



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

JANUARY 2013



Before



After

JEFFERSON ISLAND CHANNEL

Following a DPL additional board meeting on August 17th and our quarterly meeting on October 5th, we wanted to update you on this maintenance project.

To recap the situation, the channel had become blocked on the northern or lakeside opening with sediment creating a berm. This condition was exacerbated by the recent drought and low water conditions. The lack of flow through the channel contributed to the accumulation of duck weed and other plant material within this waterway. The sediment (which appeared to be primarily gravel) needed to be removed to re-establish flow through the channel, restore the circulation in Jefferson Bay and enhance the water quality of the channel. In addition, removal of this barrier would restore navigability in the waterway for small watercraft such as canoes and kayaks. This removal may include the dredging of the channel north of the 91st Street culvert and removal of existing woody material placed by beavers.

The next steps involved permitting from the DNR for a Maintenance Dredging General Permit, a Dredge Disposal Location Investigation and finally the actual removal of the blockage. Hey and Associates were contracted to expedite this process. The DNR permit was approved. Dan O'Connell had offered property he owned for a potential disposal location but unfortunately it was not acceptable to the DNR due to on-site wetlands and floodplains. Fortunately, this was resolved when the Patridge Family generously responded to our request and volunteered Patridge Farms North Farm as a site and it was approved by the DNR. Equipment and trucks had also been offered by Jim Wyant. The Sillich Family and Robert Stollfuss had previously volunteered their property adjacent to the channel as the access point for the excavation to proceed mechanically from the shoreline. The Sillich property was deemed the better site. Mike Partridge obtained the excavator/backhoe and lined up 2 small dump trucks to do the hauling. Friday, November 16th was the date scheduled and the weather cooper-

ated with an unseasonably mild and thankfully dry day. Mike Partridge, Don Sillich, Randy Jaecks, Dan O'Connell and Tim Roberts worked tirelessly on site and drove the trucks to remove the sediment.

The DPL board would like to thank all those involved in this process for their unselfish help in making this project come to life and benefit Powers Lake in a cost effective and common sense way.

FORMER DPL COMMISSIONER, GIL KROLL, RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

The University of Stevens Point Extension has awarded Gil Kroll a 10 year Certificate and Pin for taking the Secchi disk readings at Powers Lake and reporting the findings for the last 10 years. Gil will continue this valuable effort as he has in the past. He takes the readings from spring to fall on a monthly basis with a few additional readings mid-summer. Last year he took 7 readings. The DPL is grateful and fortunate to have such a dedicated resident.

Wisconsin uses an 8 inch diameter disk separated into 4 quadrants which alternate from white to black. The disk is attached to a graduated rope and has a bottom weight to keep it horizontal as it is slowly lowered into the lake.



The general measurement protocol in Wisconsin is to take readings from the shady side of an anchored boat on a clear and calm day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. slowly lowering the disk until it disappears gives one data point and then slowly raising the disk until it reappears gives a second data point. The midpoint between depth of disappearance and re-appearance is the Secchi depth result. [Illustration and above description from Lake Tides Vol.31-2]

Water clarity or transparency is measured with a Secchi disk. This depth is known as the Secchi disk reading. Water clarity gives an indication of the overall water quality. Transparency can be affected by physical factors, such as water color and suspended particles, and by

various biologic factors, including seasonal variations in algae living in the lake. Water clarity is generally variable throughout the year as algal populations increase and decrease. Readings may fluctuate daily and annually due to changes in weather and nutrient loadings.

Clarity ranges are as follows: Fair = 5-7 ft., Good = 7-10 ft., Very good = 10-20 ft.

Readings for Powers Lake ranged from 6.6 ft. in August, 1986 and July, 1987 to 19.7 ft. in April of 1987. From 1986 through 1989 the average reading was 10.9 feet indicating good to very good water quality compared to other lakes in southeastern Wisconsin. Subsequent to 1989, transparency ranged from 4.4 ft. in the fall of 2004 to about 25.6 ft. in the spring of 2005, with the average transparency for the period from 1990 to 2010 being 11.0 ft.

Such measurements are a ready means of assessing water quality and comprise an important part of our DPL lake stewardship. Water quality data through Secchi disk for Powers Lake was collected by Gil Kroll, our volunteer, who enrolled in the University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX) Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN). In addition, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Trophic State Index (TSI) has been continued.

In addition to in-lake direct measurements by Secchi disk, transparency of many Wisconsin lakes has been measured using remote sensing technology. The Environmental Remote Sensing Center (ERSC), established in 1970 at the UW-Madison campus, was one of the first remote sensing facilities in the U.S. This satellite remote sensing technology was able to accurately estimate clarity. From 2003 through 2008, the estimated average water clarity of Powers Lake was 11.9 ft. indicative of good to very good water quality and consistent with the transparencies observed by the USGS.

DPL BOARD CHANGES

Commissioner Colleen Keating submitted her formal resignation to the DPL board since she had moved outside of the District and was no longer eligible to serve the remainder of her term.

Her resignation was accepted at the October 5th meeting. Colleen has been a valuable addition to our board. Not only has she worked tirelessly on projects, she additionally provided us with her legal expertise.

State statute indicates a resignation of a commissioner shall be filled by the chair. The appointment is for the remainder of the unexpired term subject to approval by a majority vote of the board.

Fortunately, Mary Adams agreed to serve and was approved unanimously by the board at the same meeting. Mary is now a permanent resident on Powers Lake and as an attorney happily provides us with another legal mind on our board. Mary has successfully worked in the past with our board on projects and helped with the development of our website.

ICE ON / ICE OFF DATES

Since we are hoping to keep a record of ice on/ice off dates for the district, we would ask you all to notify the board of your observations of those dates this coming winter. Ice on (when the lake is completely ice covered) last winter was January 13th. Temperatures in the 50's and high winds took the ice off the lake on March 7th.

QUARTERLY MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Friday, January 4th, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, Bassett, WI.

DISTRICT OF POWERS LAKE MISSION STATEMENT

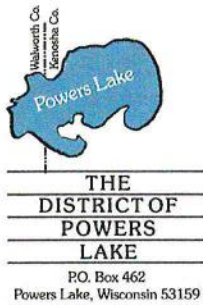
Within the scope of the powers vested in it under Chapter 33 and in furtherance of the Public Trust Doctrine of Wisconsin, the mission of the District of Powers Lake is:

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.





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.



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