

Peppermill Lake District News

October 2013

Fall Issue

Your Board

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Annual Meeting Update

For those of you who could not attend the Annual Meeting, here is an update. As you know, the annual meeting is the time for electing new board members and setting the budget for the coming year. A total of 20 attendees were present at the meeting.

This year we had two Board positions open. Bob Cropp, who has been on the Board for awhile and who was filling out the term of Nancy Johnsen, returns for another term and BJ Schmitt, is now on board as well. For those of you who have been on the lake for a long time, BJ is the daughter of Hugh Schmitt, who was one of the guiding forces of Peppermill Lake. We are very excited to have a fresh perspective, and a representative from the north shore, on the Board.

At this time we'd like to welcome our new Board members and also thank Joy Schrab for her efforts over the last three years.

As for the budget for 2014, only two changes were made to the proposed budget sent in July. The first restored the barley bag funding at \$500 and the second reduced the contingency fund by \$500. This keeps the total budget at the proposed amount submitted in July and keeps our year-end projected balance in the positive.

We estimate that the projected levy for 2014 will be 1.5 mil. State law mandates that we be below 2.5 mil, so we are in no danger there. So for every \$100,000 of value, the tax will be \$150. Again, this is an estimate.

The highlights of the committee reports include:

- 1) The aerator shed move is now completed with just a bit of electrical work left to do.
- 2) A recommendation to establish long term harvesting plan was proposed (see proposed agenda on page 4)
- 3) Total harvesting cost, year to date, is \$14,117.20
- 4) Determine how to do Dissolved Oxygen (DO) readings monthly, year round, per DNR recommendations.
- 5) Chara management was also discussed. (See page

2 of this issue).

In the coming months we will be arranging for the next Lake Advisory Group meeting. This meeting is open to anyone who uses the lake regardless of residency. The goal is to refine our current Lake Plan based on data and experiences from the current year.

This meeting is often held in the fall or early winter when DNR representation / guidance is more likely. This time is often inconvenient for some but it is the best time to get the expertise we need.

We will send out a notice for this as soon as a date is set.

Also, before December 1, we will send out the annual "Danger Open Water" letter to remind everyone that, once the aerators are on, we all have an obligation to inform guests about the nature of our lake once the aeration holes open up.

Chara Management Update

Since 2008, chara, a form of algae, which forms the large ball-like mounds that rise to the surface of the lake when the temps get warm, has advanced from west to east and has become one of the dominant aquatic players in our lake.

As proof of this, our plant management costs this year rose to \$14,000, nearing our peak of \$17,000 in 2007. We harvested approximately 331,000 pounds of chara alone this year.

Some have advocated chemical treatment of the chara because

of its pervasiveness in the lake. Chara is a form of algae and is excellent at removing phosphorus in our lake. This is why our lake water is so clear.

Chemically treating chara with algaecides poses three significant risks: 1) remove too much chara, and our water clarity goes away, 2) filamentous algae, the green stringy stuff you see in many lakes, could take over because of the increase in phosphorous, and 3), Eurasian Water Milfoil could fill in where the chara has been killed.

Currently the DNR does not generally permit the use of algaecides but they have given us the permission to remove the mounds as they rise. And this year we removed more mounds than ever.

If you have read the 2012 Plant survey on our website you know that, despite the large presence of chara, we have a rich and diverse plant population. So the chara is not jeopardizing our diversity.

If all goes well our 2014 budget should give us the flexibility we need to manage the chara.

Next Board

Meeting is

November 9, 2013

at 9 AM at the

Jackson Town Hall.

Aerator Shed Update

The west end aerator shed has been moved and all legal requirements have been met. The shed is at outlot 5 which now has the address of 386 Fish Ct. The electrical work is finished and we are definitely on track to fire up the pumps in time for winter.

A lot of people helped to get this done. Not only did the shed have to get moved but

several hundred feet of aerator line, too, had to be relocated.

The Board would like to thank the following people for their help: Dan Henning, Jay Crawford, Gary Schrab, George Benish, Paul Reed, the Landgraff estate, and Bill Pegler.

Just as a note, now that the aerator lines will be running out of the inlet bracketed by

Art Donner's place and Alex Perez', the water in that inlet will be open during the winter.

We will be placing a "Danger Open Water" sign near the shed since this spot has been a favorite access point for ice fishermen in the past.

AIS Grant Update

Our Aquatic Invasive Species Grant (AIS) was extended in 2010 to allow us to continue our Clean Boats, Clean Water (CBCW) Program through 2011 and 2012.

We were able to continue our weekend coverage of the public landing with the help of paid interns and volunteer supervisors with mixed results.

While the CBCW program has a lot of educational value, we found that on average we were only inspecting 3.4 boats a day. Weekend traffic has been down significantly the last few

years and we have not had the ability to get set up during the weekdays or during the twilight hours on the weekend where we think most of the traffic on this lake occurs.

On average we were spending 10 person hours per boat when you factor in the total volunteer and intern hours. And when we compared the number of boats inspected to the boat launch fees collected (while this is imperfect since some folks probably don't pay the fee) we estimated that we were catching 1/10th of the

boats coming into our lake. At best.

Our grant has expired as of 2012 and a new web-based CBCW application process is now in place but the requirement is for a minimum of 200 hours. We struggled to cover 130 hours per year.

While the CBCW Program is an important one, given the serious threat of invasive species in Wisconsin, we don't have, at this time, enough human resources to continue this program, for now.

We do continue to monitor

for zebra mussels at a couple of locations on the lake. And we will continue to learn about best practices at the annual Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Conference in Stevens Point in late April of 2014.

Fall Issue

Shoreland Protection

We reported in an earlier newsletter that a new shoreland protection ordinance had been adopted by Adams County (<http://www.co.adams.wi.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=JsWFljcbdeY%3d&tabid=81&mid=725>).

This ordinance requires all riparian owners to submit a map that details the buffer

zone in existence for each property by July of 2015. Prior to July of 2015 there is no fee, Afterwards, there will be a \$100 fee.

The **General Permit Application** located at the link to the left must be filled out by all of us who have lakefront property including a map that details the size of our buffer zone, While it is probably getting late

in the year to do much of this now, it is definitely something you will want to put on your radar for the coming Spring.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Matt Bremer at the Adams County Planning & Zoning Dept. Candy and I can also help with getting you a map of your lot.

More to come on this in upcoming newsletters.

Adams County Lake

Alliance

Website can be found here:

[http://](http://www.adamscountylakeswi.org/)

[www.adamscountylakeswi.o](http://www.adamscountylakeswi.org/)

rg/

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/>

If you visit the link above you will find a very useful resource for all the lakes in Wisconsin. If you search for "Peppermill Lake" you will be taken to a page that has general information about our lake, links to an interactive map and a bathymetric map and much more.

This site is also the entry point for the data we collect for water quality testing, ice on/off

reports, and Clean Boats Clean Water survey submissions. Eventually we will be able to do much more data sharing using this site and it will become a great tool for generating data to share at our annual meetings or quarterly meetings.

This site has just undergone a major revision and is getting more and more powerful with

each iteration.

Just as a note, some of the information relating to current board members is obsolete. Corrections have been submitted to the appropriate parties and should be updated shortly.

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A man, a plan, a canal:
Panama

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.PEPPERMILLLAKE.

US

PMLD Proposed Agenda

11/9/2013 9 AM Jackson Town Hall

Corner of Hwy 82 and 4th Ave

Call to Order

Certification of Notice Posting—Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Unfinished Business

1) Committee Reports

- Aeration, AIS Grant, Aquatic Plants, LAG

2) West End Aerator Shed

New Business

1) Long-term Harvesting Committee creation

2) Next LAG Meeting set up

3) Year-round DO Readings

4) Lake Alliance News

5) Winter Preparation

6) Citizen Comment

7) Next meeting

8) Adjourn