16 pontoon loads which were then moved manually to the skimmer trailer. The program was begun to give homeowners an option to dispose of weeds that washed up on their property or collected around piers. We did not anticipate the clearing of large swaths of the lake bottom resulting in large quantities of weeds filling piers. If it is the consensus that the program needs to handle these situations in the future, we will need to move to a more automated approach to move the volume being produced.

At this point our weed pickup from piers will end August 26th. After August 26th we will operate the skimmer as needed to pick up large mats of eel grass that form when the plant uproots at the end of summer. These mats can be identified by the white roots being attached. This is not a byproduct of skimmer operations but simply the way the plant behaves. Unfortunately, as the North Lake bottom becomes more conducive to grass growth this will become a larger and larger problem.

As discussed, before we had a significant number of maintenance issues this year. Jerry and Gordon Drewes spent a good deal of time locating the necessary spare parts and working on these problems. We will be doing further maintenance on the weed trailer once scheduled operations end on August 27th. In addition to the Drewes brothers we'd like to thank Paul McBroom who did most of the work moving and emptying the trailer and also did some repairs.

As another season comes to a close, we would like to encourage everyone to consider a tax deductible donation to NLMD towards the North Lake Skimmer Program. We have several individuals who regularly step forward to donate funds toward the program. Please join us by making your donation.

Public Access on North Lake – Jerry Heine

North Lake Management District was formed in 1990 because property owners wanted to be included in the decision-making process as to where public access (P.A.) was to be located on North Lake (N.L). A Public Access Committee was formed in 1990 and began the process to determine where the best site would be for public access on North Lake. Maps of all vacant land on North Lake were obtained, and each individual site was evaluated. After a period of approximately two (2) years of work, the committee determined the best public access site for North Lake was a piece of vacant land off of Hwy 83 and Lake Street owned by the Kuchler Family (eventually Jim Kuchler).

We have had on-going discussions with the DNR over the years and very significant discussions during 2019 and 2020.

On October 7, 2020, the NLMD Public Access Committee had a Skype meeting with the DNR Secretary and three of his people. At the meeting the DNR presented their plans for Public Access on North Lake:

1. Public Access site to be the property off of Reddelien Road which the DNR currently owns.
2. The site will be a rustic/low impact site with no asphalt pavement (carry in only) which is what it is.
3. Vehicles would only be allowed on the driveway up to the 90 degree turn toward the lake. There would be approximately two pull-offs for on-coming traffic which it is.
4. At the 90 degree turn the preliminary plans are parking for 6-8 cars. There may be additional parking or kayak/canoe trailers within this designated area, but the plans have not been finalized by the DNR. The site has parking for four (4) cars only at the 90 degree turn and parking for 4 kayak/canoe trailers on the top of the hill.
5. The balance of the driveway/path to the lake is for foot traffic only which it is.
6. There would be a pier similar to other property owners, except for ADA requirements, on the lake and no concrete launch. The pier is not in yet.
7. Dead trees, brush, etc. will be cleared from the road, path, and parking lot areas. They have been cleared.
8. Gravel would be placed on the driveway and parking area, no asphalt or concrete. Possibly wood chips would be placed on the walking path. Gravel was placed on the driveway and part of walking path as chips.
9. DNR's tentative plans are to have the site open for ice fishing this winter and full operations (carry in only) for the summer of 2021. The site opened February 1, 2021. Only the pier has not been put in yet.

The DNR Public Access site is environmentally friendly to North Lake and does not increase the power boat traffic on the lake. Our concern is that the Access Site stays as it currently is. There are no guarantees that it will remain that way.

Preston Cole, the current DNR Secretary, said he will keep the site as is, however, he will not be the DNR Secretary forever. We are working on some ideas to have some assurance that the site will remain as it is. We will keep you informed.

North Lake Stewardship/Lake Usage Committee—Lori Schneider and Barry Stone

The Stewardship committee has 8 members and met several times during the year both in person and Zoom/Teleconference meetings.

We prepared a letter which was sent out to area realtors covering information about the Stewardship of North Lake. Past and ongoing studies, monitoring, and improvement projects were summarized. Operating and Safe Boating Guidelines were indicated for the summer of 2021 to help preserve lake quality and allow for safe recreation for all lake users. This information was well received by the realtors.

Throughout the summer, cooperation with voluntary Guidelines was improved over past years. Some exceptions were noted; wake surfing was not always done in the middle of the lake and some boaters were still not observing the quiet times designated on weekends and holidays.

Now that channel has been dredged, wake surfing mode should only be done on the big lake and in the middle of the lake as much as possible.

At times boats towing people were not providing enough safe distances for swimmers, piers, rafts, and other boats resulting in very dangerous near misses. Boats operating above no wake must stay 250 ft from shore and 100 ft from other boats and objects. If you have visitors or new neighbors on the lake you should inform them of our water recreation guidelines and Wisconsin boating laws.

A safe boating education program is now being developed to ensure the safe and enjoyable use of the lake. This should be ready for next year. The DNR offers online instruction, but we feel the need for more directed information to help with the safety of all water sports activity on our beautiful lake.