

MCGINNIS LAKE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 9

QUICK NOTES

The Weed Control effort for 2026 was completed as per plan.

Future Meeting Dates

Saturday, December 5, 2026

Saturday, March 6, 2027

Saturday, May 29, 2027

Saturday, September 4, 2027

LAKE DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS

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Email:

McGinnisLakeDist@AOL.com

Website

<https://newchester.gov/mcginnis-lake-district/>

October 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The May and August meetings were held as scheduled. The 2027 Budget was presented and approved at the Annual Meeting. District Members will see a decrease on this year's tax bill. This is due to reduced operational spending for weed control to include weed harvesting based on DNR guidance. Our lake survey summary just recently completed will be posted outline with our goals for next year.

The election was held and Ken Roberts was re-elected as Treasurer for a 3 year term. **Dave Busse our District Secretary resigned from the board and we are in search for a replacement effective immediately. We want to thank Dave for his help.** If you are interested in filling his position please contact Barry or Ken to learn more. PLEASE!!!

We discussed the completed Lake Maintenance Activities such as Curly Leaf Spraying, Eurasian Milfoil Control and Weed Harvesting. All weed control activities will continue as in past years based on the Lake Surveys, Weed Growth, and CLP/Milfoil Spraying and of course DNR Permit Approvals. Lily Pads continue to be an issue for many of us who have direct shoreline

access. These pads are not a plant that can be treated/respond by chemical treatment but each property owner can remove by cutting and/or pulling out by the roots. These are a real issue with no simple solution currently.

The 2027 Lake Management Project Plan will be updated and is available for review on the Lake District Web Page. Any questions should be sent to the District email regarding the 2027 plan. Anyone interested in following our lake survey company on Facebook can see them at Aquatic Plant and Habitat Services LLC. Sara has a lot of great information to view!!

Special Note: Please clean up/handle your animal waste if you are walking your pets around the lake.

Q: What is happening with the new fishing regulations on McGinnis Lake?

A: At a previous Lake District Meeting Jennifer Bergman from the DNR fishery group presented a proposed to change the fish bag limits on McGinnis Lake. Currently the limits are 25 panfish and 5 bass of any size per day.

The proposed new limits as proposed by the Fisheries Management Policy Team and approved the regulation change proposals to move forward to the 2027 WCC Spring Hearing:

1. Do you favor applying a 14-18-inch protected slot, 5 daily bag limit of which only 1 can be greater than 18 inches for largemouth bass to McGinnis Lake, Adams County?
2. Do you favor applying a 10 panfish daily bag limit to McGinnis Lake, Adams County?

[ANNUAL SPRING HEARING AND PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY | Wisconsin Conservation Congress | Wisconsin DNR](#)

The 2027 Spring Hearings will be held in each county in person on April 12 and online from 6 p.m. April 12 through midnight April 14. The annual Spring Hearing is an opportunity for the public to provide input on a wide array of natural resources-related proposed rule change questions presented by the DNR and advisory questions presented by the Conservation Congress. Please attend in person or online using the link above. If there are no objections the regulation will take effect in 2028.

Q: What is happening with the McGinnis Lake Boat Launch?

A: Adams County is the owner of the boat launch and is responsible for its maintenance. Recently the county did some maintenance to improve ease of use. Our contractors with large boats and weed harvester were having issues retrieving there boats from the lake. Also people with pontoons or larger boats experienced issues. As of this publication the issues are continuing with many people getting stuck in the unstable gravel on the launch. The county is aware of the problems and is working to resolve them as quickly as possible. If you have issues with the launch or have questions about it please contact Doug King – 608-339-7713 or Cynthia Haggard – 608-339-4579.

Q: What about finding the latest information about the Lake District?

A: The Website for the McGinnis Lake District is available for all to access. Listed on the site are the members of the Lake District Board, future and past meeting Agendas, Minutes, Newsletters and other informational documents. Utilizing this new site is a great asset to provide easy access to the Lake District Information. <https://newchester.gov/mcginnis-lake-district/> Thanks to the Town of New Chester for providing this resource for our use!!!

Q: What do the lake property owners (Riparian Owners) need to do each winter when the Aerator is running on North Lobe of the Lake creating an opening in the ice?

A: The State of Wisconsin has a statute that governs the creation of ice holes due to Aeration by the Lake District. The McGinnis Lake District will be operating an Aeration system this coming winter as we have in the past. This is done to minimize fish kill that can occur if an adequate air supply is not provided to lake. McGinnis Lake was a victim of a large fish kill years ago when the original Aeration system failed. It is the lake property owners responsibility to post on their property notice stating “DANGER-OPEN WATER” or ” WARNING-ICE HOLES” or “DANGER-THIN ICE”. This notice shall be the size, lettering, and format that can be readable by the public at a distance of 60 feet. This notice needs to be in place no later than December 15 of each year and maintained throughout the winter until at least till March 30 of the following year. Many signs are currently displayed around the lake by most owners but all should comply (A violation can result in imprisonment or fine per the statute). Plastic Signs can be purchased on web sites for a reasonable price. Please note that any lake property owner who is aware of the existence of the ice opening to which his or her riparian property abuts shall not be exempt from liability if owner fails to warn individuals that they have given permission to cross their property to access the lake.

Q: Have You Seen The Sign? Friends of McGinnis Lake adopt-a-highway!!!

A: The adopt-a-highway program is the official coordination system for the generous volunteer efforts to remove trash, recyclables and litter from Wisconsin's roadsides. Adopt-A-Highway helps reduce litter along Wisconsin's highways, builds statewide support for the anti-litter and highway beautification programs. It educates the public about properly disposing of litter, enhances the environment and allows for more beauty along Wisconsin's roadsides. Friends of McGinnis Lake adopted a 1.7 mile stretch of Cty Hwy G, from Brooks to Ember Ave. Who are the friends of McGinnis Lake? Everyone can be a friend of McGinnis Lake. Follow us in the newsletter for the date and time for next clean up or/or contact Ken Roberts at 608 617-6723 for more information.

When is the next Clean Up? – It is scheduled for April 24, 2027 at 10am meet at the Boat Launch. Rain date is April 25, 2027 at the same time. Let's all pitch in if we are at the lake on that day!! THANK YOU in ADVANCE!!!!

Q: What about the current lake water level?

A: The McGinnis Lake level is controlled by the dam and continues to dump the maximum amount of water it can into the Neenah Creek Watershed. Currently the level of the lake has settled back to a more normal level. Dry conditions and reduced rain has been the contributor. We are fortunate to be on a spring feed lake as many lakes in the area are now experiencing very low levels. Remember, the dam is owned and operated by Adams County Land and Water Department. If you notice an issue with water level or have a question please call!!!

Colton Wolosek - 608-339-4275 or 608-547-5855

Q: What can I do to help the McGinnis Lake District?

A: We are currently looking for volunteers to help the District doing water quality surveys. These surveys don't require a lot of time but need to be completed to insure the lake quality is the best it can be. The surveys begin in the spring and take less than an hour of your time throughout the summer at your convenience. Training is available and all the necessary items to complete the tests are supplied. Please contact Ken Roberts (608-617-6723) regarding helping us with this activity.

Q: What if I want to become a member of the Lake District Board?

A: All members of the Lake District are eligible to join the board as an elected member. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are elected to terms of 3 years. Not all of us are full time residents of the lake but know how important it is to insure the quality of the lake is preserved!!! A couple of us have served on the board since the District was formed many years ago and would welcome new individuals to take over in the future. Please contact me if you're interested in reviewing the future opportunities as a board member!!! Barry A. Berndsen (630-452-6645)

Q: Is it time to update our email mailing list??

A: Yes it is!!! We will be sending all current email recipients an email to confirm that you want to continue to receive electronic distribution from the McGinnis Lake District. Just respond and acknowledge you want to continue and we will continue the distribution as in the past. Remember in the future if your email changes please tell us so we can update our list. If you want to opt out just let us know and we will be happy to put back on postal mail distribution. No Problem!!

Q: What can the new McGinnis Lake District EMAIL address mean to me?
(McGinnisLakeDist@aol.com)

A: Yes we have established one and would hope it can be used for communication to and from the Lake District Board. As a member we encourage you to use it for any questions you might have regarding McGinnis Lake District Operations. But most importantly we would like to be able to communicate to you (our members) directly via EMAIL. Sending meeting notices, newsletters, and other important communication in a timely manner is important to us. Please help us by sending your EMAIL address to us and we will add you to the EMAIL mailing list. This mailing list has only **one purpose** and is for the board to communicate to you quickly in a cost effective manner. Once we receive your address we will begin to use it for future communications and remove you from receiving information via US MAIL. It's Never too Late!!!! **Don't forget we have a Website with a lot of important information:** <https://newchester.gov/mcginnis-lake-district/>

Q: What if I want to make changes to my shoreline, remove weeds or cut down trees?

A: Maintaining the buffer zone located around the lake shoreline is important to the lake quality. Shoreline grants can be obtained for protecting and restoring the shoreline by applying to the State of Wisconsin. Contact Keifer Sroka at 608-339-4269 for assistance. Any actions within the lake buffer zone and outside for tree cutting requires Adams County Zoning and Planning Approval similar to a building permit application. Failing to do that may result in fines in accordance with county/state laws. Please contact the Adams County Zoning and Planning for permit information. Manually removing weeds from the area on your shoreline in the lake is fine but applying chemicals without DNR approval and permitting is against the law. Fines may result if such activity is identified. Please Protect our Lake Resources!!!!

Q: Burning Permits!!! Everyone should have one??

A: The DNR offers you an easy way to acquire a permit by using the self-service website or are available from your local fire marshal (IT'S FREE). For your information burning is only permitted between 6:00pm and midnight and never on Sundays and holidays. Without a permit you could be found guilty of either a civil or criminal charge when burning in violation of Wisconsin laws. <http://dnr.wi.gov/burnpermits/>

Q: Operating an ATV/UTV/Golf Carts around the lake!!

A: Please consult the Wisconsin regulations regarding use on the roads and private property. These regulations have recently been updated by the state and provide clarity to proper use. Most importantly while operating these vehicles on the roads around the lake please be careful of children and pedestrians!!

Q: Are you interested in purchasing Trees or Scrubs?

A: The Adams County Land and Water Department provides an annual sale of a wide variety of trees and scrubs. Anyone interested should please contact Adams County at (608) 339-4268 for information on order form and availability of product.

Q: Operating a Gas Motor on McGinnis Lake?

A: The use of gas motors on McGinnis Lake is prohibited based on a Town of New Chester Ordinance. Recently the Ordinance was modified to officially allow the use of gas motors only by the Lake Districts Vendors that do lake surveys, chemical spraying and weed harvesting. The ordinance and modification is posted on the Town of New Chester web site.