

Peppermill Lake District News

April 2021

Spring Issue

Highlights:

- Grant Award
- High Cap Wells
- Highway 82—again
- ATV/UTV's
- Meeting info
- Agenda

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Peppermill Lake awarded grant

Last month, the DNR announced that the Peppermill Lake District was awarded approximately \$9,300 as its contribution toward the \$14,000+ proposal we submitted last year.

With the grant secured we will be studying the nitrogen and phosphorus characteristics of our lake in order to help us develop a nutrient management plan to help guide us with our aquatic plant management practices and give us a better idea of the factors that are affecting our lake.

One area we have begun investigating already is the source of our groundwater flow. The original 2002 study done on Peppermill Lake suggested that the groundwater feeding our lake came from the north. But early research done by us last year suggests that our groundwater sourcing could come from the west. Nitrogen management practices (or lack thereof!)

from the farms either to the west or north of us will be useful to know.

Last October we began collecting water samples every month in three locations on the lake to measure nitrogen and phosphorus loading in our lake so we already have a head start on some of the grant work.

Another part of the grant focuses on conducting a survey of all residents in the District. We have done several in the past but the last one done was over 8 years ago and we have many new homeowners in the District now. The results of those surveys can be found at the Peppermill Lake Website.

This time the survey will be fine-tuned with the assistance of a DNR sociologist who will help us hone our questions to get the clearest answers possible. Answers to these questions will give the Board better direction.

We will also be exploring

using digital tools like Survey Monkey to distribute the questions and collate the data. Print surveys will also be sent out if desired.

This year the Land & Water Conservation Department will be conducting an aquatic plant survey of the entire lake. These are done every five years. Approximately 200 GPS locations have been mapped for our lake and at each location, plants will be identified, and estimated volumes logged. In 2016, this effort took about a day and a half.

Results of the survey will be posted on the Peppermill Lake Website. Earlier surveys are already posted there.

We'll have more information at the quarterly meeting on the 24th of April. The meeting will be offered live and via Zoom.

Spring is here and there is a lot to do!

High Capacity Well Study Released

Harvesting Dates

Tentative dates for aquatic plant harvesting have been set for the weeks of:

June 28

July 26

August 30

Sept. 13

Please note that these dates are subject to change because of weather. Also, because Ice-off was very early this year (March 15) it is quite possible that an earlier harvest may be needed given that the plants have a longer growing season this year.

After four years of research, the Central Sands Lake Study (CSLS) which was authorized by the State Legislature in 2017, was released on April 6. The study focused on three lakes in Waushara County, Plainfield Lake, Pleasant Lake, and Long Lake.

The purpose of the study was to determine if high capacity well pumping of groundwater affected these lakes. In the end, the study did show that the operation of multiple high capacity wells in a single region had the cumulative impact of drawing down water not just in lakes, but in streams and wetlands, as well.

It may seem counterintuitive right now given the high water levels our local lakes are experiencing. But Adams County is part of the Central Sands region, and right here within the groundwater watershed of Peppermill Lake there are over 20 licensed high capacity wells.

When high-capacity wells are licensed by the DNR, the cumulative impact of neighboring wells is not a factor in determining the merits of the license.

A single well can draw out 100,000 gallons of water per day.

Some lakes are more susceptible to water fluctuations than others. Our lake is several inches higher than usual but Jordan Lake is three feet above normal. But back in 2007, Jordan Lake was several feet below normal to the point some homeowners on the north side of the lake had to walk an additional 20 feet to touch water. The presence of too many high capacity wells could add to that variability significantly.

One of the recommendations of the Study is for the creation of water districts that have enforcement authority and adequate funding so that water resources are managed for the benefit of all stakeholders which

includes farmers and lake dwellers, alike.

Wisconsin is rare in that its Constitution declares that the waters of Wisconsin are a public trust. And State Supreme Court law has upheld that groundwater is included in that public trust.

More information about the study can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Wells/HighCap/CSLStudy.html>

We've included this on our April agenda to discuss possible actions by our community.

STH 82 to be resurfaced—again

Beginning April 5, STH 82 between STH 13 and the Marquette County Line, will be completely resurfaced. That means STH 82 will be completely closed to through traffic, probably till mid-October. The new road will again be concrete. The asphalt that was laid last fall was temporary and will be torn up and replaced with concrete as originally planned.

Fish Ave, to the west of Peppermill Lake, experienced a lot of traffic as an alternate route to get to CTH B last year. Because of the wear-and-tear Fish Ave got, part of Fish Ave between 5th Lane and CTH B (which was down to dirt) will be redone starting May 1. This should only take three weeks to finish. Construction season has begun.

County ATV/UTV usage

Adams County recently enacted a new ATV/UTV ordinance that imposes stricter requirements on ATV/UTV riders than does the State of Wisconsin. It should be noted that these changes only apply to riding on county roads and do NOT apply to town roads. But if you want to ride your ATV to Jordan Lake or to McGinnis lake or any other area in the County using a county road you need to know the following,

First, liability insurance is required. Second, you must have a valid driver's license. Even though State law allows 12-15 year-olds to ride ATV's while accompanied by a parent, under the new ordinance this is not allowed. Third, the open carrying of alcoholic beverages is not permitted and driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher is not allowed. Under current State law, open carry is allowed and even someone whose license has been revoked for driving under the influence can ride an ATV legally. But not in Adams County—at least until a legal challenge is brought forth.

Again, these restrictions only apply to County roads and the Adams County Sheriff's Office has no enforcement authority over town roads for ATV/UTV violations. Enforcement for town roads for ATV/UTV matters falls under the DNR's jurisdiction.

In the Town of Jackson, most but not all roads have been opened up to ATV/UTV usage. For example, Fish Court, under Town law, is officially not open to ATV usage, despite the fact that many residents use them for transportation and for fun.

It should be noted, too, that the Town of Jackson is considering the county ordinance as a model for future action. If you have strong feelings one way or the other please let your Town and Lake District Board members know. This will be on the April Lake District agenda.

Peppermill Lake District Board Meeting Log-In

Attendance in person will at the Jackson Town Hall. The Town of Jackson Board requires wearing masks inside the building. For those wishing to use Zoom, see below.

William Pegler is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Quarterly Lake District Meeting

Time: Apr 24, 2021 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83919416361?pwd=dWp6UUUpuN0MzWtBWNGRDbk5XWHhNdz09>

Meeting ID: 839 1941 6361

Passcode: 880603

One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,83919416361#,,,,*880603# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 839 1941 6361

Passcode: 880603

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VISIT US AT

WWW.PEPPERMILLAKE.US

Proposed Agenda – Quarterly Board Meeting - April 24, 2021 11 AM (At Jackson Town Hall and via ZOOM)

Call to order—Proper Meeting Notice notification—Approval of Agenda—Approval of Minutes—Treasurer's Report
Citizen Comment

Reports - Harvesting, Grant, aerators, Lakes Conference

Unfinished Business

- Website migration
- Water Sampling (Bob)
-

New Business

- Discuss Grant management
- Discuss/Act High capacity wells study
- Discuss/Act ATV/UTV's
- Discuss lake projects (barley bags, sheds, etc)

Announcements/Correspondence

County Update

Town of Jackson update

Calendar update — Next meeting(s)—Adjourn