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NORTH LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Attached are the reports presented (due to time restraints some were not presented) at the NLMD Annual Meeting on August 25, 2022. The written reports are not exactly the same as the verbal reports but very similar. In addition, the written reports do not include questions and answers.

Due to their size the Dredging Updates and Lake Study Reports are being shown only on the web site.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Commissioners of the North Lake Management District

Treasurer's Report August 25, 2022 (Don Reinbold)

June 30, 2022, 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 6/30/2022 is \$474,740.55. Of this Cash amount the following amounts are specifically allocated to:

Fish Stocking	\$ 3,685
Dredging Project	358,752
Nitrogen Study	<u>44,110</u>
	<u>\$406,547</u>

The only NLMD liability is the Aquatic Plant Harvester loan which will be fully paid in March, 2023.

In Jun3, 2018, NLMD's prior law firm (Reinhart), accepted \$12,000 in full payment for \$27,600 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 NLD 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 2022 Receipts/Disbursements

This report shows the NLMD Fiscal 2022 Receipts and Disbursements compared to the Budget. Receipts include the special charge (\$500 per property) to property owners, bank interest, donations for various projects and DNR grants.

All disbursements were less than the budget except fish stocking program and nitrogen study. Since fish stocking and nitrogen study were paid by donations and not NLMD funds, they do not exceed the budget. Also, meetings and dredging the channel costs were slightly over budget.

Proposed Fiscal 2023 Budget

The fiscal 2023 proposed budget is similar to the fiscal 2022 budget except:

Receipts:

1. Annual Special Charge is increased from \$500 to \$600
2. DNR Buffer Zone Grant from \$24,450 to \$-0-
3. Grant from DNR for Lake Study from \$0 to \$7,500
4. Loan Proceeds from BCPL \$340,000
5. Dredge Ice House Bay and Schneider Bay Donations \$1,513,000

Disbursements:

1. Dredge Ice House Bay from \$10,000 to \$2,400,000
2. Lake Water Study from \$59,229 to \$30,000
3. Buffer Zone Costs From \$24,450 to \$-0-
4. Purchase Highway 83 Property from \$-0- to \$340,000

AUDIT: We have a draft of the Fiscal 2022 Audit Report, and there are no qualifications, disagreements, etc. on NLMD financial statements for Fiscal 2022. In other words, a clean, unqualified report.

Mason Creek Construction Update (Daryl Smith/Susan Buchanan)

The construction of the re-meandering of Mason Creek has begun. As of last week, Wondra Construction has mobilized equipment to the site and earthwork will begin this week. To minimize disturbance, the new stream corridor will be constructed in the dry, except for areas that tie into the existing creek. Toewood structure and sedge mats will be installed for stream bank stabilization, and revegetation will occur incrementally throughout construction. Additional erosion controls will include silt fence and turbidity barriers, and all will be monitored by Waukesha County throughout construction. Construction is expected to take 10 weeks, ending in October. Please do not visit the construction site unless accompanied by a Tall Pines representative.

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

Approximately 10.1 acres of Eurasian Milfoil (EM) and Curly -Leaf Pond Weed (CLPW), mostly CLPW, were treated in ICE House Bay, Jobie Hole, and Schneider Bay on June 8, 2022.

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 6 years has been small. The bad thing is other weeds have taken over – Elodea, CLPW, Eel Grass, Etc.

On July 19, 2022, our Aquatic Plant Chemical Applicator and NLMD toured the entire Big and Little North Lake looking for invasive aquatic plants. We found very limited amounts of EM and CLPW. The amounts noted were too small to chemically treat. This is where you come in. If you see EM or CLPW, please remove it by the roots. If you need help in identifying the invasive aquatic plants, let us know. Thank you for your assistance.

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.

Lake Monitoring (Jim Schneider)

Lake monitoring this year was interesting but results were similar to prior years. Despite improved water clarity, the low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels continue to be an issue.

Water clarity in June and July was 8 feet, about average, but August was 13' which was the highest I have ever seen for this month. The August DO level was good only to 15'

I have been doing this sampling for over 15 years and have elected to step down next year as I will be 85. Fortunately, I will have a very capable replacement, Bill Essma. He has already had preliminary training by doing the August sampling with me and I hope to be available next year to assist him.

Detailed readings broken down by depth, etc., are available on the DNR website at citizens lake monitoring network.

I would like to acknowledge people who have helped me over the years. They include Mike Stadler, John Amstead, and Linda Schneider.

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.

Aquatic plants release phosphorus into the lake when they die. However, Chara takes phosphorus and forms calcium carbonate which binds to the lake bottom and forms the marl bottom.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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 to aquatic plants 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.

NLMD August 2022 Annual Fish Stock & Water Safety Committee Report (Scott Jankowski)

NLMD has a DNR permit for fall fish stocking which will occur in October. Gallon bait and fish farm will be providing 2000 black crappie, 2000 perch and 3500 walleyes for an estimated cost of \$11,000. Fingerling walleye will be in the 6" to 8" class. Crappie and perch will be in the 3" to 4" class. Fishing reports this year are some of the best ever for pan and game fish.

NLMD will send an email asking for donations for funding within the coming weeks. NLMD again raised funds earlier this year for a modest amount with its fish clinic program. This program takes place in May and June and is designed to take you and a guest out fishing for a period of 4 hours. It teaches the process of catching North Lake walleye based on the day/time of year's conditions. A donation of \$400 designated for the fish stocking program can be sent to Don Reinbold (treasurer). Contributions are tax deductible if you itemize. You are picked up at a set time from your dock. All gear and bait is provided, and your walleyes are cleaned and bagged for you at the end of your trip. In 2022 we have 4 of these clinics with over 20, legal 18" walleyes or larger kept, cleaned and given back to the families who participated in the program. Contact Scott Jankowski in April of 2023 to set your date.

Recommended water safety guidelines are published by NLMD in spring of each boating season which include recommendations made by the North Lake Stewardship committee on boating. Please be familiar as well with your Wisconsin State Law boating handbook. This can also be accessed on line. More importantly, be sure your kids and grandkids review these rules. When we do receive complaints, it's generally been my experience that it's the younger operators, for example, following too close with a personal water craft when others are tubing or surfing in the Big Lake.

Channel buoys will be removed in the coming weeks after Labor Day and placed again before Memorial Day next year.

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 performed.

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 Harvester (Lake Weeds) – (John Muehl)

The harvester program was designed to create navigational lanes and skim floating weeds in the big lake only per the DNR permit. By offering an increase in wages we were able to recruit 5 young adults (2 experienced) to operate the skimmer and pontoon boat. John McBroom trained and oversaw the operators. Equipment was again docked at the Novak property on the east end of North Lake. We are grateful to the Novak's for offering their property.

The lake was treated for Eurasian Milfoil and Curly-Leaf Pondweed on June 8. The Skimmer Harvester program began on June 24. We did the first pier pick-up, June 23, which presented a challenge due to the low water levels. After asking permission from the Yacht Club, we were allowed to use it once to offload the weeds from the pontoon boat. The crew then learned from John McBroom not to overload either the pontoon boat or the skimmer. After a difficult start, the crew worked well to handle the challenge of low water levels. Pier pick-up of weeds was done in both lakes, 159 piers were visited over the season for a total of 182 cubic yards. We are grateful to the owners who cleaned their shoreline. The program was well received.

This year we were fortunate not to have any mechanical problems with the trailer, skimmer and pontoon boat. Thanks go to the Drew brothers who maintained the equipment in the offseason. Also, thanks to Paul McBroom who hauled away the weeds daily and helped maintain the equipment.

We concluded the program on August 16. A total of 84 trailer loads were removed (amounting to 1,171 cubic yards).

Pier pick-up will again be part of the 2023 program.

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 would be the property off of Reddelien Road which the DNR currently owns.
2. The site is a rustic/low impact site with no asphalt pavement (carry on only).
3. Vehicles are only allowed on the driveway up to the 90 degree turn toward the lake. There are two pull-offs for on-coming traffic.
4. At the 90 degree turn there is parking for 6 cars. There is also parking for 4 kayak/canoe trailers and cars on the top of the hill.
5. The balance of the driveway/path to the lake is for foot traffic only.
6. There is a pier similar to other property owners, except for ADA requirements, on the lake and no concrete launch.
7. Dead trees, brush, etc. were cleared from the road, path, and parking lot areas.
8. Gravel was placed on the driveway and parking area, no asphalt or concrete. Part of the walking path has chips.

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 and Boater Safety Committee – (Lori Schneider and Barry Stone)

This committee prepared a laminated card to promote boater safety and reduce the shore line and lake bottom impact of large wakes. Two copies were sent to all property owners on North Lake. One side contained a summary of Wisconsin boating laws and Town of Merton Ordinances for quick reference and to educate new boat operators. The other side of the card contained North Lake guidelines developed to promote boater safety for all lake users and reduce the lake disturbance caused by large wake producing boats.

Generally, most boats were following the laws, ordinances and guidelines but there were exceptions.

1. Some boats were still coming too close to swimmers, piers, boats and rafts. Some Pontoon boats going above no wake speed are coming closer than 100 ft from piers when swimmers could be present.
2. The slow-no-wake quiet time on weekends and holidays is not being followed. Thankfully, there has been a reduction of activity, but there are still some boats with skiers and PWC's (jet skis) running around the lake after 6 PM.
3. State law restricts water skiing and other towed activity after sunset. There has been frequent skiing and towing incidents after sunset even up to dark. There have been too many PWC's operating after sunset. State law requires boat lights be turned on at sunset but PWC's have no lights.
4. Wake surfing has stopped in the little lake with exception of a couple of boats. Wake surfing on the big lake has gone very well this summer with boats staying in the middle of the lake where the water is the deepest and well away from shore. Thank you for that compliance to the guidelines.

As you enjoy North Lake, please operate safely and with courtesy to others