

# LBMD NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

## LAKE BEULAH MANAGEMENT DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

PATRICK BERGIN, CHAIRMAN- TERM EXPIRES 2025  
CHRIS KUBICEK, TREASURER- TERM EXPIRES 2027  
VALERIE JOHNSON, SECRETARY- TERM EXPIRES 2026  
JESS DYNEK, COMMISSIONER- TERM EXPIRES 2025  
JOHN BECKER, COMMISSIONER- TERM EXPIRES 2027  
GREG THOMAS, COMMISSIONER- APPOINTED BY TOWN OF EAST TROY  
RICK STACEY, COMMISSIONER- APPOINTED BY WALWORTH COUNTY

## MISSION

The primary goal of the Lake Beulah Management District (“LBMD”) is to improve or protect the quality of Lake Beulah. Wis. Stat. §33.11.

LBMD Mailing Address:  
PO BOX 71  
East Troy, WI 53120

**WWW.LBMD.ORG**

## Updates from LBMD Chair, Patrick Bergin

- W1340 Beach Rd. East Troy, WI 53120 (FKA Hotel Beulah). The District opposed a conditional use permit for the construction of a hotel. The conditional use permit was granted. The property is for sale and is currently listed at \$4.5 million.
- W1602-W1606 County Rd. J, Mukwonago, WI 53120 (FKA Double D's). The property was sold to Lake Beulah Holdings, LLC. The new owner seeks to rezone the property from B-3 to R-1 and to build a single-family home.
- N8828 Stringers Bridge Road, East Troy, WI 53120. Owner West Rod Cottage Industries LLC/Applicant John Stoss seeks to rezone the property from C-4 Shoreland Wetland District to C-2 Upland Resource Conservation District. Applicant further seeks a conditional use permit for a commercial marina to have a total of 10 mooring spaces and 8 parking spots. The District opposes the Rezone and the Conditional Use on the grounds that the property is located in an environmentally sensitive area of Lake Beulah. Use of the property as a marina will have a negative effect on aquatic life and water quality. The Town of East Troy Planning Commission rejected the application to rezone the property. The Town Board of East Troy overruled the Planning Commission and approved the application to rezone the property. The Walworth County Zoning Commission approved the application to rezone the property at its meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The matter will now return to the Town of East Troy for consideration of the application's conditional use permit.

## 2025 Approved Budget

	2025 Budget	+/- 2024
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 196,000	- 5 %
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative	\$ 91,800	- 17 %
Plant Harvesting and Control	\$ 83,493	+ 10 %
Weed & Water Control	\$ 21,000	+ 13 %
Capital Purch (Truck)	\$ 75,000	
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$ 271,293	- 1 %

The 2024 Aquatic Plant Harvesting season reflected a return to more excessive growth than years previous. The Aquatic Plant count reached 153.5 loads exceeding previous counts going back as far as 2015. The increase in growth seems to coincide with elevated rainfall and likely a lack of ice coverage due to a mild winter. Increased runoff into the lake and infiltration of water into the soil carrying naturally occurring nutrients into the lake generally equals more growth. Our typical starting date at the beginning of June didn't seem early enough this season based on the demands expressed by our residents via our Aquatic Plant hotline. It was also the case that we could have continued harvesting well past our usual ending date in September based upon the persisting growth. Hopefully these trends continue as they represent a healthy ecosystem. See you next season.

## January Meeting re: Wake Surf Boats

Wake enhanced watersports are about the hottest topic on the lake. As a board, we have had several discussions on this issue. A number of us also attended Protect Lake Beulah's public meetings. The primary topic at our next meeting on January 21, 2025, will be wake enhanced sports. The meeting will be held at East Troy Town Hall at 5:30 pm. We welcome you to attend.

Please note that no new ordinance will be the result of this meeting. LBMD is considering whether to approach the Town to create an ordinance restricting wake-enhanced watersports.

Wake surf boats operating in surf mode create waves that are higher and that contain more energy than those generated by typical powerboats (or the same boats not operating in surf mode). Observational studies show that boats operating in surf mode produced waves that were 2-3 times higher, had 3-9 times more energy and were 6-12 times more powerful than those produced by a typical boat. These studies further show that the large waves require a substantial distance to dissipate. For example, one study determined that waves from a wake boat in wake surfing mode would need 950 feet to dissipate to the wave heights observed 100 feet from the same boat in cruising mode.

These enhanced wave heights and power created by boats operating in surf mode cause a number of areas of significant concern including at least the following:

- Lake Beulah is a shared resource When boats are operating in surf mode, other watersports such as slalom skiing are difficult or impossible. Paddle sports, fishing and swimming are all much more difficult and even dangerous.
- Shoreline erosion Shoreline erosion can degrade fish habitat and water quality due to the physical disruption of rooted plants and resuspension of sediment and nutrients.
- Sediment redistribution Wake boats operating in surf mode have greater potential to exacerbate sediment resuspension through increased wave energy and propeller turbulence.
- Aquatic Invasive Species Transportation of invasive species and fish pathogens through residual water in ballast tanks.

There are a number of recent scholarly articles on this subject. We strongly recommend reading and viewing at least the following items for background on this issue.

For an excellent summary of these articles, please see this article from the Michigan DNR: [Fisheries-Report-37-Wake-Boat-Study-Official-Version-Released-on-7.28.2023.pdf](#)

Here is a link to the University of MN's recent Field Study of Maximum Wave Height, Total Wave Energy, and Maximum Wave Power Produced by Four Recreational Boats on a Freshwater Lake:  
<https://hdl.handle.net/11299/226190>

See this report from Fox 6 in Milwaukee: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prb9mgfARXI>

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel posted this report:

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/outdoors/2023/09/30/concerns-over-wake-surfing-again-presented-to-natural-resources-board/70980132007/>

2024 Boat Patrol Summary				
Year		2024	2023	2022
Citations		20	22	8
Warnings		21	19	13
Hours		300	356.25	223.5

We wish you  
and yours  
a safe and happy  
Holiday Season!