

LBMD NEWSLETTER

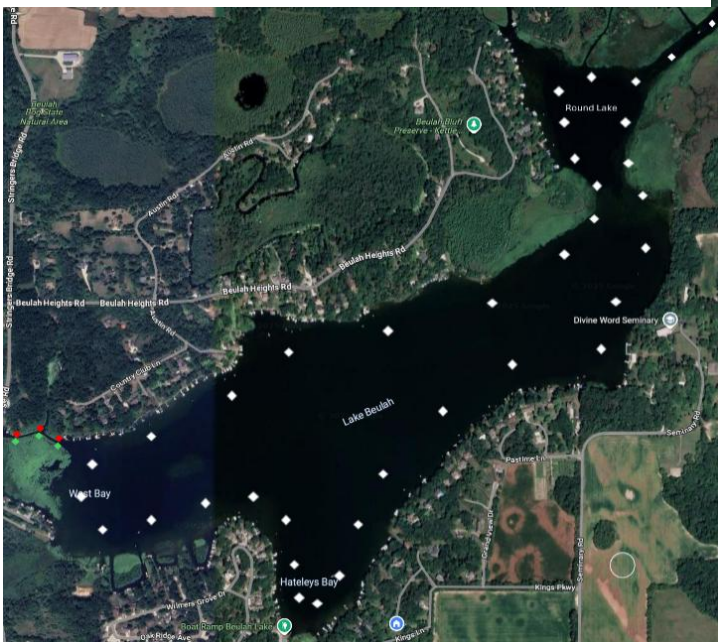
WINTER 2025

LAKE BEULAH MANAGEMENT DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

PATRICK BERGIN, CHAIRMAN, *TERM TO 2028*
JESS DYNEK, VICE CHAIR, *TERM TO 2028*
CHRIS KUBICEK, TREASURER, *TERM TO 2027*
VALERIE JOHNSON, SECRETARY, *TERM TO 2026*
JOHN RUSSELL, COMMISSIONER, *TERM TO 2027*
TODD JONES, COMMISSIONER, *TOWN APPOINTED*
RICK STACEY, COMMISSIONER, *COUNTY APPOINTED*



Next year, we will be placing buoys around the lake to delineate between the “traffic lane” and the slow-no-wake area close to shore in accordance with Town of East Troy ordinances. In most cases, per the ordinance, the buoys will be 200 feet from the shore. Where 200 feet is not practical, the traffic lane shall be as indicated by buoys placed for that specific purpose. The term “traffic lane” simply means an area where you can go faster than the slow-no-wake speed. Between the shore and the buoys, boaters are restricted to operate below slow-no-wake speed. Slow-no-wake speed means the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage. We are very hopeful that providing these visual reminders to boaters will make our lake safer for all lake users.



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



The District has worked with the DNR to create the buoy map shown and has permits for these buoy locations. Please note that the buoys may need location adjustments: we will work with the DNR to make any appropriate adjustments. If you own a buoy that is in good shape and would like to donate it to the District, please let us know at <https://lbmd.org/contact-us/>. If you would like to continue placing your private buoy, it will need to be placed in line with the District buoys and DNR approved. <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/doclink/forms/8700-058.pdf>

Police Presence on the Lake

Many have complained about the abundance of unsafe behavior and the lack of police presence on the lake. The District has agreed to contribute \$50,000 to the Town of East Troy for meaningful police presence on the lake 4 days per week of the approximately 17 weeks of the summer season plus Memorial Day, July 3–4 and Labor Day. The goal is to have police presence on the lake Thursday through Sunday on most weeks. We are very hopeful that consistent police presence will lead to a safer lake experience for everyone.

	Boat Patrol Summary			
	2025	2024	2023	2022
Citations	26	20	22	8
Warnings	35	21	19	13
Hours	297.25	300	356.25	223.5

Annual Meeting 2025 Recap

I’m not sure we need much of a recap. With 322 ballots cast, a pretty good percentage of riparian rights owners attended. Thank you for attending. This level of turnout shows that our community cares deeply for our lake.

The election results were as follows:

- Patrick Bergin – 251 votes
- Jess Dynek – 245 votes
- Robert Siegel – 74 votes
- Brent Magolan – 74 votes

Bergin and Dynek will serve 3-year terms.

Terra Vigilis presented the results of our studies on wake surfing as well as providing a summary of other research in the area. TV’s analysis is posted here on the LBMD website. Representatives for Protect Lake Beulah (PLB) and Beulah Responsible Boaters presented on the issue of wake surfing.

Reports were provided on aquatic plant harvesting, lake water quality and geese mitigation efforts. The Treasurer presented the budget for 2025 with expenditures of \$319,943.00 and Property Tax Levy of \$220,000. The Budget was approved by voice vote.

Summer 2025
Aquatic Plant Truck Load Total: 144

Wake Surf Update

The Town Board discussed ordinance changes at the November 17, 2025 meeting. The pre-meeting materials submitted by Chairman Jones propose to permit wake surfing in areas 200 feet from shore with depths greater than 20 feet. Supervisor Church introduced a proposal to permit wake surfing on Town lakes in areas 500 feet from shore with depths greater than 25 feet. Supervisor Church’s motion was seconded by Supervisor Leonard, but defeated 4-1, with Church the only vote in favor. Unless the Town Board acts on this issue soon, there will not be sufficient time to have an ordinance in place for next summer.

County Action on the Beulah Dam

The County is considering whether to act to clear its right-of-way property along Hwy J on the Lake Beulah Dam. The issue is currently before the Walworth County Public Works Committee and is expected to be on the agenda on December 15, 2025. Interested parties should find the agenda: <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/AgendaCenter> and plan to attend the meeting.

**Wishing you and yours
a safe and happy
Holiday Season!**

CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT OR DIG!

As many know, Walworth County has established a shoreland zoning ordinance to protect natural scenic beauty, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and to promote preservation and restoration of native vegetation. Commissioner Stacey recently advised us that the County has investigated seven zoning violations on our Lake. With that in mind, I thought I'd write a "cheat sheet" for those with projects in mind.

The "No Touch" Zone

Within 35 feet of the **ordinary high-water mark** (OHWM), vegetation removal and land disturbing activities are prohibited. This is referred to as the "no touch zone". There are exceptions, but only via permit. To summarize, the lakefront exceptions with permits are:

- Vegetation removal for the creation of a view/access corridor is allowed. The corridor may be ten feet wide or up to 35 percent of the shoreline frontage, except that the maximum width of the view/access corridor may not exceed 200 feet.
- Vegetation removal for structures that are permitted within the shore yard;
- Selective removal of invasive species and dying or damaged vegetation

Note that a permit may also be required for vegetation removal on steep slopes within 300 ft of the OHWM.

The Setback Zone

Within 75 feet of the OHWM, any movement of the earth must be conducted in accordance with the County's conservation standards and will require a County-approved conservation plan and permit.

Homeowner is Responsible

It is the homeowner that is responsible for the permit. If you hire a contractor to work on your property, you need to make sure that your contractor obtains the appropriate permits or you need to obtain the permits.

This is not a complete summary of the ordinance. So, if you are going to cut down any vegetation or move any earth anywhere near Lake Beulah, please consult Walworth County Ordinance 74, Article III, Shoreland Zoning. For a summary of the ordinances, see also <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/547/Zoning>. Scroll down to the pdf entitled [Chapter 74 Shoreland Zoning Powerpoint - 2017 Information \(PDF\)](#) or contact the County directly with questions.

Land Use & Resource Management (LURM)
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Stay in touch with LBMD at
www.LBMD.org