

Peppermill Lake District News

Your Board

- **Bill Pegler—President—**
peglerw@netscape.net
- **Candy Pegler—Secretary—**
candy.pegler2@gmail.com
- **Art Donner—Treasurer—**
cpadonner@msn.com
- **BJ Schmitt—Director—**
bjschmitt7322@gmail.com
- **Dan Henning—Town Rep—**
dhenning1@tds.net
- **Larry Borud—County Rep—**
larry3925@truevalue.net
- **Bob Cropp—Director—**
racropp@wisc.edu

Fall 2016

Nov. Meeting Notice

November and beyond

At our November 5 meeting we will be having guests from the Central Sands Water Action Coalition. They are asking the Peppermill Lake District to become a member and representatives will give a 15 minute presentation. After that, the Board will discuss and vote on a resolution regarding CSWAC support.

Their web site is <http://centralsandswater.org>

To give you some context, there are two significant issues affecting the central sands counties (Adams, Marathon, Marquette, Portage, Shawano,

Waupaca, Waushara and Wood counties): the expansion of high capacity wells, and the growth in Concentrated Animal Farming Operations (CAFO's). A single high capacity well can extract 100 thousand gallons of water a day. And liquid animal waste could offer different problems for our groundwater. You will learn more about this on the 5th.

Pending well applications can be found here: http://dnrm.wisconsin.gov/H5/viewer=Water_Use_View

CSWAC is a 501 C(3) organization and therefore cannot lobby for individual congress people. They are actively reaching out to dairy, cattle and cranberry farmers, and tourism groups to help build a consensus based on scientific data.

The Board hopes you can attend the meeting. If you cannot, please contact Bill Pegler at peglerw@netscape.net if you have strong feelings one way or the other.

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Peppermill Lake

County Lake Specialist Position

Election Update

At the Annual Meeting in September, both Art Donner (treasurer) and Bill Pegler (President) were re-elected to their posts for a 3 year term.

The Adams County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) has maintained a Lake Specialist position funded (50%) by grant money and county tax dollars (50%) for several years. For 2017, the state grant money dried up, leaving the county with limited options.

Recent state budget cuts affecting the DNR and the UW Extension services are starting to reveal their impact at our level now. In essence we are going to be asked to do more with less.

After considerable input from most of the Adams County lakes, the County should be passing a budget in November that fully funds the lake specialist position for 2017 only. For 2018 and beyond, the County is proposing that lake districts provide 50% funding support. As of this

writing we are talking about \$20K divided amongst 15 or so lake districts. By law, lake associations are limited in what they can collect from members so their contribution will be small.

Some may say that we lake owners are paying a premium already for living on or near the lake, and you would be correct. But our budget would skyrocket if we had to hire private consultants to do all the things our lake specialist does for us now. And if every lake went its own way, then the County would lose sight of what is trending county-wide and lose the ability to manage its resources efficiently.

One other point, the job title "lake specialist" may change to "watershed specialist" in order to embrace a more holistic perspec-

tive for the years ahead.

This will be on our agenda in July 2017 so there is plenty of time to consider this.

Should we pay proportionally based on membership size?

Should all districts pay equally? Will lakes that pay more expect more service?

Some things to think about for July.

Shore land Habitat Mapping

Nov. Meeting Notice

The DNR recently adopted a new shore land habitat mapping protocol which requires the categorization of plant life and structures across the entire lake. This means everything from piers to sheds to homes to tree drops to the variety of plant life, large and small. Pictures are also taken of every lot on the lake. These pictures can be stitched together to create a panorama of our lake at some point.

In early October, Reesa Evans (LWCD Lake Specialist) and Bill Pegler, mapped the shore in a little over 3 hours. Once she has collated all the data this winter, we'll post it on our website.

Reesa had already mapped all the woody debris (some refer to these as fish sticks) with GPS coordinates, something also required by the new protocol, the week before. The fish stick map will be posted on our website by the time you receive this.

Fish sticks create spawning habitat for fish. Studies have shown that lakes with a rich supply of fish sticks have a more robust fish population. For some context, Jordan Lake has 4 fish sticks, Peppermill Lake has 50. Adding new fish sticks has been a part of our Lake Management plan for a long time. We just have to make sure we don't adversely affect boat navigation!

Over time, as we collect new data and pictures, we will be able to see how our lake evolves especially when combined with the other data we have been collecting for the last several years. But for now, the data collected this year, for this protocol, will have to serve as a benchmark for studies to come.

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PO Box 526

Windsor, WI, 53598

Peppermill Lake District

P.O. Box 406, Oxford, WI 53952



Peppermill Lake District

P.O Box 406

Oxford, WI, 53952

Phone: 608 586 5238

Fax: 608 586 6391

E-mail: peglerw@netscape.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.PEPPERMILLLAKE.US

Proposed Agenda – Quarterly Lake District Meeting 9 AM, November 5, 2016, Jackson Town Hall HWY 82 & 4th Ave

Agenda

Call to Order- Certification of proper meeting notice -Consider and approve agenda -Consider and approve minutes—Treasurer's report

Unfinished Business

Committee Reports: Aquatic Plants, Aeration,

Lot 012-504-10 (Lake Association strip) update

New Business

CSWAC presentation

Consideration of Resolution 2016-1 in support of CSWAC

Adoption of Lake Management Plan

LWCD Lake Specialist Support

Shore land habitat analysis

Lake Alliance News

Citizen Comment

Announcements

Calendar update

Adjourn