

Peppermill Lake District – Lake Management Plan



About Peppermill Lake

Peppermill Lake is a spring-fed impoundment approximately 67 acres in size located in the southeast corner of Adams County in the Town of Jackson. It is a shallow lake with a trophic status ranging between mesotrophic to eutrophic. Supported in the past by 2 lake associations, popular support grew for the creation of a Lake District and in 2002, the Peppermill Lake Management District was formed.

Peppermill Lake has one public landing (owned by the Town) and one dam (owned by the County),

Peppermill lake is home to 51 aquatic plant varieties, turtles, blue gills, crappies, largemouth bass, northern pike, perch, and a robust Sandhill crane population.

About Peppermill Lake - Milestones

- 1960's – Lake and subdivision established
- 1981 – Slow no-wake ordinance adopted by Town of Jackson
- 1992 – Aeration systems installed (in response to fish kills)
- 1998 – EWM identified
- 2002 – A full [lake study](#) was conducted
- 2002 – Lake District Established
- 2003 - First Annual Lake District Meeting
- 2005 – Lake Management Plan established
- 2006 – [Critical Habitat Report](#) developed
- 2007 – [Bathymetric Map](#) created
- 2008 – [Lake Classification Report](#) developed
- 2008 – AIS Grant awarded
- 2008 – Overhaul of winter aeration systems (in response to limited fish kill)
- 2009 - Pier installed at Public Landing
- 2011 – [Fish population study](#)
- 2012 - [Aquatic Plant Survey](#)

Lake Management Plan Overview

- Main Elements
 - Review Process
 - Aquatic Species Management
 - Water Quality
 - Dam Management
 - Shoreland Protection
 - Recreational Uses
 - Education

Plan Review Process

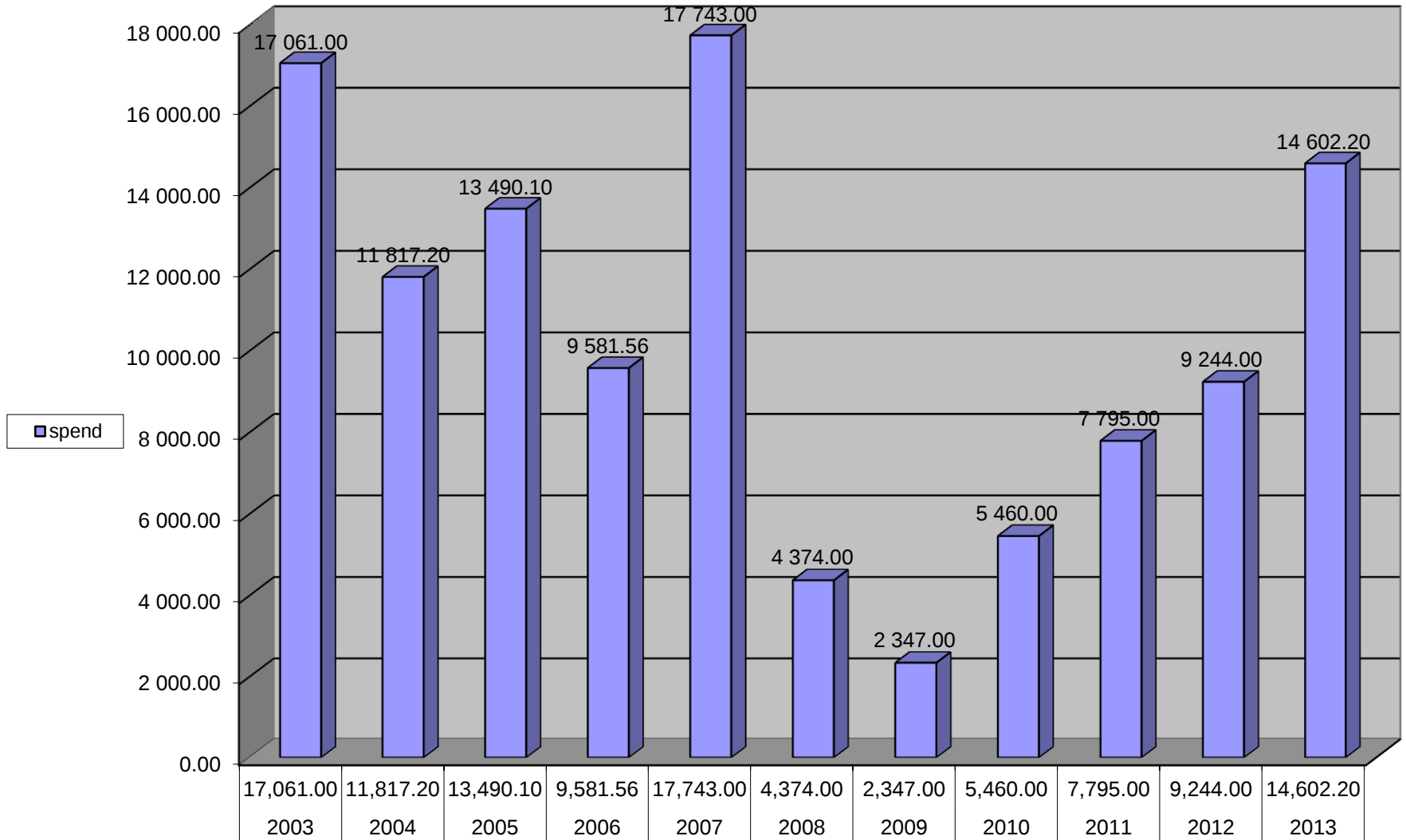
- Public meeting (advertised) soliciting citizen comment is held annually
- Lake District Board reviews all recommended changes
- Plan is reviewed at Lake District Annual Meeting for comment
- Plan is posted at LWCD website and at www.peppermilllake.us

Aquatic Species - EWM

- First detected in the late 1990's
- Chemical treatment began around 2000
- In 2005, mechanical harvesting was introduced
- In 2007, peak costs incurred
- Severe 2008 winter coupled with aerator failure resulted in significant decline in EWM population (replaced by Chara)
- Severe 2008-2009 winter continued trend
- Costs plummeted to a low in 2009
- Costs increased in 2010 as plants reestablished themselves
- 2011 costs still well below 2007 costs
- 2013 plant mgmt costs exceeded \$14K for the first time since 2007.



2003-2013 Aquatic Plant Mgmt Costs



Aquatic Species - Harvesting

Task	Criteria	Owner	When	Funding Source
Machine Harvest plants for navigational purposes and EWM Control		PLMD & Private Contractor	Ongoing	PLMD
	Early Spring up to the beginning of fragmentation – EWM only			
	July – Sept, Navigational channels and chara mounds only			
	5 Harvests- max			

Harvesting Maps (present and proposed)

2011 Harvesting Maps

- 1) [July 2011 Harvest locations](#)
- 2) [August 2011 Harvest locations](#)

2012 Proposed Baseline Maps

- 1) [Proposed Map for navigational purposes](#)
- 2) Proposed Map for EWM control

2012 Plant population maps

- 1) [Pages 27-28 of 2012 Aquatic Plant Survey Report](#)

Aquatic Species - continued

Task	Criteria	Owner	When	Funding
Chemical Treatment				
	Spot Treat in areas too shallow for harvesting	PLMD and Contractor	Annually, if needed	PLMD
Hand-Pulling	In shallow water areas	PLMD	Annually, if needed	PLMD

Aquatic Species - Monitoring

Task	Criteria	Owner	When	Funding
Monitor Harvesting		PLMD	Annually	PLMD
	PLMD Inspection of Harvests	PLMD	Per Harvest	
	Contractor to record poundage removed	Contractor	Per Harvest	
	Plants samples sent to lab for PH analysis	PLMD	Per Harvest	
	Plant samples sent to lab for DNA analysis	LWCD/PLMD	2011	DNR
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	Two Locations	PLMD	Ongoing	PLMD
Aquatic Plant Survey		LWCD/PLMD	2012	LWCD

Water Quality

- Lake Surface Watershed — 972 Acres
 - 53.4% woodlands
 - 36.2% residential
 - 6.9% water
 - 3.5% agricultural
- Groundwater watershed — 4715 acres
- As of 2002 Phosphorus and Nitrogen levels were at manageable levels
- 75 riparian owners
 - Septic systems on east properties are oldest (30 plus years)
 - 2002 Chloride levels indicated minimal septic tank impact
 - County Septic Tank Survey — due 2014

Current Water Quality

- See Water Quality slides on [Aquatic Plant survey, pages 13-15](#)

Water Quality

Task	Criteria	Owner	When	Funding
Monitor water for TP, Secchi, and Chlor A in East and West ends of lake	Add monitoring in So. Bay and North finger toward Fish Ave	PMLD/LWCD/DNR	Annually	PMLD/DNR
Model Phosphorus loading based on plant samples removed		PMLD/LWCD/DNR	Annually, after each harvest	PMLD/DNR
Harvest plants to limit nutrient release through decay		PMLD	Annually	PMLD
Work with Town and County on proper zoning uses		PMLD, Town, County	Annually	
Barley Bags for algae control		PMLD	Annually	PMLD
Year- Round DO readings	Monthly	PMLD	Monthly	PMLD

Dam Management

Task	Criteria	Owner	When	Funding
Dam Management				
	Annual Inspections per DNR standards	LWCD	Annually	County
	Operation and maintenance of Dam	LWCD	Weekly	County
	Emergency Action Plan	LWCD	Completed	County
Seasonal recording of rain		LWCD	3X week	County
Electronic Monitoring of water level		LWCD	Daily	County

Shoreland Protection

In 2007, in conjunction with the County, several shoreline restoration projects were initiated and funded partially through grants which expire at the end of 2010.

Since then two significant pieces of legislation have passed, the Adams County Shoreland Protection Act, and the Wisconsin Act 9, banning the use of fertilizers. Both laws will have a significant impact on completing initiatives stated in the Lake Management Plan.

In 2005, Tree Drop program began with 2008 being the only year with fewer than 8 trees being felled.

As of 2012, only naturally occurring tree drops are being managed.

Shoreland Protection

Task	Criteria	Owner	When	Funding
Inventory/map septic systems in PMLD		Cnty. Planning/Zoning	By 2012	State Law
Educate riparian owners on buffer/erosion mgmt		PMLD & LWCD	Ongoing	
Develop packet on best practices for owners and realtors		PMLD	Completed	LWCD to Review in 2012
Educate on NR115		PMLD/LWCD	Ongoing	PMLD/LWCD
Post Critical Habitat Map at Landing		PMLD	2011	PMLD
Explore North Shore Conservancy		PMLD	Ongoing	

Recreational Uses

- In 1981 the Town of Jackson adopted a slow no-wake ordinance for Peppermill Lake.
- In the 1970's-1980's there were 4 fish kills, 1 in the late 1990's and one in 2008. Winter aeration began in 1992 and all systems were overhauled in 2008, adding a new system in the south bay.
- Mechanical harvesting for navigational purposes began in 2005.
- In 2002-2003 one fish stocking occurred (bass fingerlings).
- Tree drops began in 2005 as a means to augment fish habitat.
- Boat launch fee was established in 2008 by Town of Jackson.
- Boat launch pier installed in 2009 through boat launch fee funds.
- Catch and Release Brochure/Initiative 2014
- AIS Signage 2014

Recreational Uses

Task	Criteria	Owner	When	Funding
Evaluate fish stocking based on DNR recommendation		PMLD	Done	PMLD
Place trees within littoral zone for fish habitat		PMLD	Done	PMLD
Conduct Fish Survey		LWCD & DNR	Completed	DNR
Aerator Operation		PMLD	Annually	PMLD
Conduct survey of lake users (compare to 2004)		PMLD	Completed	PMLD

Education

- In conjunction with the Peppermill Lake Association, a new homeowners handbook was created containing information on best practices. Handbook was also delivered to local Realtors
- In 2008, through AIS grant assistance, a Clean Boats, Clean Water program was started. In 2008, 3 weekends were covered. In 2009 through 2012, 10 weekends were covered. Part of this program included outreach to local schools.
- An AIS Grant help fund the CB/CW program in 2008-2012. The District decided at the 2010 annual meeting to provide funding to continue the program in 2012. **Completed.**
- Lake District Board continues to issue a quarterly newsletter and maintain a website, www.peppermilllake.us
- Peppermill Lake is an active supporter of the Adams County Lake Alliance.
- **Member of WAL.**

Education and Outreach

Task	Criteria	Owner	When	Funding
Clean Boats, Clean Water (2/mo May-September)		PMLD	Completed	PMLD
Quarterly Newsletter		PMLD	Annually	PMLD
Website		PMLD	Annually	PMLD