



T H E D I S T R I C T O F P O W E R S L A K E

P.O. Box 462
Powers Lake, Wisconsin 53159

NEWSLETTER

SPRING, 1987

RANDALL TOWN HALL, April 2, 1987 at the quarterly meeting of the Board of Commissioners, officials of D.N.R. and S.E.W.R.P.C. (South-eastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission) presented their analysis of the first phase of our three year water quality study. They also reported on the weed survey conducted last summer. There was a good turnout of citizens.

In general, the reports were favorable: water quality is above the average of lakes in Southeast Wisconsin; no serious weed problem except the relatively new invasion of a nuisance weed, Asian Milfoil, must be watched carefully. This weed is transported and introduced to clean lakes like ours, via boat propellers. It also grows rapidly from cuttings by running boat propellers.

A brief summary of the S.E.W.R.P.C. report was distributed. If you want a copy write Don Werner, Secretary, the District of Powers Lake, Box 462, Powers Lake, Wisconsin 53159.

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The second phase of the water quality study (1986-87) is now underway. It is an indepth study of the lake and its watershed. As a part of this phase, groundwater information is being collected from seven (7) groundwater wells recently installed in the lake, located about ten (10) feet from shore. Stephen Field, biologist, U.S. Geological Survey, points out it is imperative to the study that these not be disturbed.

Also, a septic system survey will be taken this summer to detect any septic leaching into the lake. These are in addition to continued monitoring of water chemistry, total phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, water temperature, pH, specific conductance, water clarity, chlorophyll a, lake level.

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MADISON, March 12-14 we were represented at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention by our Board Chairman, Robert Tucker. Bob was a panelist on one of the workshops. He also was elected a director of the Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts (WALD).

This three-day session of presentations and workshops is a valuable source of information on lake management and is open to lake district citizens as well as those actively engaged in lake management work. Citizens are urged to attend to gain a better knowledge of what is required to protect our lakes and we will see that everyone is informed well in advance of the next convention. The program is organized so that even a single day's attendance is worthwhile.

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The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners is July 2, 4:30 p.m. at Randall Town Hall. By law, the Commission meets quarterly and the regular meetings are held on the first Thursday. Also by law these meetings are public. Citizens may attend and on the agenda is an opening of the meeting for citizens' comments and questions.

On this meeting's agenda is the selection of candidates to fill one expiring term on the Board of Commissioners to be proposed at the Annual Meeting, August 7.

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One of the questions frequently asked concerns work done on the lake last fall by the Randall Township Health Officer. The initial tests conducted identified areas of high pollution at a number of points. As a result, corrective measures ordered by the Kenosha County Sanitarian were carried out involving the installation of proper sanitary systems. Tests were conducted monthly throughout the winter, and are continuing with the help of the County Sanitarian.

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When the District formulated its long-term lake management effort, the Commissioners elected to use the "self-help" monitoring method as an economy measure. Volunteers collect much of the data which is fed into the computers of the agencies and scientists who are determining what is happening in our lake and its watershed. Last September, 270 letters were mailed asking for volunteers. This resulted in 85 replies, and 32 volunteers are now actively participating or are on-call as needed. Data collection includes streamflow quantity and quality, precipitation and evaporation quantity, and groundwater quality and quantity.

The streamflow station at the inlet is operated by Doug and Kathy Stryker, the station at the outlet by Patricia Borchardt. Precipitation gauges at three locations are read by Bruce Schaal, Diane Fedyna, Donna Saewert, and David Peterson. The instrument readings must be reported on, at least, daily. Water clarity measurements with the Secchi disc are handled by Bob Tucker and Rowland Laughlin.

When an "event" occurs, such as a number of days of heavy rainfall, the inlet and outlet stations must be serviced and water samples collected three times daily. The samples are refrigerated, packed in ice and mailed to the Colorado laboratory of the U.S.G.S.

Bruce Schaal, manager of First Financial in Twin Lakes, though not a resident of the District, volunteered for one of the largest equipment installations - an evaporator pan - which also requires daily reporting.

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Last summer, we all know, was very wet. Heavy rainfall plus beaver dams created high lake levels and excessive shore erosion. After many attempts, the beaver problem finally was solved with the help of Bloomfield Township maintenance personnel who removed the dams downstream of the outlet. Thus thwarted, the beavers decided on another attack - stuffing the tunnel beneath the bridge at the outlet. They had it pretty well dammed when Bob Tucker took a look at this latest threat. After a number of amateur engineering attempts failed, Bob took a 15 foot rake, designed for removing snow from roofs, and with a few mighty shoves pushed the debris through the tunnel and out on its way to Nippersink Creek. Again, our essential outlet is open. Just a day in the life of the Chairman.

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Once again the Powers Lake Yacht Club will operate its sailing school from late June to mid August. If you have young people who would like to join these classes, call instructor Dave Hoffman at 279-5386, for details. Yacht racing not only is a great competitive sport you can enjoy for a lifetime, but sailing is recognized by environmentalists as very healthy for the lake and its environment.

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For a long time, Powers Lake residents have kept a fearful eye on Lake Delavan and its enormous algae problem. Delavan's January news-

letter summarizes the situation which has developed over 40 years, with the decline in water quality being accompanied by a 200 percent increase in phosphorus concentrations in the lake. Delavan currently has phosphorus concentrations five times greater than the average Wisconsin lake. (Excessive phosphorus creates excess algae).

Also detailed is the rehabilitation plan which began in 1983 and now is in its third phase. Cost and estimated cost of the project: 1983-86 = \$741,000; 1987 = \$85,000; 1988-89 = \$2.4 million.

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Steve Field of the U.S.G.S. is spending a lot of time on Powers Lake as we move through the second phase of our lake study. In a recent letter to Bob Tucker, he stated, "The third phase of the study will be analyzing the data and preparing the report. A water quality management plan will then be written to protect the good water quality of Powers Lake. The plan will identify areas that should be improved to prevent phosphorus from getting into the lake in the future. It will identify areas which benefit the lake and need protection. By following this plan, corrective action can be taken before the lake's quality becomes badly deteriorated and expensive lake rehabilitation techniques can be avoided. Lake rehabilitation commonly costs millions of dollars."

All we can say is, "Steve, we're glad we have you!"