

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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SEWRPC Staff Memorandum

POWERS LAKE 2020 RESIDENT OPINION SURVEY

October 15, 2020

BACKGROUND

The District of Powers Lake (DPL), with the assistance of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (the Commission), has undertaken a questionnaire-based survey of the Powers Lake community at decadal intervals since 1990. The results of these surveys have been used by the DPL to guide their lake management program. The 1990 survey was used to support the recommendations set forth in the DPL comprehensive lake management plan,¹ while the 2000 survey was used by the DPL to determine progress in plan implementation. The 2010 survey was conducted during the formulation of Memorandum Report No. 193, *A Lake Protection Plan for Powers Lake, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, Wisconsin*, November 2011 and discussed in Chapter III of that plan. The DPL approached the Commission in January 2020 requesting that the Commission assist the DPL in conducting another survey to assess the residents' opinions of the condition of Powers Lake (the Lake) and its watershed as well as evaluate the perceived effectiveness of implementing lake protection measures.

SURVEY PREPARATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND TABULATION

The current survey was constructed as a mail-drop questionnaire survey of the electors of the DPL and undertaken during the summer of 2020 (hereinafter, the 2020 survey). Like the surveys preceding it, the 2020 survey was compiled in a manner consistent with the lake user survey protocol prepared by the University of Wisconsin-Extension for the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. The current survey was designed to review the issues and concerns identified during previous surveys as well as collect novel and pressing concerns by District residents. The 2020 survey added questions that focused on the community's attitude toward certain emerging issues and concerns. Additionally, a few response choices were added and the questions in section F of the 2010 survey were removed. A copy of the 2020 Powers Lake resident opinion survey is appended as Appendix A.

The overall purpose of the survey was to discover the degree of respondents' satisfaction with DPL lake management activities addressing water quality, recreational opportunities, and ordinance enforcement. More specifically, the survey was designed to assess the management actions necessary to achieve or maintain desired water quality and lake use conditions conducive to supporting the full range of recreational and environmental uses of Powers Lake.

In cooperation with the DPL Board of Commissioners, Commission staff prepared and distributed the Powers Lake resident opinion survey to electors of the DPL during June 2020. Upon return, these surveys were carefully recorded, tabulated, and evaluated by Commission staff. This memorandum reports on responses to the survey received through September 3, 2020.

¹ SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 196, *A Management Plan for Powers Lake, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, Wisconsin*, November 1991.

A total of 108 surveys, or 36 percent of the 300 questionnaires distributed, was received by that date. One survey was returned but not completed, resulting in 107 completed survey responses. A summary of the response is appended as Appendix B, with the written respondents' comments added below each corresponding question and response summary. The response summary includes the total number of responses, as well as the percent for each choice if appropriate for the question.² The response rate to this recent questionnaire survey was higher than that experienced during the 2010 survey (30 percent response), but lower than that of the 1990 (50 percent) and 2000 (40 percent) surveys.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

Of the total number of respondents to the 2020 survey, about 74 percent identified Powers Lake as their secondary residence, the majority of whom described their time spent at the Lake as being mostly during the extended summer (spring to fall) time period, with weekends year-round being the second-most popular choice for spending time at the Lake. Respondents who do not live on the Lake year-round spent an average of 93 days at the Lake each year. Over 80 percent of respondents have lived on Powers Lake for more than 10 years, with nearly 34 percent living on the Lake for over fifty years.

These results were comparable to those reported in the year 2010 survey, in which about 80 percent of respondents identified Powers Lake as their secondary residence and about 80 percent had lived on Powers Lake for more than 10 years. The first survey in 1990 indicated that part-time and weekend residents comprised about 70 percent of respondents, the majority of whom (about 80 percent) had lived on the Lake for more than 10 years.

The consistency of the composition of the respondents strongly suggests that respondents to the 2020 survey are likely to have responded to at least one of the previous surveys. As many respondents have lived on the Lake for over ten years, the respondents are able to reflect on Lake conditions throughout a longer time period and are potentially less likely to be influenced only by the current lake conditions. The respondent profile also suggests that the Powers Lake community is relatively stable. People moving into the community are likely to remain for some considerable time. This characteristic implies a commitment to the community and to the Lake.

Similar to the previous community surveys, most respondents to the 2020 survey (80 percent) indicated that they only recreate on Powers Lake and do not visit other lakes within Southeastern Wisconsin. Of the 20 percent that reported visiting other Southeastern Wisconsin lakes, most respondents did not indicate what lakes they visit. Beulah, Lac la Belle, Geneva, Pell, and Tichigan Lakes were the other Southeastern Wisconsin lakes that were reported to be visited while one respondent reported visiting Chippewa Flowage in northwest Wisconsin. However, these lakes likely do not represent the full list as so many of the respondents did not indicate the lakes that they visited. Surveys conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) as part of the Clean Boats, Clean Water program at boat landings indicate that boaters who visited Powers Lake have also visited Como, Delavan, Geneva, Upper Phantom, Rice, and the Twin Lakes and the Rock River.³

LAKE USE

Lake Use Intensity

As in the 2010 survey, the majority (74 percent) of Powers Lake respondents primarily used the Lake with their families. Several respondents indicated that their time on the Lake was equally divided between use with their families, their friends, and as a group by circling all these responses.

Perceptions of the intensity of lake use varied greatly between weekdays and weekend days, with 68 percent of respondents indicating they felt the Lake was only lightly used on weekdays while 81 percent of respondents felt that on weekend days the Lake was heavily-to-overly used. These perceptions were largely unchanged from previous years, when most respondents felt that Powers Lake was lightly-to-moderately used during weekdays, but heavily-to-overly used during weekends. No respondents reported that the Lake

² For some written responses, Commission staff added text in parentheses and italics to provide context to the response, such as what a drawn arrow was referencing on the page. Apparent respondent misspellings were also marked with (sic).

³ dnr.wi.gov/wbhb/web.

was lightly used on the weekends. Many of the respondents who felt that the Lake waters were heavily-to-overly used during the weekends suggested that this level of usage was exacerbated by the availability of public recreational boating access to Powers Lake.

Respondent comments regarding lake use intensity included:

- Increased boat traffic on weekends, particularly by non-residents dropping in boats
- Heavier use of powerboats, including wakeboarding and waterskiing
- Many boats anchoring and “clogging” sandbars
- More cars and trailers than parking spaces at launch, resulting in parking along nearby roads

Angling Use

About 36 percent of respondents reported fishing the Lake during the spring, summer, and fall, while less than 10 percent of respondents reported ice fishing. These values were comparable to those reported during the 1990, 2000, and 2010 surveys. Open water fishers reported having fished an average of 23 days during 2020, with nearly equal numbers fishing from boats or from piers, while ten days was the average for ice fishing. This level of angling effort, whether through the ice or during open-water periods, is almost identical to that reported during the 2000 and 2010 surveys.

Fish species caught were like those reported during the previous surveys; namely, panfish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch, crappie, and walleye. Anglers also reported catching catfish, rock bass, perch, bluegill, and gar under the “Other” option. No anglers reported catching white sucker in the 2020 survey.

During the 2020 survey, many respondents were split over whether populations of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, panfish, and yellow perch increased, decreased, or stayed the same since the 2010 survey, with largely similar numbers for all three options. Crappie and white sucker were considered by most respondents to have stayed the same while northern pike were thought to have decreased. One respondent noted in the 2020 survey that the number of bluegill near their piers had severely declined to the point that they were almost non-existent. Respondents reported that they perceived the numbers of carp to have stayed the same, continuing the trend from the 2010 survey.

About 5 percent of anglers responding felt that the fishing quality of the Lake was excellent, while 46 percent felt it was good, and 49 percent felt it was fair. A few respondents indicated that conditions were between fair and poor by circling both responses, but these responses were tallied as fair. The 2020 survey responses indicate a slight improvement in perceived fishing quality since 2010, with a greater percentage of good quality and lower percentage of fair quality responses.

Of the ten anglers who reported on ice fishing conditions, 20 percent (2 respondents) rated the ice fishing as good while 80 percent (8 respondents) rated it as fair. Bluegill, crappie, largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, panfish, walleye, and yellow perch were all reported to be caught during ice fishing on the Lake.

Boating Use

Boating of many kinds—powerboating (including wakeboard and pontoon boats), personal watercraft (PWC) operation, waterskiing, sailing, and rowing/canoeing/kayaking—were popular water-based activities on Powers Lake. In 2020, 83 percent of all respondents reported powerboating either year-round or during spring and summer, with an average of about 37 days powerboating during spring and summer; about 37 percent of respondents reported waterskiing an average of about 33 days during the same time period; PWC users operated their craft an average of nearly 34 days during spring and summer; sailboarders and sail boaters operated their craft an average of about 21 days during spring and summer; and, rowers and kayakers operated their craft an average of about 28 days during spring and summer. Compared to the 2010 survey, there has been a decrease in the reported days of powerboat use while the percent of respondents who participate in sailing and rowing/canoeing/kayaking has increased, as has their reported days of participation in these activities.

In 2020, engine size of respondents' ski boats averaged over 250 horsepower, pontoon boats averaged over 90 horsepower, fishing boats averaged over 65 horsepower, and PWC averaged nearly 100 horsepower.⁴ These sizes represent an increase in size from the 2010 survey at which time ski boats averaged over 200 horsepower, pontoon boats averaged over 65 horsepower, fishing boats averaged over 85 horsepower, and PWC averaged over 100 horsepower. Despite reporting fewer days using powerboats, the respondents who participate in powerboating are doing so on boats with greater horsepower.

Other Recreational Uses

In addition to the angling and boating opportunities provided by Powers Lake, respondents indicated participation in a range of other recreational opportunities, including both active recreational uses, such as swimming, walking, and jogging; and passive uses, such as picnicking/barbecuing and bird watching. In-lake contact recreational activities such as swimming and diving, remained an important active recreational use of Powers Lake. About 20 percent of respondents reported swimming an average of 26 days during the spring and summer in 2020. Walking and jogging around the Lake are recreational activities enjoyed by Lake users an average of nearly 51 days during spring and summer, and over 90 days, on average, year-round in 2020. These active recreational pursuits were more popular in the 2020 survey than in previous surveys.

Passive recreational uses included picnicking/barbecuing and bird watching. In 2020, respondents were engaged in picnicking/barbequing an average of over 80 days throughout the year. Birdwatchers reported being engaged an average of 173 days throughout the year, with a few avid birders participating every day of the year. Both passive recreational uses have comparable participation to that reported in the 2010 survey.

The shift from time spent in active recreational pursuits to more time spent engaged in passive pursuits is consistent with the demographic characteristics of the community, in which the majority of respondents have been residents for more than a decade, while the constancy observed in the numbers of participants and days of operation of PWCs, for example, are likely to reflect the presence of a younger generation. In some cases, this dichotomy can be explained by a previous generation passing the "lake house" to their children or to an older generation, including children and grandchildren, in the mix of occupants. This latter, more inclusive, concept of a household is supported, in part, by the numbers of respondents (more than one-quarter) who are weekend residents of the Powers Lake community, suggesting that they are actively engaged elsewhere during the week. Conversely, the large number of part-year residents is consistent with an older population, who may winter in a climate warmer than is typically the case in Wisconsin.

Less than five percent of respondents reported engaging in snowmobiling or cross-country skiing during fall and winter, with an average of 5 and 7 hours respectively for each activity.

Of all recreational activities mentioned on the 2020 survey, the activities receiving the highest ranking of relative importance to respondents were in descending order: boating with pontoon boats, boating with powerboats, picnicking/barbequing, rowing/canoeing/kayaking, and walking/jogging (see Figure 1). Snowmobiling and cross-country skiing had the lowest relative importance of all activities.

MAJOR ISSUES AND CONCERNS

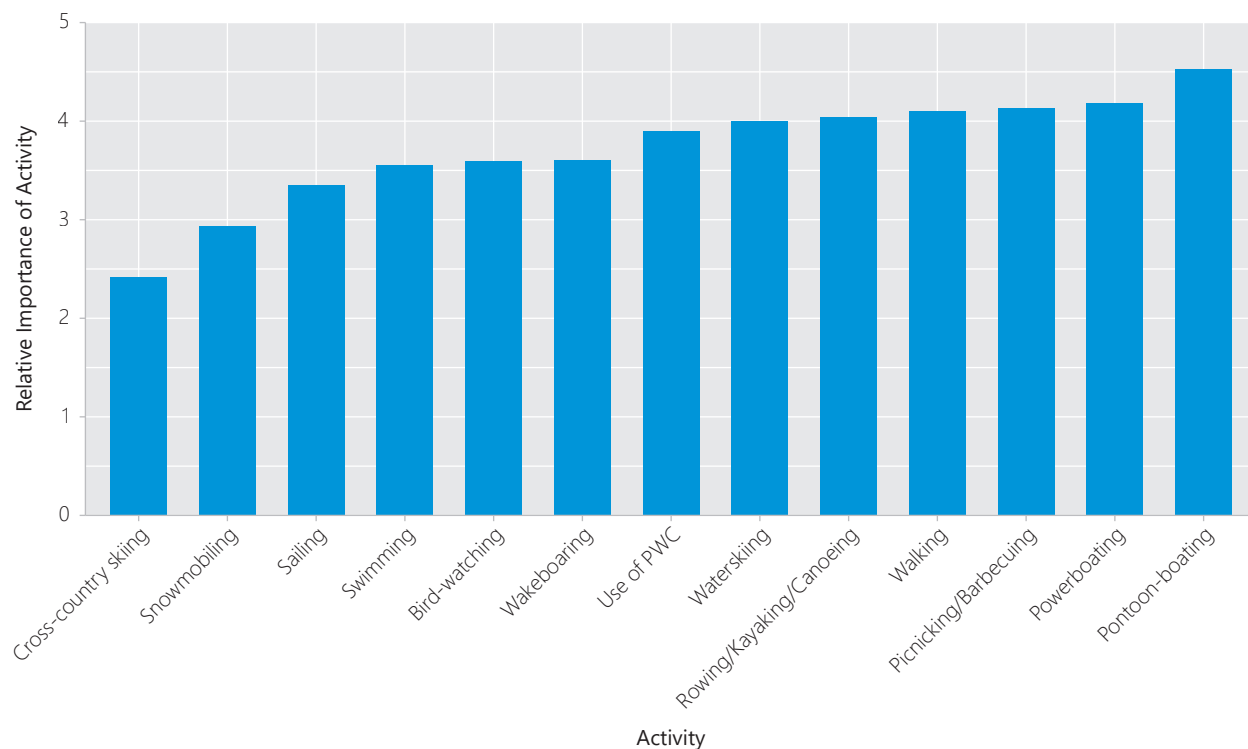
The most significant concerns identified by respondents to the 2020 survey were:

1. General water quality
2. The number of boats
3. The number of wakeboard boats

Several other issues, including use of the lake by non-residents, aquatic invasive species, and sediment/shallow areas, were frequently rated as a concern but were not considered to be the most significant concern for most respondents. Several respondents also provided their own concerns in the "Other" option; these

⁴ Several respondents indicated that they owned PWCs but did not provide the horsepower. Some respondents provided the cubic centimeters (cc) of their PWC's engines, which was converted to an approximate horsepower at 15 cc to 1 horsepower.

Figure 1
Relative Importance of Activities as Rated by 2020 Powers Lake Survey Respondents



Note: Survey respondents were instructed to rate activities by their relative importance from highest (5) to lowest (1).

Source: District of Powers Lake and SEWRPC

concerns included boating safety and enforcement, issues regarding non-resident boating and parking, management of Jefferson Bay and the channel, and aquatic plant management.

These issues are comparable to those identified as priority issues of concern during the 2010 survey—water quality, use of the Lake and access by nonresidents, and numbers of boats. The number of wakeboard boats, which was added to the 2020 survey, reflects an increasing concern among survey respondents with the growing popularity of these boats in the last decade. Major issues and concerns identified in the 1990 and 2000 surveys, such as failing septic systems and development around the lake, were not identified as the most significant concerns by most respondents in 2020. However, these issues were still selected by some respondents (in response to this question) and mentioned in the responses to other questions, indicating that they remain a concern.

When asked how to improve the situation, respondent answers included the following:

- Increase public launch fees
- Restrict the number of boats launched on the weekends
- Dredge shallow areas of the Lake, such as Jefferson Bay and the channel
- Limit non-resident parking
- Inhibit water-skiing and/or wakeboarding in shallow areas of the Lake
- Change the slow-no-wake hours

- Reduce the amount of aquatic plant debris on the Lake shorelines
- More stringently enforce boating safety violations and/or require boater safety certifications
- Purchase more wetland
- Stock more fish in the Lake
- Install a lock to enable Lake water level manipulation
- Restrict development within 1,000 feet of shoreline
- Continue to educate the public on how to improve water quality and prevent spread of invasive species

General Water Quality

Over 95 percent of survey respondents reported that they considered the Lake to have good water quality. Respondents were asked to indicate the basis for their responses by indicating whether they were based on water clarity, the presence of algae and aquatic plants, and/or general aesthetics. Over 90 percent of respondents indicated that their perception of water quality was based on aesthetics and water clarity both, while only 64 percent reported that their perception was based on aquatic plants and algae. These results are similar to the 2010 and 2000 surveys, which also indicated that the water quality was considered good by most respondents based on water clarity and aesthetics.

When asked how they would describe good water quality, respondent answers included the following:

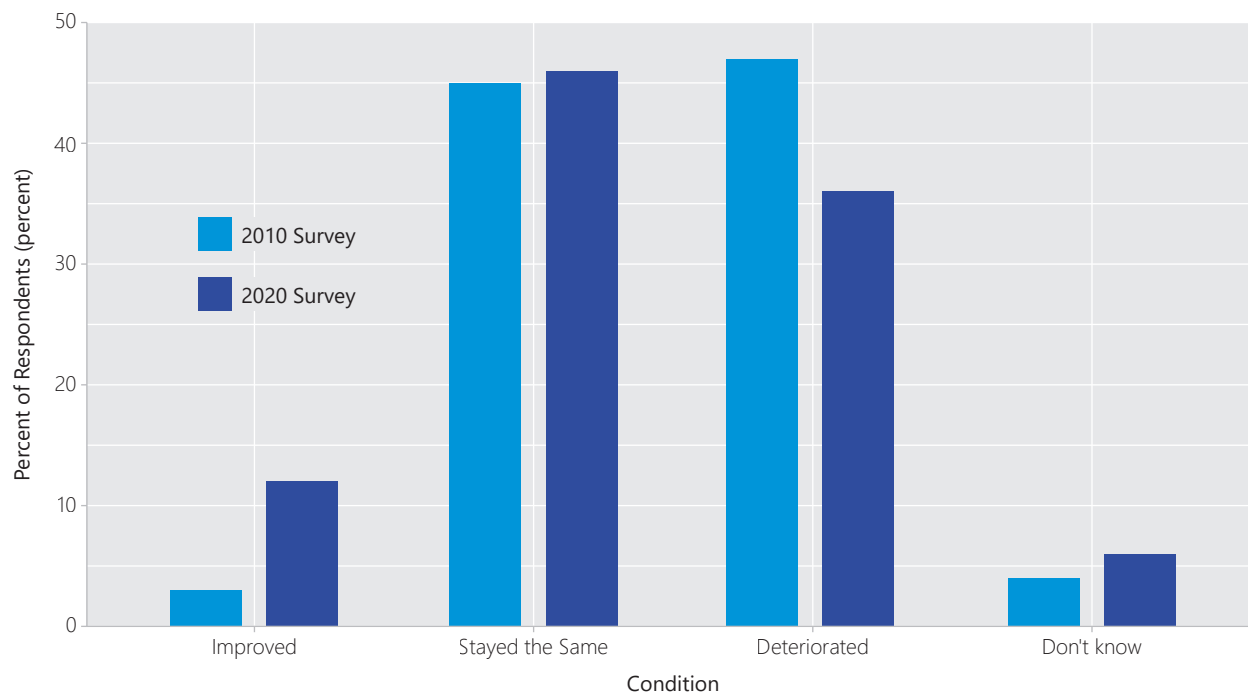
- Clear water
- No invasive aquatic plants
- Sustaining native populations of plant and animal life
- No septic or sewage leaching into the Lake
- No algae or bacteria
- No odor

A plurality of respondents, 46 percent, indicated that the Lake's water quality had remained the same since they had first moved to or visited the area. Nearly 36 percent of respondents perceived the Lake to have deteriorated during their period of their residence at the Lake, while 12 percent felt that the quality had improved, and 6 percent didn't know how the Lake's water quality had changed. This response indicates slightly improving perceptions of the Lake's water quality trend compared to 2010, when a plurality of respondents considered the Lake's water quality to be deteriorating (see Figure 2).

Numbers of Boats

A second issue of major concern reported by respondents during the 2020 survey was the perceived overabundance of boats. Concern for the numbers of boats has been as an issue of concern in every previous survey, attaining 82 percent of respondents in 1990, 60 percent of respondents in 2000, and 55 percent of respondents in 2010. This issue remained a top priority in 2020, with many respondents citing increased boat traffic on weekends, particularly by non-residents, safety concerns with large waves and traffic violations, as well as Lake damage caused by boat waves. Several respondents noted a link between water quality and the number of boats, citing decreased water clarity on weekends. Respondents reported higher numbers of boats on the Lake as well as greater horsepower of powerboats. This combination may be contributing to safety and water quality problems.

Figure 2
Percent of Responses to 'How has the quality of the Lake changed?' in 2010 and 2020 Powers Lake Surveys



Source: District of Powers Lake and SEWRPC

Numbers of Wakeboard Boats

The third major issue or concern reported by respondents was the number of wakeboard boats on the Lake. As previously mentioned, this was a new response option that was added to the 2020 survey to specifically address concerns with wakeboard boats versus all other boat types (e.g., pontoons, powerboats, canoes). While wakeboard boats were not a specific option in the 2010 survey, they were listed as a major concern and mentioned as causing problems with producing large waves as well as chopping up and spreading aquatic plants throughout the Lake. Wakeboard boats have become increasingly popular throughout Southeastern Wisconsin and many lakes have experienced an increase in their use. Several respondents cited increased heavy powerboating and wakeboard boating as one of the reasons they considered the lake to be over-utilized on the weekends. Additionally, wakeboard boats were perceived to be stirring up the Lake bottom, tearing up aquatic plants, and disturbing the smooth water conditions preferred by water-skiers. When asked how to improve the situation, common responses included limiting wakeboard boat operation only to the deepest waters in Powers Lake and inhibiting their use in shallow areas, such as Jefferson Bay; limiting their operation to only certain days or hours of the day; and prohibiting non-residents from using wakeboard boats on the Lake.

OTHER ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Abundance of Aquatic Plants

Aquatic plants continued to be an issue of concern among the Powers Lake community, although the numbers of respondents indicating significant concern over the abundance of aquatic plants and algae in the Lake has declined with each survey. In the 2000 survey, 64 percent of respondents felt Powers Lake had excessive algal and aquatic plant growth; in 2010, this percentage dropped to 53 percent; and in 2020, this percentage dropped to 46 percent. Respondents offered the following reasons for their concerns:

- An increase in abundance and density of aquatic plants compared to previous years
- Excessive plants in Jefferson Bay, the channel between the Bay and the rest of the Lake, and near the outlet to East Branch Nippersink Creek

- Aquatic plants collecting on the Lake shorelines
- Boat traffic chopping up plants and spreading them, particularly in bays
- Chemical application has killed highest quality aquatic plants
- Global warming making it more challenging to control plant and algal growth
- Lack of purple loosestrife removal
- Low water depth in some areas of the Lake
- Invasive plants continue to flourish, particularly milfoil on the eastern end of the Lake

When queried concerning methods of control for excessive algae and aquatic plants, respondents to the 2020 survey indicated the highest preference for frequent chemical treatment of aquatic invasive species. Other options with a high preference included mechanical harvesting of plants, septic pumping, and development controls on and near the shoreline as a means of reducing nutrient loads to the Lake (see Figure 3). Compared to the 2010 survey, there was similar preference for mechanical harvesting and septic pumping, but there was also an increased preference for development control and decrease preference for chemical application. Frequent treatment of aquatic invasive species was a new option added to the 2020 survey.

Respondent comments on the preferred methods of control of algae and aquatic plants included:

- Dredging Jefferson Bay
- Dredging and maintaining the channel between the Bay and the Lake
- Dredging the entrance to East Branch Nippersink Creek
- Providing more information to lakeshore residents about control options
- Controlling water let out of the Lake
- Cleaning dead aquatic plants from the shorelines
- Stop boaters from urinating in the Lake
- Installing municipal sewers

Several residents also voiced opposition to algae and plant control options, particularly use of chemical application and biological control, which they deemed to be harmful to the Lake.

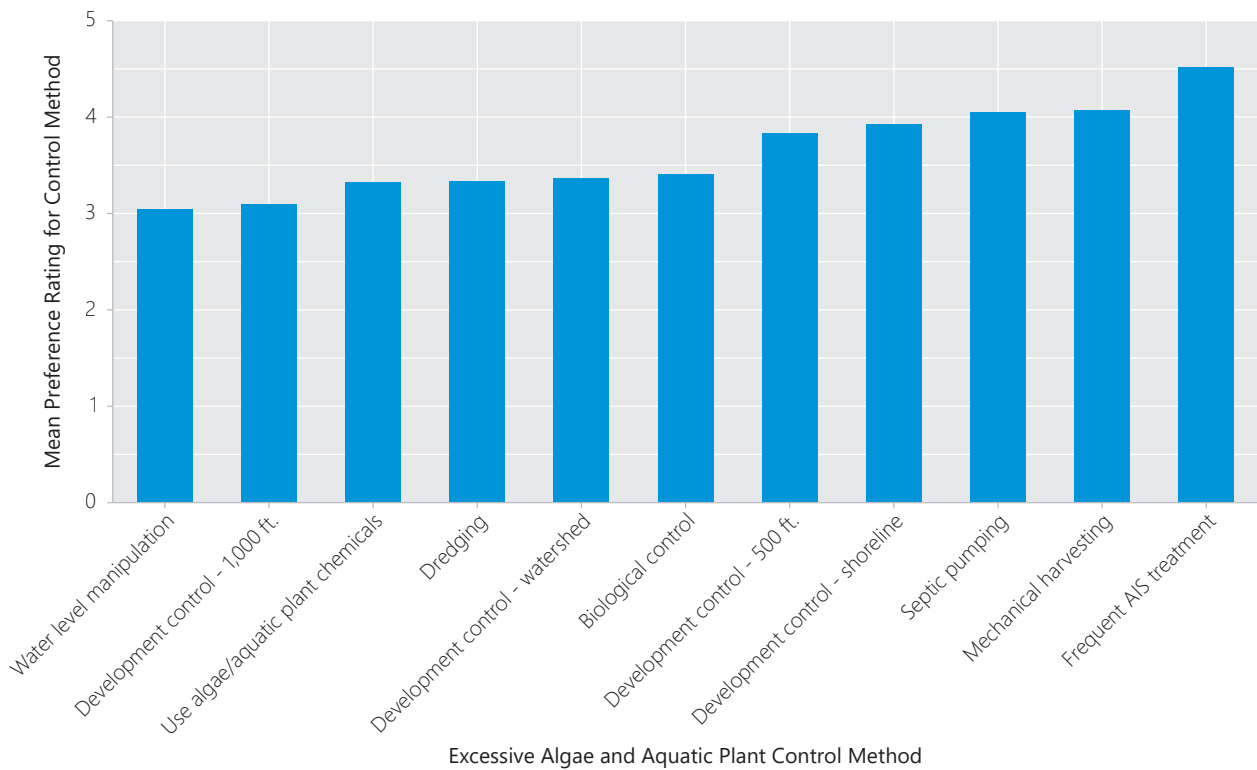
Regulations and Law Enforcement Issues and Concerns

As noted above, respondents continued to agree that Powers Lake was lightly- to moderately-used during weekdays and heavily- to overly- used during the weekends. Nevertheless, there was a general level of satisfaction with the existing boating ordinances and regulations, and manner of their enforcement: 79 percent of respondents indicated they were satisfied or well-satisfied with regard to the boating ordinances and 73 percent were satisfied or well-satisfied with their enforcement. The level of satisfaction expressed by the respondents was similar to that expressed in the 2010 survey.

Reasons given as to why they were not satisfied with the boating regulations and enforcement included:

- Regulate the number of boats on the Lake
- Slow no wake should begin at 9:00 a.m. instead of 10 a.m.

Figure 3
Preference for Excessive Algae and Aquatic Plant Controls as Rated by 2020 Survey Respondents



Note: Respondents were instructed to rate control methods from least preferred (1) to most preferred (5).

Source: District of Powers Lake and SEWRPC

- Slow no wake should be extended until noon
- Slow no wake should start at 4:00 p.m.
- Boats moving against traffic and speeding inside of slow-no-wake buoys
- Patrol boat cannot sit at entrance to Jefferson Bay—too narrow
- Jefferson Bay should always be slow-no-wake
- Increase no-wake hours on weekends
- Limit number of boats on Lake
- Water-skiing rules not being enforced within Jefferson Bay
- Reduce the number of hours and days for sailing regattas
- Increase boater education rather than police enforcement
- Not enough police presence and too many violations are ignored or otherwise unenforced
- Control noise (loud music) from boats

The following reasons were provided regarding dissatisfaction with police enforcement:

- Little police representation during the week
- Not enough police presence during the weekend
- Too much police enforcement and residents feel like they are being watched
- Police behavior is bordering on harassment
- Too many violations are ignored or otherwise unenforced

Watershed Issues and Concerns

While there was a general level of satisfaction with the existing boating ordinances and regulations and manner of their enforcement, there was somewhat less satisfaction with the application of other ordinances that affected the Lake. In terms of **level of development** (land use regulations), the plurality of respondents, 48 percent, were either satisfied or well satisfied in this regard; 24 percent had no strong feeling; 17 percent were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied; and 11 percent felt they needed more information. Respondent comments on this topic included the following:

- Too much development with sense that the Lake is getting “too crowded”
- Homes and boathouses built too close to the shore with no protection from setbacks or zoning
- Homes are too large for the small lots
- New construction lacks proper landscaping and allows increased runoff into Lake

Regarding **stormwater management** (zoning regulations), 51 percent of respondents were either satisfied or well satisfied, 24 percent had no strong feeling, 9 percent were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, and 17 percent felt they needed more information. Respondent comments included the following:

- Lack of information or understanding regarding stormwater management
- Runoff from roads and other impervious surfaces affecting lots and the Lake
- Over-application of road salts in winter to the Knolls streets

Concerning the issue of **sanitation regulations** (solid waste disposal and sewerage regulations) on Powers Lake, 62 percent of respondents were either satisfied or well satisfied, 14 percent had no strong feeling, 9 percent were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, and, 15 percent felt they needed more information. Respondent comments included the following:

- Municipal water and sewers should be installed
- Septic tanks should be banned
- Septic tanks are too close to Lake
- Septic tanks are leaky and are draining into Lake
- Septic tanks have not been checked in 35 years
- Lack of septic tanks means no condominiums, which is a positive for the Lake
- There shouldn't be any waste disposal or sewage in the Lake

Given that between ten to twenty percent of respondents indicated a need for further information on these ordinance-related topics, inclusion of information on these topics should be considered for inclusion in forthcoming newsletters and/or placement on the DPL website. Information also could be featured at the annual meetings of the DPL.

Lake Management District Issues and Concerns

Most respondents (85 percent) indicated that they considered the DPL to be generally doing a good job in managing Powers Lake, which is lower than the 92 percent reported in the 2010 survey. Respondents offered the following explanations for their opinion:

- Yes, particularly given the DPL's limited funding
- Yes, the DPL effectively deals with aquatic invasive species
- Yes, the newsletter, website, and information provided by the DPL are appreciated
- Yes, many other Southeastern Wisconsin lakes are getting worse year after year while Powers Lake has improved water quality
- Unsure due to lack of knowledge on what the DPL has been doing
- No, DPL is too focused on water quality monitoring
- No, too concerned with boating rules and not enough focus on invasive species
- No, water quality has declined over past 40 years
- No, DPL is dominated by a few voices and outside opinions are not encouraged
- No, decision to apply aquatic herbicides has irreversibly harmed the Lake

The 2020 survey results indicate that regular attendance of the annual meetings of the DPL has steadily declined, with only 22 percent of respondents reported regularly attending the meetings. This percentage is a decrease from the 31 percent in 2010 and the 43 percent in the 2000 survey.⁵ The major reasons for not attending were that the meeting was held at an inconvenient time, that the respondents were out of town, and that the respondents had to work. Many respondents who reported being unable to attend annual meetings requested that these meetings be held using videoconferencing technology. Respondents felt Saturday mornings would be best for scheduling annual meetings, but responses also included weekday evenings, on Friday evenings, and Sunday afternoons. When asked "if they would attend annual meetings" if the meetings were not held on Fridays at 5:00 p.m. (17:00), responses slightly favored "no" over "yes". Respondents seemed to indicate that Fridays at 7:00 p.m. (19:00) or Saturday mornings as viable alternatives. As with the annual meetings, several respondents requested that Friday meetings be held using videoconferencing technology to allow out of town residents to attend.

While there was good awareness of the efforts by the DPL to share news and information about the Lake—87 percent of respondents were aware of the DPL website, and over 95 percent of respondents read the DPL newsletter—there was less awareness of lake-related activities outside of the Powers Lake community. Only 12 percent of respondents subscribed to the University of Wisconsin-Extension *Lake Tides* publication, while less than 10 percent maintained membership in the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) or attended the Wisconsin Lakes Convention. While it is not unexpected that people focus on their own community, especially given the fact that many respondents maintained a primary residence elsewhere, this finding provides an opportunity for the DPL to utilize information gained through *Lake Tides*, the WAL *Lake Connection*, and the Wisconsin Lakes Convention in the DPL newsletter and sharing links on the DPL website.

⁵ *It is important to note that this survey was conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic, so attendance at the annual meeting may have been muted as a result.*

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAKE-RELATED IMPROVEMENTS

In the 2020 survey, 61 percent of respondents indicated a willingness to contribute more money for lake-related improvements. This was a substantial increase over the 52 percent of respondents willing to contribute more money in 2010. Those who reported being unwilling to pay more for lake improvements provided the following comments on who should pay for lake improvements:

- Non-residents who use the boat launch
- Grants and lake users
- Existing taxes are high—there should be enough to operate within budget
- WDNR, State of Wisconsin, and/or the U.S. federal government
- Reduce the police budget
- Need more information to know what improvements would be proposed

Such responses reflect the perception of many lake communities that they are unfairly bearing the burden for maintaining resources that form “common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the State as to the citizens of the United States, without any tax, impost or duty therefor.”⁶ Riparian property owners do have exclusive rights of access, use, and opportunities to harvest natural resources from streams.⁷

Comments regarding how funds should be raised included:

- Raising boat launch fees, particularly for powerboats
- Use existing tax revenue
- Assessments on shoreline homeowners
- Bonds
- Fundraising and/or subscription to newsletter

With respect to the recreational boating access launch fee, the ability of the launch-site owner/operator to charge a fee for the service provided is limited pursuant to Chapter NR 1 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code* to a fee that is consistent with the fee charged for entry to the Wisconsin State Parks. Provision is made in Chapter NR 1 for additional charges in cases where recreational boating launch sites have restroom facilities, attendants, and related improvements.

With respect to financial assistance from the State, funds for lake management activities are available primarily through the newly created Chapter NR 193 Surface Water Grants Program. In recent year, the DPL has applied to programs that now fall under NR 193, such as lake protection grants, for financial support of lake management activities. Some additional funding may be available through the Chapter NR 153 Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant Program, with respect to the management of runoff from the roadways surrounding Powers Lake.

Comments regarding which additional improvements should be implemented included:

- Water quality monitoring and management
- Dredging, particularly in Jefferson Bay and channel

⁶ See Section 1 of Article IX of the Wisconsin Constitution.

⁷ Paul G. Kent and Tamara A. Dudiak, *Wisconsin Water Law: A Guide to Water Rights and Regulations*, Second Edition, University of Wisconsin-Extension Publication No. G3622, 2001, page 13.

- Aquatic plant management, including harvesting, dredging, and biological control
- Installing and maintaining sewers
- Removal of aquatic invasive species
- Wetland or land acquisition near Lake
- Fish stocking
- Increased water patrol

Issues that respondents would like more information about included:

- More fishing reports or information on fish status in newsletter
- Encourage residents to turn off lights on Lake with "lights out" campaign
- More information on water quality monitoring, particularly for chloride
- Information regarding building and zoning regulations
- Conduct more resident opinion surveys on specific issues
- Report the Lake water elevations on the DPL website
- Provide information about *Lake Tides* and *Lake Connection* on DPL website and/or newsletter.

Other issues or concerns respondents wanted to bring to the attention of the DPL included:

- Municipal sewer system
- Road salt in Powers Lake
- Too much light pollution at night
- Water runoff drainage issues at Nippersink Road. and Powers Lake Road
- Enforcing noise regulations on boats with loud music
- Increase in invasive aquatic plants, particularly Eurasian watermilfoil
- Investigating use of videoconferencing technology for DPL meetings to encourage participation
- Providing the cell phone numbers of Randall Water Patrol in case of emergency
- Lake police and sailboat races
- How purchasing wetland is unnecessary since wetlands are protected from development
- Enforcement of regulations
- Large boats and excessive noise

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The first community survey of the Powers Lake community was conducted under the auspices of the planning program that led to the compilation of the comprehensive lake management plan for Powers Lake.⁸ This plan has guided the selection and implementation of lake management practices in-and-around Powers Lake since its publication in 1991. The success of these management measures was gauged through the second community survey conducted in the Powers Lake community during 2000. This survey reinforced the ongoing conduct of the lake management program being carried out by the DPL, while more clearly focusing the scope of DPL activities into the areas of water quality protection, watercraft/recreational use regulation, and public access management. The 2010 survey informed the formulation of the 2011 MR 193 Powers Lake protection plan.

The 2020 community survey confirms the community support for the actions being undertaken by the DPL but emphasizes the need for DPL interventions to more stringently regulate watercraft/recreational use, protect water quality, and pursue dredging projects in shallow areas of the Lake. With respect to the funding for these interventions, the current survey indicated that a majority of respondents would be willing to make a greater financial investment towards Powers Lake. However, many respondents also support the actions of the DPL Board of Commissioners in increasing boat launch fees and seeking external funding through which to implement ongoing lake management actions. Of the respondents disappointed in the DPL, their responses and comments indicate that greater community outreach and engagement, such as hosting virtual meetings or posting current information on water levels and quality, would improve their perception.

⁸ SEWRPC *Community Assistance Planning Report No. 196*, op. cit.

APPENDICES

**POWERS LAKE, WI
RESIDENT OPINION SURVEY
LAKE USE AND WATER QUALITY**

PART I. Please tell us about how your time is spent at Powers Lake
(circle one residency type, then answer questions below):

A. Is this your:

1. Primary residence? If YES....

- a. Are you eligible to vote in local elections (Randall, Wheatland, Bloomfield)
YES (27; 100%)/ NO (0; 0%)
- b. Do you vote in local elections? **YES (25; 93%) / NO (2; 7%)**

2. Secondary residence? If YES, select **ONLY ONE** description that best describes your time spent at Powers Lake.

- a. Summer season [June-August] **(2; 3%)**
- b. Extended summer [spring to fall] **(37; 46%)**
- c. Summer weekends **(8; 10%)**
- d. Vacations only **(1; 1%)**
- e. Weekends year-round **(32; 40%)**

B. How many days per year do you spend at Powers Lake?

(non-primary residence average = 93 days)

C. How many years have you lived in this area?

- 1. Less than one year **(1; 1%)**
- 2. One year to five years **(9; 9%)**
- 3. Six years to 10 years **(7; 7%)**
- 4. More than 10 years **(21; 20%)**
- 5. More than 25 years **(30; 29%)**
- 6. More than 50 years **(36; 35%)**

D. Do you use other Southeastern Wisconsin Lakes for recreation (fishing, swimming, skiing, picnicking, camping, etc.)? If YES, please list them.

- 1. YES **(19; 18%)** – **Beulah, Chippewa Flowage, Geneva, Lac La Belle, Pell, Tichigan**
- 2. NO **(86; 72%)**

PART II. How do you use Powers Lake?

A. Open Water Fishing (If you do not fish skip to B)

1. Days fished per year (**average = 23 days**)

Usually fish from: pier/shore (**13; 33%**) boat (**10; 25%**) both equally (**17; 43%**)

2. Which species of fish did you catch last year? (circle all that apply)

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Northern Pike (16) | e. White Sucker (0) | i. Other (please specify) |
| b. Walleye (13) | f. Panfish (26) | Perch, Rock Bass (1) |
| c. Largemouth Bass (24) | g. Yellow Perch (10) | Catfish, Gar (2) |
| d. Smallmouth Bass (17) | h. Crappie (19) | Bluegill (4) |

3. Which of the following fish do you think **increased** in NUMBER of fish caught (write I), **decreased** in NUMBER of fish caught (write D), or **remained the same** (write S), within the last ten years?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Northern Pike (6/10/5) | e. White Sucker (0/4/3) | i. Other (please specify) |
| b. Walleye (6/8/2) | f. Panfish (6/4/8) | _____ |
| c. Largemouth Bass (6/6/9) | g. Yellow Perch (5/5/4) | _____ |
| d. Smallmouth Bass (4/6/7) | h. Crappie (2/4/11) | _____ |

4. Do you think the number of CARP in Powers Lake have increased, decreased, or remained the same, within the last ten years (circle one)?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Increased (7; 25%) | b. Decreased (4; 14%) | c. Stayed the Same (17; 61%) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

5. How do you rate the fishing quality (circle one)?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. excellent (2; 5%) | c. fair (19; 48%) |
| b. good (18; 46%) | d. poor (0; 0%) |

B. Ice-fishing (If you do not ice-fish skip to C)

1. How many days did you ice fish over the past year? (**average = 3.6 days**)

2. Which species of fish did you catch last winter? (circle all that apply)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Northern Pike (4) | e. White Sucker (0) | i. Other (please specify) |
| b. Walleye (1) | f. Panfish (3) | Bluegill (1) |
| c. Largemouth Bass (2) | g. Yellow Perch (2) | _____ |
| d. Smallmouth Bass (1) | h. Crappie (2) | _____ |

3. How do you rate the quality of the ice-fishing (circle one)?

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. excellent (0) | c. fair (8; 80%) |
| b. good (2; 20%) | d. poor (0) |

C. Other Recreational Uses

1. The following list contains a number of popular water based activities. If you engage in any of these activities, please indicate the approximate number of days per year you spend on the activity in the space provided. In the last column indicate the relative importance of that activity to you by ranking the activities from 1 through 5, with 1 being least important and 5 being most important.

	Year Round (number of days)	Spring/Summer Only (number of days)	Fall/Winter Only (number of days)	Relative Importance (1-5)
*Power Boat – Cruising	47	36	10	4.2
*Pontoon Boat – Cruising	60	39	13	4.5
*PWC/Jet Ski	54	34	8	3.9
Water ski/Tube	41	33	15	4
*Power Boat – Wakeboarding or Wakesurfing	34	26	5	3.6
*Sail/Boardsail	16	21	13	3.3
*Row/Canoe/Kayak/Paddle	32	28	18	4.1
Swim/SCUBA Dive	48	26	13	3.6
Snowmobile	19	0	5	2.9
Cross-Country Ski	3	0	7	2.4
Bird Watch	173	46	43	3.7
Picnic/Barbecue	81	43	14	4.1
Walk/Jog	90	51	29	4.1
Other (Ice Skating)	1		1	1
Other (Fishing)		10		1

**If you indicated boating use of the Lake, please complete the following:*

Type of Boat:	Water Ski Boat	Pontoon Boat	Wakeboard Boat	Fishing Boat or Other Motor Boat	Personal Watercraft/ Jet Ski	Other Boats (Non-motorized boats, sailboats, canoes, etc.)
Horse Power:	257	93	354	42	95	N/A
Number Owned:	1	1	1	1.1	1.4	2.2

2. Manner in which you pursue these activities.
- a. When you use Powers Lake, do you usually do so.... (circle one):
 - 1.) on your own **(9; 9%)** 3.) with friends **(13; 13%)**
 - 2.) with family **(74; 73%)** 4.) in a group **(6; 6%)**
 - b. On WEEKDAYS, do you consider the Lake to be.... (circle one):
 - 1.) lightly used **(73; 68%)** 3.) heavily used **(2; 2%)**
 - 2.) moderately used **(30; 28%)** 4.) over used **(2; 2%)**
 - c. On WEEKENDS, do you consider the Lake to be.... (circle one):
 - 1.) lightly used **(0; 0%)** 3.) heavily used **(63; 62%)**
 - 2.) moderately used **(20; 19%)** 4.) over used **(20; 19%)**

Why?

- Non property owners. Property owners selling pier space.
- Number of boats, skiers, etc.
- Lot of activity.
- Too many powerboats with too much hp makes it hard to enjoy the lake and at times even unsafe.
- Too many boats on weekend. People dropping boat in and no knowing or following the rules.
- On weekends the water gets mucked up.
- There seems to be an increase of tubing which makes it feel busier.
- Would like to see Jefferson Bay dredged.
- Vacation/weekenders.
- Competition between pontoons, fishing boats, water skiers, tubers, general cruising.
- Varies by time.
- Too many people drop in boats on weekends.
- Many boats seem to be put in just for the day. It's hard to ski on the weekends. Wake boats should be restricted to certain hours.
- Many boats anchored requiring 100' separation decreases available water on week-ends.
- 2 public launches and fee's (*sic*) too low. Should limit # of boats.
- Compared to other lakes weekends are not that crowded.
- Much heavier boat traffic on weekends esp. 4th of July week. Before Memorial Day and after mid Aug. it's pristine esp. during the week.
- Too many day boating people clogging sandbars and littering.
- P.L. is a fairly small lake for the number of boats that use it (at times).
- Too crowded on weekends.
- Too many boats being dropped.
- We're in the bay so it appears quieter there.
- Very heavy powerboat traffic and pontoon traffic.
- Recent increase in # of "outside" power boats that don't know ski patterns and drive in an unpredictable manner. Weekend traffic has ↑. Since "no wake" until 10 AM, skiers like to start at 10 AM to take advantage of smooth water. It would be appreciated if the sailboat race could start earlier (9 AM) to reduce traffic and open ski lanes for skiers at 10 AM.
- Traffic.
- To many outsiders taking over the lake for a lousy \$8.00 at launch. Cars and trailers parked east on Bloomfield Rd. There should only be as many boats coming as spaces in launch parking lot.
- Lots of skiers and jet skis.
- Outsiders come to lake.
- More people are of on weekends.
- Too many pontoons boats of non residents stay parked all day causing friction with residents due to noise, boat inheritance, intrusion on property, loud music.
- Most people come to enjoy the lake – swim/watersports.
- Working people/kids in school.
- Too many visitors. Boat launch is crowded – cars packed along the road – rental of boatslips – oak launch manor.
- Overused – particularly on summer Saturdays; too crowded; sand bar overcrowded; people (drunken) parking their boats in front of our house and playing water football and binge drinking.
- The sailboats tie up the lake on weekend mornings, which makes it difficult to water ski until afternoon.

¹For some written responses, Commission staff added text in parentheses and italics to provide context to the response, such as what a drawn arrow was referencing on the page. Apparent respondent misspellings were also marked with (*sic*).

- This season, boat use during weekdays has significantly increased. WAY too many inexperienced day boaters.
- Launch is overused. Trailer go elsewhere. Drop in boats.
- Some people only spend weekends on the lake and invite some family and friends to join them.
- Depends, sometimes it does seem crowded and rather dangerous for those with skiers/tubers.
- Please keep no wake before 10 AM.
- We spend time during the week and find the lake used very little and it is very relaxing.
- Too many boats on the lake.
- Boat traffic.
- It is a shallow small lake with no control on boat size, motor speed, and number of launches per day, our lake is being destroyed!
Increase launch fees to equal Lake Geneva so the big boats go there.

PART III. Please tell us how you feel about the following issues that can affect your use of Powers Lake.

A. Regulations and Law Enforcement Issues:

1. How would you rate your general level of satisfaction with *law enforcement* on the Lake (e.g., boating, fish and game regulations)? (circle one)
 - a. Well satisfied (**18; 17%**)
 - b. Satisfied (**59; 56%**)
 - c. No strong feeling (**19; 18%**)
 - d. Not satisfied (**6; 6%**)
 - e. Very dissatisfied (**4; 4%**)

Why?

- Know only boating.
- In general enforcement is good but... a recent incident with a certain officer in how a close friend was very rudely treated and ticketed has made me wonder if changes need to be made!
- Variable performance of water patrol.
- Glad they are here.
- I am not as familiar with fishing laws since I do not fish.
- There are a lot of people getting away with doing stupid things, the police don't always see them.
- Not nice – 9 yrs. Here – 3 interactions – 2 negative. Last one was on my pier – w/ visitors who were shocked by attitude.
- Some boaters disregard the Dusk to Dusk period!
- Good police presence to monitor boating activity.
- Patrolled too heavily.
- Police tend to overdue (*sic*) it. For example, they threatened to cite us for swimming more than 25' away from boat.
- At times police boat sits @ mouth of bay causing congestion and unsafe distances (ex: pull ski-er).
- A few boats usually at speed after sunset.
- Generally satisfied however buoy setting needs to be done better and then monitored throughout the season (little after storms when some get moved).
- Police on most lakes are there for safety. In past 7 years there have been some that push to (*sic*) far and quite frankly are bordering harassment. Currently is the woman. Many residents (homeowners) have said they wouldn't have bought on lake if they would know how police are. Every weekend I hear another story or complaint.
- Better past few years. Seem more helpful than simply wanting to write tickets.
- I feel that boating regulations should be enforced a bit more.
- Although they miss some boaters not following rules.
- Excessive boat audio, speed, noise.
- Not out often enough.
- They are always friendly and keep lake safe.
- Don't often see, not effected (*sic*) by.
- Always on the lake.
- I always see the police boat monitoring the lake.
- See them (the police) often and people are generally obeying the laws.
- Current staff have good judgement.
- They don't always see the major infractions of the rules.
- Patrolled – not overly so.
- Little representation during week.
- Seems adequate – sometimes noise problems of boaters is not addressed.
- Much better than it used to be, although unless a flagrant act of misuse – warnings would be appreciated.
- Too much!! Just too much, always feel like being watched.
- I do wish there was a second boat out on weekends.
- We feel it is needed on week-ends for day boaters who do not abide by the rules.
- On busy weekends, one police boat isn't enough.

-Not enough hours on Lake and many dangerous violations are allowed. There will surely be a very severe accident.

2. How would you rate your general level of satisfaction with *boating regulations* on the Lake? (circle one)

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. Well satisfied (26; 24%) | d. Not satisfied (18; 17%) |
| b. Satisfied (56; 52%) | e. Very satisfied (0; 0%) |
| c. No strong feeling (5; 5%) | f. Need more information (2; 2%) |

3. If you answered “Not satisfied” or “Very dissatisfied” to Question 2 above, how would you change the *boating regulations* on the Lake?

- Surf and wake board boats that need 20’ of water ruining the lake. The weight and thrust angle churning up the lake.
- Education attitude is more helpful than aggressive ticketing and poor explanations.
- Less hours for boats to create a wake; more quiet daytime hours.
- I would like to see some regulations for the powerboats to decrease the amount of large waves and all the seaweed they kick up that makes the shorelines a mess.
- I would like to see more “no wake” time periods. Along with more boat launching regulation.
- I happen to have a lot of fishermen/women near our dock because we are in a quieter area. This year there have been more dead fish ending up on our shore which we clean up. I think they catch and release fish that end up dying. I would like a law that they can’t just sit in front of someone’s dock for hours (as I have witnessed).
- No wake until 9:00 AM – not 10:00.
- We don’t need as many police boats as there are.
- The narrow area between buoys on the north-west side of rock bar causes an issue in maintaining distance on weekends, especially if you are towing a skier. If you stop and drop skier because you cannot make it thru because of distancing, it becomes very dangerous situation for the skier in the water.
- Slow-no-wake is a bit quick compared to nearby lakes, especially on holidays.
- The regulations that are in place are adequate if the majority of people would follow them.
- I think that the regulations are fine. They just need to be enforced a bit more. Plus, more public education is needed.
- Too many boats. Pontoon boats using driving lights to cruise all around the lake.
- When lake is high (slow no wake) only Jefferson Bay should be closed to SNW. My home is on lake in Knowles, son is on Jefferson Island and daughter is 2 east of town boat launch and high water never is a problem at all except Jefferson Bay all of which is close to water level. In 60 years I have never seen beaches or piers threatened with high water except Jeff. Bay.
- Need no-wake part of week-end like Sun afternoon (like no-wake after 4:00 PM (Like Crystal Lake, IL does))
- When boats are not towing they should follow counter clockwise. Too many times boats are unsafely going against traffic.
- No wake in Jefferson Bay – all the time.
- There needs to be a limit to how many boat rental slips are allowed. There are too many boaters with only that slips that park boats in lake and interfere with boat traffic.
- Police seem to be fair minded.
- Especially the 10:00 AM start/dusk – no wake – very appreciated. Thank you!
- No wake in Jefferson Bay!
- Increase the no wake time on weekends.
- Though we wonder how water-skiing rules can realistically be followed in Jefferson Bay given distances laid out for buoys/piers/PWCs – this is not possible and not being enforced.
- I suggest reducing the number of sailing/regatta days so that it is only one day per weekend or ½ of the weekends. The sailboats greatly limit other uses of the lake for 4+ hours each weekend during prime activity hours. Or start and end the races an hour earlier.
- Police staff very friendly and informative but need additional police boat on many weekends/holiday weeks. (2020) Not much ↑ boat traffic during the week as well.
- Too many unenforced violations.
- Keep the same – safe – but have fun!
- Fishing boats to not respect the water ski lane.
- No wake should be extended to noon (it would help reduce launches). Sunset should be a set time. Slow no wake should be moved to 300 ft from shoreline not 200 – boaters speed inside the buoys. Do not allow overnite camping and bathing in the lake especially at the Knolls Beach.

B. Watershed Issues (all land that drains into Powers Lake):

1. How do you rate your general level of satisfaction with the *level of development* (land use zoning regulations) in the Lake watershed? (circle one)

- a. Well satisfied (8; 8%)
- b. Satisfied (41; 40%)
- c. No strong feeling (25; 24%)
- d. Not satisfied (12; 12%)
- e. Very dissatisfied (6; 6%)
- f. Need more information (11; 11%)

Why?

- My feeling is more efforts should be made to acquire wetlands.
- Mostly agricultural and residential, not too much impervious surfaces.
- Too much development.
- Getting crowded.
- Houses and boathouses allowed to be built too close to the shore. In the past, this was not allowed.
- House building water run-off.
- Oversize houses on small lots. 10' setback is not sufficient!! Next door neighbor use our paved walkway for their access to the lake cause there is not room in their lot.
- Tear down houses with structures (garages) should not be grandfathered.
- The lake is over crowded. The apartment complex should not be allowed to rent out 22 boat slips/piers. Either (*sic*) should Uncle Ed's.
- I don't have a good understanding.
- Dredging, building new boathouses within 75 ft. setback.
- Sewers should be installed and septic should be banned.
- Jefferson island channel dredging overdo (*sic*) and acct (*sic*) stagnant (*sic*), unhealthy for lake.
- Not monitored.
- Please no more building.
- Houses are getting a bit tooo BIG.
- Over developed.
- Not familiar with the level of development.
- I thought construction was illegal at waters edge but boathouses are built!
- Seems to be a double-standard on set backs i.e. keeping development 75 ft. back – don't think so.
- Too many building – garages with living quarters on the lake.
- Requirement to pull out all non-conforming structures within 75 ft.
- Though I can read all info, I am not qualified to comment.
- Anything goes now – no protection in zoning.
- We need to read communications previously sent more completely.
- PROTECT THE WATER!!!
- Too much development.
- Boat house rules such as no glass windows, plumbing, and air conditioning have been allowed. I've called DNR 15+ times. New construction w/out proper landscaping has gone on and neglected for years on the same property and garbage and land slides into Lake. The regulations are not policed. They allow most non conformance to exist.

2. How do you rate your general level of satisfaction with *stormwater management* (land use zoning regulations) in the Lake watershed? (circle one)
 - a. Well satisfied (10; 10%)
 - b. Satisfied (43; 41%)
 - c. No strong feeling (25; 24%)
 - d. Not satisfied (6; 6%)
 - e. Very dissatisfied (3; 3%)
 - f. Need more information (17; 16%)

Why?

- Don't know anything about it.
- Too much development.
- Water should flow freely out but does not.
- The inlet that connects Jefferson Bay to the main port of the lake should be cleaned out/dredged.
- I don't have a good understanding.
- Road drainage negatively impacts my lot.
- I live on high ground and hill.
- Except Part III #3 with slow no wake.
- Jefferson Bay needs attention.
- Don't know if there is a plan.
- To build on already impervious deck is too onerous.
- No protection for shoreline.
- PROTECT THE WATER!!
- Runoff from impervious surfaces.

-The Knolls streets are over salted in winter.

3. How do you rate your general level of satisfaction with *sanitation regulations* (waste disposal, sewerage) in the Lake watershed? (circle one)
- a. Well satisfied (11; 11%) d. Not satisfied (7; 75%)
b. Satisfied (50; 50%) e. Very dissatisfied (2; 2%)
c. No strong feeling (14; 14%) f. Need more information (15; 15%)

Why?

- Have septic, etc.
- Need public sewer system.
- Sewers would be better of course; holding tanks required with new aerification with is good.
- It would be nice to be able to suck out some of the muck by shore in the Bay.
- There should be municipal water and sewers installed.
- I know there are problem areas.
- Older homes need septic regulations like the newer homes have in place.
- Sewers should be installed and septic should be banned.
- Lake, in general, very clean; pristine (*sic*).
- People have leaky systems.
- Septic fields still drain into lake. Holding tanks?
- Fertilizers from lawns run off into lake. Need more enforcement of areas of lake that don't have water flow.
- There shouldn't be any of the underlined above (*respondent underlined "waste disposal" and "sewage"*).
- No sewer = no condos – positive!
- Need weekly recycling in summer.
- Some septic systems are too close to the lake.
- Sewers have not been checked for leaking into the Lake in 35 years? Runoff at that time was not fined or followed up to see if they were cleaned.

C. Water Quality issues:

1. Do you consider the Lake to have *good water quality*?
- Yes (97; 95%) No (5; 5%)
- a. Based upon **WATER CLARITY** and/or water tests? (circle one)
- YES (92; 90%) NO (10; 10%)
- b. Based upon algae and/or **AQUATIC PLANTS**? (circle one)
- YES (57; 64%) NO (32; 36%)
- c. Based upon **AESTHETICS** and/or wildlife conditions? (circle one)
- YES (82; 91%) NO (8; 9%)

2. How would you describe good water quality?

- In transition from great to moderate.
- Clarity.
- Little or no algae and/or water we(*eds*).
- Clear in low boating seasons, some submerged weeds, no large algae blooms.
- Ability to sustain native species; safe for human use.
- During the week you can see to the bottom in shallows. On weekend it is murky and weeds floating everywhere.
- Clear water, minimal seaweed.
- Clarity and sustainability.
- The water quality is good. However weeds have gotten out of control.
- Clarity.
- Control of algae, septic plumes, adventitious chemical such as Road Salt and phosphorus based fertilizer.
- The way it was 40 years ago. You could drink this water.
- Clear and good test results.
- Clarity and invasive weed control.
- Clear water.

- Clear and odor free.
- Thriving wildlife, clear water, water plant life.
- Clarity, low bacteria levels.
- Nitrate management.
- Clear, clean looking.
- Varies in areas of Lake.
- Clarity to a depth of at least 5'.
- Clear.
- Clear with limited muck.
- Water quality is great, but every spring it seems like all the leaves from tge entire lake end up in front of our shoreline. Also excessive seaweed in front of our shoreline.
- It's very clear.
- Your ability to filter and drink the water.
- Seem less fish this year? More algae growing @ shoreline.
- No suspended mud in lake.
- Clean and clear with healthy lake wildlife. However invasive species need to be managed better i.e. milfoil weed, etc.
- Clarity – few invasive weeds – decreases in muscles (*sic*) – imported from Launched BOATS.
- How far can one see down.
- Very good, too much churning on weekends.
- Excellent.
- Clarity.
- Clarity, quality and number of fish.
- Clarity and tests. Too many milfoil and algae and not much being done about it.
- Clear.
- Clarity, cleanliness (no sewer/septic leaching), controlled weed management. (*Regarding changing quality of Lake*) Same or maybe deteriorated some – been on the lake 34 years. I think fishing pressure on lake has increased.
- Drinkable, clear, clean, sanitary.
- Clear.
- Ok.
- Great.
- Yes, especially when it was high and the boat traffic low.
- Clear, no smell, no bacteria.
- By the clarity.
- Deteriorating. Heavy poisoning of the weeds over the years was a terrible decision. Only the skiers were considered in that decision.
- Water with visibility and smooth conditions that I would allow my children to swim in.
- Being able to see through the water to see the bottom of the lake.
- Can see thru.
- How clear and clean when not stirred up.
- Clean – clear, little or no sewage.
- Clean/clarity.
- Clear water, a balance of wildlife and aquatic plants and insects. Wildlife sustainability is the indicator of good water quality.
- Water clarity and no invasives.
- Purity, clarity, control of invasive plants, aesthetics.
- I have put a glass into the water and it was as clear as tap water!!!
- Great to many weeds!
- Quality is good – but getting worse year after year – too many boaters use the lake as a bathroom.
- Pretty clear.
- Very clear.
- Primarily through relevant water tests.
- Clear and few weeds.
- Clear to 4' on weekdays.
- Clear and conducive to wildlife.
- Clear, not weedy.
- Very good.
- Clean water, healthy life.
- Clearness and not too much growth of seaweed.
- Clarity, amount of debris, smell.
- Healthy growth and fish.
- Clear and clean.
- Able to drink out of cup.
- In the past water quality was clear and awesome!! Not many weeds – could see the bottom. Now cut weeds are always on the shore.

3. In your opinion, how has the quality of the Lake changed since you first moved to or visited the area? (circle one)

- a. Improved (13; 12%) c. Deteriorated (38; 36%)
- b. Stayed the same (49; 46%) d. Don't know (6; 6%)

D. Aquatic Plant Management Issues:

- 1. Do you feel that the Lake has excessive algae and/or aquatic plant growth? (circle one)

 - a. YES (47; 57%) b. NO (29; 35%) c. DON'T KNOW (6; 7%)

Why?

- In some locations due to development/construction abuses.
- I think the issue is the boats – no issue during week.
- Algae is new; density of weeds.
- More seaweed every year.
- Seaweed has increase. Mussels.
- I think that is what gets chopped up each weekend.
- Seems like there is more growth.
- Especially in Jefferson Bay.
- We are inundated with weeds on our side of the lake. Whatever to get rid of the seaweed. Our side is the heaviest with seaweed and June itch! We can't use our shoreline or swim the whole month of June.
- Creek area – Jefferson Bay – not cared for/ignored too much. Fact that (*Creek*) is not listed (*drawn arrow to "Place additional developmental controls on these areas"*) is a big part of the problem. What has been done is not working.
- In the bay.
- Too much seaweed.
- Seen more on our shoreline this year. (*Under "how you like to see the excessive algae and aquatic plants controlled?"*) – More resident information needed to make informed response. Pro/con for each option.
- In some areas/Jefferson bay/shallow areas.
- Because spending time and money managing the weeds. (*Regarding control of excessive algae and aquatic plants*) – Should be able to control water being let out of lake. Inlet/channel between Jefferson Bay and main part of lake needs to be cleaned/dredged regularly.
- The Bays have had plant growth for 80 years and all efforts will not work in the long run.
- A bit too many weeds near pier and muck.
- East end is infested with milfoil and other invasive plants.
- High weeds get cut by boats and end up in Bay.
- Lilly pads are out of control in some areas.
- Nature provides from God what it needs.
- See III A-3 previous. (*Respondent wrote "When lake is high (slow no wake) only Jefferson Bay should be closed to SNW. My home is on lake in Knowles, son is on Jefferson Island and daughter is 2 east of town boat launch and high water never is a problem at all except Jefferson Bay all of which is close to water level. In 60 years I have never seen beaches or piers threatened with high water except Jeff. Bay."*)
- Most of the highest quality weed growth has been killed by poison. (*Respondent wrote "Please stop!" next to "Biological control [i.e. weevil]"*).
- By late July/August, plants have grown from bottom of lake to surface at the end of the pier.
- There is less seaweed on the shore.
- I have seen worse on other small lakes.
- Plants are moving/growing in close to swimming areas.
- In low water depth areas. (*Under "how you like to see the excessive algae and aquatic plants controlled?"*) Zebra mussels are a huge problem for all freshwater lakes.
- (*Under "how you like to see the excessive algae and aquatic plants controlled?"*) Stop boaters from using the lake as a bathroom. In the summer you have 200 boats. People all day in the sandbar – where do you think they go. One kid peeing in the Lake is cute – 100 kids peeing is sewage.
- (*Under "how you like to see the excessive algae and aquatic plants controlled?"*) Not excessive, but probably too much. Especially the channel. It was much more passable 30+ years ago. I could get through it with my 14 foot boat +9.9. Now only with paddle boat.
- Global warming makes the fight against excessive algae and plant growth difficult.
- But, the weeds need to be controlled.
- Rampant weed growth.
- Excessive weeds this year.
- Channel is ignored by DPL.
- Too many fishermen bringing boats onto the lake from other areas.
- We are on the east side and seem to get tons of seaweed and algae. (*Under "how would you like to see excessive algae and aquatic plants controlled?"*) Environmentally safe – not a fan of damaging chemicals.
- Not enough information.
- Certain areas have gotten worse.

- Cannot swim by our pier.
- Purple loosestrife is not removed.

If you answered **NO** or **DON'T KNOW** to the previous question, skip to Part E, Major Concerns.

If you answered **YES** to the previous question, please answer the following question.

2. How would you like to see the excessive algae and aquatic plants controlled?

	1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4----- 5
	<i>Least Preferred.....Most Preferred</i>
a. Mechanical harvesting of weeds	4.1 (44 responses)
b. Use algae/aquatic plant chemicals	3.3 (48 responses)
c. Biological control [i.e. weevil]	3.4 (38 responses)
d. Place additional development controls on these areas:	
– Along the shoreline	3.9 (40 responses)
– Within 500 feet of the lakeshore	3.8 (37 responses)
– Within 1,000 feet of the lakeshore	3.1 (31 responses)
– Within the watershed	3.4 (29 responses)
e. Dredging	3.3 (43 responses)
g. Septic pumping required by District	4.0 (41 responses)
h. Water level manipulation	3.0 (41 responses)
i. Frequent aquatic invasive species treatment	4.5 (46 responses)
j. Other (Municipal sewer)	5 (2 responses)
k. Other (Need more info on cost vs. benefits)	5 (1 response)
l. Other (Dredging creek)	5 (2 responses)
l. Other (Channel/inlet dredging)	5 (2 responses)
l. Other (Channel maintenance)	5 (1 response)
l. Other (Remove shoreline purple loosestrife)	5 (1 response)

E. **Major Concerns Relating to Powers Lake:**

What are your **top FIVE concerns** about Powers Lake (place a number “1” next to the issue that is most important to you, a number “2” next to the second most important issue, and so on)?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>2.0</u> General water quality | <u>3.0</u> Unpleasant odors |
| <u>2.5</u> Number of boats | <u>3.6</u> Farm runoff |
| <u>2.7</u> Speed of boats | <u>4.4</u> Urban stormwater runoff |
| <u>2.6</u> Size of boats | <u>2.8</u> Development around the lake |
| <u>4</u> Number of water skiers | <u>3.7</u> Shoreline erosion |
| <u>3.2</u> Number of PWCs/jet skiers | <u>3.7</u> Wetland preservation |
| <u>3.2</u> Boat and trailer parking | <u>3.2</u> Water levels that fluctuate too much |
| <u>3.0</u> Decline in fishery resources | <u>3.0</u> Sedimentation/shallow areas |
| <u>2.5</u> Parking for nonresidents | <u>3</u> Use of lake and access sites by nonresidents |
| <u>3.3</u> Excessive noise | <u>3.6</u> Noise generated on the Lake |
| <u>2.5</u> Number of wakeboard boats | <u>3.4</u> Noise generated on or near shoreline |
| <u>3.1</u> Aquatic invasive species | |
| <u>3</u> Other (Non-residents who don't observe direction and go against traffic) | |
| <u>4</u> Other (Better education of boating rules for casual operators) | |
| <u>1</u> Other (Care of creek) | |
| <u>1</u> Other (Seaweeds and leaves on shoreline) | |
| <u>1</u> Other (Muck in the Bay) | |
| <u>1</u> Other (Police harassment) | |
| <u>2</u> Other (Timing of sailboat races and course takes up too much space) | |
| <u>3</u> Other (Lack of street parking) | |
| <u>1</u> Other (Channel should be dredged by US Govt) | |
| <u>5</u> Other (Short term rentals!) | |
| <u>5</u> Other (Boater/sailboat infractions, inconsiderate behavior) | |
| <u>3</u> Other (Concerns of boat speed, number, and distances of boats in Jefferson Bay) | |
| <u>2</u> Other (Anchoring of boats in traffic) | |
| <u>5</u> Other (Lake/boat SAFETY) | |
| <u>5</u> Other (Channel) | |

What do you think could be done about your concerns to improve the situation?

- I really don't know as the use of the lake has become more entertainment oriented. The numbers of boats on people's piers seems excessive. You seldom see people swimming anymore. Trees have disappeared being replaced by landscaping arrangements, etc.
- Continue to monitor and implement education and prevention measures. Weekends see a spike up in boaters so encourage to spread activity to weekdays. Continue to stock fish. Address primary sources of sediment and implement prevention at source.
- Limit non-resident trailer parking on weekends to lots only. There are so many weeds behind our shore stations that it is difficult to get boats out. Access or user fees to clear these would be acceptable. I assume they could be nominal. Most lake owners seem to follow rules. Speeding fisherman and others going against traffic should be stopped. When there are lots of boats on weekends, there are frequently distance issues that are ignored by skiers and weaving tubers. We have even seen tubers without a spotter. I know all have access to the lake, but everyone is at risk when it is too crowded. Limit trailer parking to established lots and the problem is lessened.

- Boaters lacking knowledge of boating laws and courtesy.
- We need to get rid of these invasive tiny clams. Not sure how. Why is the water quality worse on weekends? Solve that problem. Water is clear in the spring and gets worse as the summer progresses.
- I am not an expert but to increase what we are doing to protect the quality of the lake water and invasive species. To fix the shoreline or too much plant growth with whatever is safe and effective. And to create rules regarding the throwing back of fish or to not fish near the docks for long periods of time (so that it doesn't become the owner's responsibility to clean up after the dead fish).
- Jefferson Bay is way too shallow. Needs dredging.
- 1) Educating the public on how to improve/maintain water quality. 2) Make sure that high speeds are prohibited near shore. 3) Education about invasive species and rinsing boats after use. 4) There are a lot of new homes that have changed the shores around the Lake, there should be restrictions on changing topography. 5) Make sure they follow the rules of the law.
- Promote sailing. Get rid of wake boats and jet skis.
- Resource to Jefferson Bay – Creek. As kayak enthusiast – area needs a lot of work.
- #1 No resident parking on the street on weekends and holidays, would be a problem for fire and rescue vehicles!! We could not get out of our driveway because guests of across street residents parked in street blocking entrance to our driveway on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday – no fire truck or ambulance could have gotten our driveway either. #2 Continued treatment is important. #3 Loud music from boats is annoying!
- Monitor lake access/increase price for access.
- Not sure, We have to remove the leaves every year over multiple days and numerous hours to enjoy our shoreline. If there is a way to stop the leaves from traveling to our shoreline, we'd greatly appreciate it. We can live with the seaweed and algae in front of our shoreline and along the boatslips next to our property, but the seaweed and algae are unsightly.
- Dredge the bay or allow residents to put in gravel or barrier to the muck.
- Close off lake to non-residents. Require non-residents visitors to park in resident's driveway. Better control of outlet to limit no-wake orders. Treat aquatic life at shoreline.
- When parking at the launch is full, access to the lake should be restricted. We really should have only 1 boat launch (not 2) and it should be monitored. There are too many boat slips/piers at the rental apartments and at Uncle Eds/Rock Bar. People dropping in their boats should not be able to park their trailer anywhere on road around the lake. Dredging of shallow areas such as Jefferson Bay and channel MUST BE DONE VERY SOON. WATER TRAMPOLINES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED. THERE ARE TOO MANY; PEOPLE PUT THEM OUT TOO FAR FROM THEIR PIERS AND TRY TO CLAIM NO ONE CAN BOAT IN-BETWEEN. POWERS LAKE IS TOO SMALL FOR LARGE WATER TRAMPOLINES. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE WATER LEVEL ON THE LAKE. THE DNR DOES NOTHING TO ASSIST WITH THE WATER LEVEL. A LAKE WATER LOCK SHOULD BE INSTALLED.
- Restrict number of boats launched on weekends. I pay huge \$ taxes and cannot enjoy the lake on weekends because too many boats and stupid drivers.
- I think it is a pretty well run lake. The District has been doing a good job.
- Eliminate no parking area on 402nd St and rebuild shoulders.
- Monitoring the boat launch on weekends.
- The current brings debris (and garbage) into our bay.
- For such a small lake, the big boats/wake boats throw off dangerous waves. Limit wake boats to residents.
- Enforce boat trailer parking in illegal locations. Treat aquatic weeds more often. Enforce/increase boat launch fees for day boaters.
- Status of sewer around the lake? This has been talked about for years – have heard nothing recently.
- #1 Ban boats that have straight-out exhaust! #2 Several areas are in need of dredging. #5 We avoid Jefferson Bay at time due to the odor (sewage?).
- Please don't allow boats to sit in Jefferson Bay – it is too narrow and is hard for skiers to get around them.
- The Jefferson island channel was created for the Jefferson Ice Co. before year 1952. Since then, there has been a build up of muck of 4-5' deep. It is now owned by the state and is a public waterway. Boats use the channel from main part of lake to a bay which is part of the lake. There is residents and non-residents who use the channel. Because of non-residents not being able to vote to dredge the channel, and are some homeowners on the lake, the vote to dredge was struck down. Our residential lake community is very small. The channel was created by the U.S. Corp of Engineers for Jefferson Ice Co. I believe the channel should be dredged again to preserve the clean/clear water of the Lake by the U.S. Govt. The muck flows outside of channel on wind directly north and south. The "biology" pontoons and all pontoons are unable to use the channel because it became too shallow at mouths. Because it became too shallow at mouths. There are also wild trees on 91st on top of the culvert/tunnel which are interfering with the truck traffic heading westbound. There results a major lack of care for the channel. Homeowners nearby channel are already taxed over \$6,000 plus on their property and don't desire extra costs for federal or state projects.
- Better water patrol.
- Limit parking on road for cars and trailers.
- No clue.
- Do not allow large boats to make large wakes to surf behind boats. This lake is too small that (*sic*). Go to Lake Genoa (*sic*) or Michigan.
- #1 All boats should drive counter clockwise. #2 Limit how many are dropped. #3 Dredge shallow areas. #4 Add more spawn. Tighter limits.
- 1) Lake management educating themselves about the long-term negative effects of poisoning the lake. 2) Do NOT allow parking on the road near the boat launch! The number of spots available was designed for a reason. When the launch was built (for 17 spots), the old launch was supposed to be closed. That was the deal. 3) More restrictive to wake hours.

- Close off Jefferson Bay and make it no wake year-round, 24/7. It is primarily used to throw jet skiers off their rides, and tubers to be thrown off theirs, at the end of the bay. Pontoon boats will continue to enjoy the no wake. Shorelines in the bay continue to be eroded. Wake boarding with weighted boats are damaging Jefferson Bay lake bottom and cause tremendous damage.
- 1) Require an online "rules of the lake" 1 hour online certification course before letting outside boats drop in the lake. 2) Limit the # of outside boats dropped in a day to some formulaic calculation based on lake size, usage, and # of boats already docked on the lake. 3) Education – all PWC drivers should have to take online boat safety courses prior to operating a PWC on the lake. 4) Consider moving either the sailboat race or lifting slow no wake to 9 AM in order to alleviate both sets of traffic (sailboats and skiers) from entering to allow for rotation at about the same time. To me, this poses an unnecessary risk. 5) Please restrict the sailboat race from setting up their course within the ski rotation. 6) Ski rotation pattern – please re-introduce a pattern around the main bay of lake but crossing in front of sand bar.
- Purchase more wetland to control water quality. Speed boats should be limited to 21'. Wakeboard boats should operate in deep water.
- When public launch was built it was designed to limit non resident boats and trailer. The overflow is going everywhere need to be controlled.
- Make changes.
- Get rid of conventional septic systems used on the lake.
- Limit the number of boats allowed per foot of shoreline.
- 1) Too many huge houses are being built which means increased taxes for lakefront property owners. 2) Don't know how to address this problem. 3) Non-residents should be made to clean the hulls of boats before launching. No cleaning – no launching. 4) Too many boaters play loud music while using the lake. They feel it's their right to disturb others. To hand them a copy of Be Courteous sets you up for possible retribution to self/property. 5) I've seen non-residents anchor not even 100 feet from someone's property and spend a lot of swimming there. The same reasoning goes for handing out a Be Courteous form to them.
- Enforce all renters to have a noise reduction time such as 12:00 AM. It is a huge inconvenience for owners next to property that rents – very inconsiderate also → rude. Renters are unaware. Can this be enforced in an unincorporated area? Airhub/urbo renters should have a noise reduction time such as 12 AM.
- Dredge low water and weeds.
- Change non lake owners a fee to use the lake. \$250 for the season. If you do not own lake property. Thru fee will go to help keep the lake clean. Nothing is free. Why do let people ruin the Lake.
- No major concerns.
- I think the channel needs to be dredged, especially the area going into the lake. The fallen trees should be removed and some way to keep the opening to the lake wide and deep. I would contribute \$ to this process if it was done and kept up.
- No wakeboard boats in Jefferson Bay. Enforce boating rules in Jefferson Bay (ski/tow boats not able to comply with rules, therefore should be prohibited). Enforce noise restrictions, particularly fire works late @ night and loud music on boats.
- Re: anchoring of boats in traffic lanes, the police boat could ask people to move out of the main traffic area (to the middle of the lake or the slow no wake area).
- Severely limit # of day boaters to # of parking spaces. Exponential increase in fees to launch powerboats/pontoons. Restrict boat tie-ups to sand bar or middle of lake – this heavier gathering in Oakland Bay has become so dangerous especially when towing a skier. People floating too far from anchored boats/floating mats. Unaccompanied boats with all passengers swimming. Too many over-sized wakeboard boats tearing up the lake/seaweed. Lake level fluctuations have seriously impacted our ability to get boats off shore stations (north side) nearly every summer for approx. 5 years.
- *Knowledge of rules? (On use of lake and access site by nonresidents). Above pay grade.
- I am a skier. The wakeboard boats have ruined any chance of smooth water on the weekends. 20 years ago you could ski morning and night on the weekends. Not now. The stocking of the fish has to continue regularly. 13 years ago I could catch walleye regularly. Now few and far between. They stopped stocking for a while.
- Why wasn't Jefferson Bay channel specifically addressed? What about the big wetland issue/fund.
- Raise the cost of launching a boat.
- Purchase more wetlands. Regulate shoreline. Don't allow/limit development within 1,000 ft. of shoreline.
- Encourage sailing rather than all the extra non resident powerboats.
- REGULATE!!**
- Restrict number of day boaters (too many).
- Especially the weekenders and VRBO traffic.
- Limit size of boats and motors and lake access. Extend no parking on the 2 lane roads. We are 32 ft deep in the center – the waves caused by boats make swimming in the Lake after 10:00 AM impossible – it is like waves in the ocean. The dead weeds have to be cleaned from shore almost daily. Sailing and fishing are not fun or easy! Prevent skiing and wake boarding in bays – too small and shallow – motors stir up the bottom and pull out good weeds.

F. Lake Management District Issues:

1. Would you be prepared to pay more than you currently do for any improvements to the lake environment or facilities that you may have indicated above? (circle one)

a. Yes (**53; 61%**)

b. No (**34; 39%**)

If *NO*, who should pay?

- No blank check, need to know for what.
- Taxes!
- Depends on proposed improvement. Visitors, fund raising.
- DNR, donations, membership to group or nonprofit org.
- Grants, users.
- No payment needed for ↓ development allowed near shore.
- Possibly – depends on what for and how much.
- DNR.
- Reduce police budget.
- DNR.
- People using the lake that don't live on the lake. Our taxes are already so high since we don't use any of the other county services.
- Raise launch fees and beach fees. Hundreds of boats docked at Knolls etc. and they pay 0 to lake management.
- Taxes for lakefront are pretty high already.
- Non-residents using lake.
- Lake users-non district.
- U.S. Govt. or state
- Pay enough in taxes.
- State tax.
- Tax \$\$ and town money.
- Most have no cost – weeds cost but presently done.
- I pay enough in taxes.
- It should come out of our HUGE tax bills.
- What are we paying for?
- New DPL boaters.
- People who use them – non residents.
- Tax \$\$\$.
- DNR/tax funds after careful scrutiny of budgets.
- But change non lake owner fees.
- Already do – TAXES ARE TOO HIGH.
- Day boaters.
- Non-residents who “skirt” launch fees.
- Who decides how \$ are spend.
- Proper budgeting via R.E. tax should cover.
- User fees/taxes.
- Taxes too high.
- People from other lakes.

How should the funds be raised?

- User fees.
- Fundraising, subscription to newsletter.
- Assessment on power boats. Raise daily rates too.
- Fees.
- Taxes.
- Enforce boat launch fee for non residents.
- Higher fee for non-residents for boat launching and parking and small exise tax for homeowners.
- With a letter to all the residents explaining details of the costs. Maybe there is a calculation based on how much shoreline each resident has?
- Raise launch fees.
- Prorated around entire lake.
- Anyone that uses or has access to the lake should “collectively” share in the cost of maintain and/or improving the conditions of the lake.
- Reduce policing hours to 10 AM to 5 PM on weekends. Willing to pay to control of aquatic species near shoreline.
- Taxes.
- See above (non-residents using lake).
- Use tax revenue.

- Homeowner assessments and higher usage fees.
- Bonds.
- Assessment to owners, increase boat launch fees.
- We already pay them.
- Outside “dropped” boats should also have to pay more (I believe it is only \$8 to drop a boat and it introduces a variety of risks (unloan boats, uneducated drivers, etc.)).
- Boats that launch at public ramps.
- User fees for parking etc.
- DNR is state funded from a variety of sources. From their budgets and move the funds to useful places.
- Taxes.
- Boat fee structure.
- Mail solicitation – volunteer fund raiser.
- Tax bill.
- Higher ramp fees.
- ↑ launch fees \$100/day for powerboats/pontoons.
- Ask homeowners.
- Non resident use.
- Donations and raise launching fees.
- Taxy levy and voting.
- Taxes/user fees.
- Taxes.
- Launch fees should be increased.

If *YES*, which additional improvements would you be willing to pay for?

- Any the improve lake water and or use.
- Invasive species prevention and water quality improvements.
- Weed abatements.
- Manage boat launches.
- Water quality management.
- Water quality.
- Invasive species containment.
- Water quality and shoreline improvement and algae management.
- Dredging.
- Creek area only.
- Limiting access to the lake.
- An assessment on homeowners and non owners that use the lake.
- Water quality of lake.
- Dredging/weed control.
- Dredging Jefferson Bay.
- Monitoring the number of boats and trailers launching on weekends.
- Sewer.
- Sewers and dredging.
- None – we pay a bunch in taxes for 4 month use.
- Fewer boats.
- Zoning, access to lake.
- All.
- Reduce traffic, cleaner water, fewer weeds.
- Clearing/dredging of sediment.
- Only for those items which improve lake water quality.
- Some dredging.
- Invasive species control, dredging, biological control.
- Depending on percentage and more info presented to all homeowners.
- Wetland – or land acquisition near the lake.
- Need a list.
- Lake water quality.
- Working on the channel.
- Water quality.
- Invasive plant and species control and removal. Keeping water quality good.
- Fish stocking. Weed management.
- Channel.
- All of those listed.
- All!
- Removal of invasive plants!
- Need details to decide.
- More water patrol.

2. Do you think the Lake Management District is generally doing a good job in lake management? Please comment.

62 responses indicating yes (85%), 11 responses indicating no (15%)

- Yes. One major role of the above is the management of lake aquatic (invasive) species and certainly one organization deals with that effectively.
- No. They are too concerned with their own speed boat use and skiing and not enough concern to AIS. They need to step up!
- Yes. I appreciate your time spent doing what is best for our lake.
- Ok.
- No. Why is water quality worse than it was 40 years ago?
- I think so but I am not so information. Would love more information sent to me.
- Not sure.
- Yes, there are a lot of lakes in S.E. WI that continue to get worse water quality year after year.
- Not really – dominated too much by few. Been to meeting and opinions not readily encouraged.
- No – more monitoring needed.
- No strong feeling. Need to do a better job of informing homeowners on a daily basis when the lake is no-wake and when they expect to lift the no-wake.
- Yes. Invasive species reduced.
- Yes – with exception of more emphasis on issues above. Very much appreciate the newsletter information.
- I believe the DNR covers many responsibilities and Lake Management is middle man.
- ? Cannot answer as not educated on what they are doing.
- Yes, I appreciate all the volunteers.
- Excellent.
- Yes, considering limited funding.
- Fair.
- Not as expected.
- Yes, and Neal does a great job as chair.
- Yes – good communication with residence and staying on top of invasive aquatic plants.
- Yes. Wonderful.
- Yes with the limited monies available.
- 1) No. Terrible. There was a severe lack of care in deciding to pour hundreds of gallons of poison in the lake. A vicious cycle was created that may be irreversible. 2) Lake management would not engage me in any discussion on this. Disgusting.
- Yes – we love Powers Lake! Clean lake, family-focused, great neighbors, and community.
- Yes, the water quality of the lake has improved over the past 15 years. The DPL has done what the DNR does not do.
- Prior Lake District Boards dredged lake to clean areas, haven't seen that lately.
- Yes – generally.
- Unsure, however it appears that the lake is well monitored.
- Yes, they are conscientious and watchful over the condition of the lake.
- Yes, very much so with the limited funds.
- Yes – newsletter, although technical in presentation, is appreciated.
- Average. Seems to be the same people I was involved when the District was created. Light on action.
- Yes – our family admires their dedication.
- Yes. But we need to manage how many boats come in off the lake. We that live here respect the lake. Those who drop in do not.
- Too focused on 1 or 2 issues. No new thinking. Is out of touch with majority.
- Yes, I think so.
- Don't know.
- No – just seem to do water testing and that's it.
- Poor.
- No. Not enough education for residents regarding stewardship.
- Good job.

3. Lake management districts are required to hold an annual meeting between Memorial Day and Labor Day to approve the annual budget, elect commissioners, and conduct any other business brought before the districts.

I regularly attend the annual meeting (circle one)

- a. Yes (**21; 22%**) b. No (**76; 78%**)

If *NO*, please indicate if you do not attend because (check all that apply):

- 16 I have to work 19 I am out of town during this period

26 The meetings are held at an inconvenient time

6 I would prefer the meetings to be held on another day

If you have checked any of the boxes above, please tell us what time, date, or other accommodation we can make to better meet your scheduling needs:

- It is hard to drive lake in day.
- I have not been active in meetings but plan to attend in future.
- Virtual meetings.
- Early week like Monday, Tuesday, evening.
- We are in Illinois during the week.
- Friday nights are not desirable.
- Did for years; now age and health are to blame now.
- Not aware of time and date.
- Usually here only on weekends.
- Haven't attended recently. Have attended when Lake issues have been addressed I'm concerned with.
- No but would be willing to go on Zoom.
- Now retired and day and time no issue.
- Occasionally.
- 3 of 9 years. I would attend – early Sat. mornings.
- Weekends or later evenings on weekdays.
- Thursday evenings.
- At sandbars on weekend.
- Saturday morning would be optimal.
- Read the newsletters.
- Perhaps 7 PM.
- Think the board decides what works best for them.
- Disabled with sciatica.
- Honestly, I am unaware of the meetings and the timing is difficult for me.
- Physically challenged.
- Friday at 7 PM is late. Try Friday at 3 PM.
- I prefer a Thursday evening or Friday afternoon.
- Saturday mornings.
- 6:00 PM on Friday or 9 AM on Sat.
- Saturday mornings.
- Gave up (attending) years ago. Possible Sunday afternoon.
- I don't know when they are.
- Early morning on summer weekends – (9:00).
- They should be broadcast on-line/ZOOM for easy access.
- Not aware of meeting.
- Friday nights are unrealistic for many people. Saturday morning.
- Now that we live here we will try to attend.

4. Would you attend quarterly meetings if they were not held on Fridays at 5 PM?

a. Yes (35; 46%)

b. No (41; 54%)

If YES, please specify a time that you would attend

- Weekday
- Noon.
- I attend.
- Virtual.
- 7 PM.
- Any day but Friday.
- Yes on Zoom.
- Can you do online?
- Later on Fri or Sat evenings.
- Depends on time. How about online.
- Thursdays at 7 PM.
- Saturday morning.
- Weekday (Mon-Thurs) 6-7.
- Weekends.
- I try if I'm there.
- I really have not been aware of the meetings – getting an email would help.

- Sat 9:00 AM.
- Mon/Tues/Wed-5 PM.
- 7 PM.
- Any.
- Mornings during the week.
- 7:00-7:30.
- 3 PM.
- Thursday evening.
- 10:30 AM.
- 7 PM.
- 6:00 is better.
- Possibly attend. Saturday mornings.
- Make it Sat morning.
- Maybe.
- Friday @ 7:00 PM. Online would be great.
- Yes if ON Zoom. Anytime not 9-5 M-Fr.
- Saturdays and Sundays.
- Probably. Sat. AM.
- Tues or Thu.
- Weekend morning.
- 5 PM.

5. Are you aware of the District of Powers Lake website [<http://www.districtofpowerslake.com>]?

- a. Yes **(87; 87%)** b. No **(13; 13%)**

6. Do you read the *District of Powers Lake Newsletter*?

- a. Yes **(99; 95%)** b. No (Please go to the next question) **(5; 5%)**

(If *YES*, what types of articles do you find most interesting or informative?)

- Should be emailed.
- General updates and data.
- All of them as it is an informative quick read. I enjoy updates on fishing.
- Improvements to the lake, pertinent info regarding boating, fishing.
- Water quality.
- All of them – very informative and good way to remind lake users of the rules.
- Aquatic weed control.
- All good information.
- General articles about activity in/around Powers Lake.
- Not really interesting. Only informative.
- Lake quality.
- Updates on lake quality and ongoing projects.
- All of them. Water quality and what funding is being used for.
- Yes! We look forward to keeping informed. We enjoy getting paper copy in mail.
- Lake quality.
- Those about lake levels, invasive species and control of any new WI regulations pertaining to boating, lake property, etc.
- Water quality, fish population.
- I also receive “Lake Tides”. Find it to be an excellent publication.
- Weed control. Water quality.
- Fish stocking. Water quality updates.
- How to control invasive species, history of lake issues.
- Anything to do with the health of the lake.
- Water condition, safety.
- Most all of them.
- All.
- Regulations, improvements.
- Lake quality/development/property preservation.
- Invasive species, water level.
- Control of invasives.
- How the invasive plants are being dealt with and pictures of these plants.
- Comments about water quality.
- Above. (Newsletter, although technical in presentation, is appreciated).
- More info on the Lake, Lake activities, should request info from Lake owners.

- Everything.
- Updates on water quality and lake management issues.
- All.
- Lake quality/levels.
- All interesting/informative.
- Fish stocking. Keep it up year to year.
- Condition of water quality and most other articles.
- NEWS LETTER TERRIBLE LOOKS LIKE CHILD WROTE.
- It keeps us up to date of the issues and we appreciate the efforts of the Board.
- Details on lake level, treatments, etc.
- Water patrol statistics, launch statistics, etc.

7. Would you like to subscribe to the District Newsletter and/or Announcements email list?
- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| a. Newsletter (7; 13%) | b. Announcements (2; 4%) |
| b. c. Newsletter and Announcements (44; 79%) | d. Neither (3; 5%) |

If so, provide your email address(es) here: **(provided in separate response to DPL; envelope identification number was not provided in this response)**

8. Do you subscribe to the University of Wisconsin-Extension publication *Lake Tides*?
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| a. Yes (12; 12%) | b. No (90; 88%) |
|------------------|-----------------|
9. Are you a member of the Wisconsin Lakes association? Do you subscribe to the *Lake Connection*?
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| a. Yes (8; 8%) | b. No (93; 92%) |
|----------------|-----------------|
10. Have you ever attended the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention, the Fox River Summit, or the Healthy Lakes Conference?
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| a. Yes (9; 9%) | b. No (94; 91%) |
|----------------|-----------------|

(If *YES*, which event did you attend and when did you last attend these events).

- 17 years ago @ Green Bay.
- Probably 10 years ago – was in Stevens Point. That is how I learned of Lake Tides. Maybe in one of your newsletters you could let the members know how to sign up for it.
- 15 years ago.
- Several years ago.

11. Are there any subjects or issues about which you would like more information?

- Include fishing report or fish status in newsletter. Was unaware of “Lake Tides, Lake Connection, and conference” would like better info on them.
- I would like to see a “lights out” campaign on the lake at night. Perhaps we could encourage lake residents to switch off their lighting on the lake.
- Too little data is being collected/reported. For example, chloride from road salt is the chemical that was increasing most. Between 1985 and 2015 chloride concentration doubled. It has not been measured/reported since about 2015.
- Survey is bad start. They CAN BE DONE on specific issues.
- Lake water height on your website.
- We would like to learn more about these (*referencing District Newsletter, District Announcements, Lake Tides, and Lake Connection*).
- I realize this isn’t your purpose, but over the years the building and zoning regulations has been very confusing. Such as absolutely no new boat houses and then you see them being built.
- Would harvesting machines do good to get rid of the weeds moving closer to swimming areas?
- Maybe some No Wake Days like on a Sat or Sunday. I think it’s a great way to calm the lake down. NO WAKE ON HOLIDAYS!!

12. Are there any other issues that you would like to draw to our attention at this time?

- Many issues compare resident vs. non-resident but a non-resident property owner category should be added. Has there been any discussion on municipal sewer system?
- Thank you for doing this.
- Not only to encourage people to reduce their carbon footprint but also for the health and beauty of the lake.
- Road salt in Powers Lake.
- Possible to get cell #'s of Randall Water Patrol/Police in case of emergency on Lake?
- Some house buildings have changed rain run off into Lake.
- Video/zoom board meetings to encourage participation especially with time issues.
- Think it is horrible that lake front property owners have to pay into the fund for future purchase of wetlands north of Bloomsfield Rd. The State of Wisconsin can buy it! Or the current owners can donate it. Wetlands are protected now from development so why do I have to own it!
- Lake police and sailboat races.
- A member wants to restore some shoreline to natural. Was sure the DNR would be happy to get involved but they said he would have to do it himself. This winter there was an article in Lake Tides about all the grants out there for people who want to do just that.
- Water runoff (street) drainage issues at Nippersink Rd and Powers Lake Rd.
- Bob Bonifas – used Powers Lake since 1957 when Uncle bought “cottage.”
- All boats drive counter clockwise.
- When you poison invasive weeds, fish die and good weeds die. The decay causes algae blooms and soil soil. This reduces water clarity and allows other invasive species to enter. The changes in the lake in the last 10 years has been more dramatic than the last 30. No more poison please!
- Thank you for your efforts! Powers Lake is a great lake that is family-friendly with a comforting sense of community.
- I think that the milfoil has increased over the last 2-3 years.
- What control if any for non-resident access.
- Keep your website up to date. Last newsletter was January 2020. Already have April and August. Keep calendar updated.
- The water patrol police should give warnings to those playing loud music while pulling skiers. They should follow up with a ticket if ignored after that or at the next time they offend.
- Again, boat radios blaring music – police need to monitor this and ticket, if repeated warnings are given.
- Thanks for all your efforts to keep our beautiful and healthy.
- Changed, but I know you are already aware.
- Urge you to consider closing Jefferson Bay to fast boats/wake boats at least one day each weekend to allow safe, pleasant family recreational use. Re-instate whole lake NO-WAKE weekend days (@ least one/month). Examine whether given distance requirements, Jefferson Bay can actually accommodate speed/tow boats. Enforce noise regulations for quality of life purposes.
- Thank you for compiling this comprehensive survey!!
- No wake on the 4th of July. The weeds are high now but they tore the lake up this year. Weeds floating everywhere. I fish the next morning and it was sick.
- Water patrol should pay more attention to the “proximity” of boats and also to fisherman who cast their lines directly at people’s piers, catching their hooks and lines into private property.
- Please become more active.
- Enforcement of safe boating regulations.
- Light pollution at nite. Fireworks after 10. Extremely loud music from waterskiing boats should be stopped.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO SEWRPC

IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE – NO POSTAGE NECESSARY

