



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

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2011 CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

As you may know, last year was the 25th Anniversary of the District of Powers Lake. We celebrated this occasion by recognizing all of the organizers and commissioners of the DPL. While ours is not a very large organization, we have met regularly and have tried to engage in productive activities for the betterment of Powers Lake and the watershed. This has generally been in the area of natural resources, but we are gradually moving into other important lake management issues.

To start off our next quarter century, we are completing an update of our guidebook entitled "A Management Plan for Powers Lake, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, Wisconsin" which was prepared by the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) in 1991. This activity was begun three years ago in the face of the prolonged high water level in the lake and the discussion of a slow no wake ordinance by the Town of Randall for one Sunday a month during the summer.

In addition, our board of commissioners has discussed the role of the district now and in the future. Rather than revising our By laws to include certain dos and don'ts, we have decided to prepare a "Mission Statement" for the guidance of present and future boards. This Mission Statement is presented elsewhere in this mailing and will be submitted for a vote at the Annual Meeting on Friday, Aug. 5th, 2011. Please attend the annual meeting to suggest changes and/or to vote on the issue.

You will also note that we have reduced our requested/proposed tax levy for the 2012 Fiscal Year. This is largely because we have had great success in our fight against Eurasian Water Milfoil, the aquatic invasive species that we have been fighting for the last decade. Not long ago, this aquatic plant represented the "dominant species" in Powers Lake. The estimated 80 acres of EWM in our 459 acre lake has now been reduced to

less than 10 acres. In addition, we have received WDNR grants and financial assistance from the Town of Randall to carry out our battle.

Our seven person board of commissioners has worked diligently to enhance the quality of the lake and the watershed and the quality of life of the members of the district. There are many examples of our proactive leadership on lake management issues too numerous to list here. However, you can get a sampling of them by visiting our excellent website, www.districtofpowerslake.org, and reviewing the management plan referenced above, and the Newsletters, Meeting Minutes and Agendas, Chapter 20, By laws and much, much more, which have been posted since we began the website in 2009.

Thank you for your continued support of the District of Powers Lake.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Michels, Chair

PIER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS EXTENDED

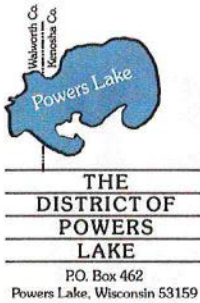
In early June, Governor Walker signed into law Senate Bill 59, legislation extending the pier registration deadline by 12 months until April 1, 2012.

Under current law, piers exceeding the permit exemptions standards for piers are eligible for grandfathering if the pier is registered with the Wisconsin DNR. To be eligible for grandfathering, the pier must meet the grandfathering standards below. Piers exceeding these size standards or not registered by the new deadline will not be grandfathered and may be removed or downsized.

Exempt piers (do not need to register)

If a pier (existing or new) meets the following standards, the property owner does not need to obtain a permit or register the pier:

- **Length** - extends no farther than a 3 foot water depth or deep enough to moor a boat
- **Width** - no wider than 6 feet at any point on the pier
- **Platforms** - a maximum of 8 feet wide loading platform at the end of the pier



Elected Commissioners:

Jim Michels, Chair
Nancy Michael, Sec.
Brooke Jensen, Treas.
Neal Kuhn
Colleen Keating

Appointed Commissioners:

Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.
Michael Halvorson, Randall Twp.

Number of boat slips - has no more than two boat slips for the first 50 feet of shoreline frontage, and one boat slip for each additional 50 feet of shoreline frontage.

Grandfathered piers (need to register)

If an existing pier exceeds the "regular pier" standards above, the pier may qualify for grandfathering if the following placement, size and registration requirements are met:

- **Date** - must have been originally placed prior to February 6th, 2004
- **Width** - no more than 8 feet wide
- **Platforms** - a larger deck/platform is allowed as long as it is located at the lakeward end of the pier and the platform has a surface area of 200 feet or less (may be any width) or between 200 sq. ft. and 300 sq. ft., if the deck/platform is no wider than 10 feet
- **Number of boat slips** - no limit on the number of slips

Neighbors - does not interfere with the riparian rights of other riparian owners. (Generally, this means that the pier and boat hoists do not extend beyond the owner's property line.)

- **Registration** - the pier is registered with the DNR no later than April 1st, 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

At our annual meeting we will be presenting the following Mission Statement for adoption.



**DISTRICT OF POWERS LAKE
MISSION STATEMENT**

Within the scope of the powers vested in it under Chapter 33 and in furtherance of the Public Trust Doctrine of Wisconsin, the mission of the District of Powers Lake is:

To support, protect, preserve and enhance the native ecosystem of the watershed, shoreline, and waters of Powers Lake as a natural resource for generations to come;

To be responsive to the interests and concerns of the district residents and the public; and

To proactively advocate when faced with potential damage to Powers Lake's environmental values, wildlife, natural beauty, peacefulness, safety and/or recreational value.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Last year we mailed you a copy of these guidelines. If you have any questions about the voter guidelines for the upcoming election, they are also available under the DPL Business flag on our website: www.districtofpowerslake.org.

ANNUAL MEETING

The public is welcome at our annual meeting which will be held at Randall Consolidated School, County Trunk Highway "F" (87th Street), West of County Trunk Highway "O" (368th Ave.) Burlington, WI on Friday, August 5th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.