

District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

AUGUST

2008

DISTRICT OF POWERS LAKE ANNUAL REPORT

DPL Commissioners — One of the least discussed topics related to our lake district is the topic of commissioners of the District of Powers Lake (DPL). The current commissioners are listed separately in this newsletter. As you may know, there are five elected and two appointed commissioners that make up your representatives on the DPL board. It is my opinion that we have one of the best functioning lake districts in our area or in the state of WI because of the diversity and involvement of our commissioners. This is not a self-serving endorsement of our board, but recognition of the fact that our board functions very well because of the unique combination of commissioners that have taken an active role in the district, from the newsletter, to grant and contract administration, to water quality sampling and testing, to financial reporting and last but not least to attendance and participation in our quarterly and annual meetings.

Particular recognition goes to Mr. Gil Kroll who has served on our board of commissioners since being elected at our annual meeting in 1999, almost 9 years ago. Gil has always been an advocate of Powers Lake and has preferred to work behind the scenes and not in the limelight of the district. He has handled all grant work and has been responsible for all water quality sampling and testing. This has resulted in grants of approximately \$100,000 including the money received for the purchase of 73.41 acres of wetlands in 2000 and matching grants from the state to fund the USGS water quality testing which was done for many years.

In addition, Gil has handled the tough part of water quality sampling and testing which has to be done weekly during the summer months and monthly during the spring and fall months. Because of Gil, we have the best database on water quality of any lake in southeastern WI. This activity is important to determine the results from each sampling event, because over time the data reveal

trends which signal whether or not our lake is “healthy” or “sick”. For his own personal reasons, Gil is considering not to seek reelection when his term expires this year. We hope that he reconsiders his position and seeks reelection, because he is our most important commissioner.

Aquatic Plant Management — As reported in the August 2007 Newsletter and at the 2007 annual meeting, Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) is now the predominant aquatic plant in Powers Lake with approximately 84 acres of EWM in the lake which has a surface area of 459 acres at normal water level. In order to combat this invasive species, the DPL took an aggressive approach to the subject, only to be thwarted by the unusual weather that we have had this year.

To summarize our activities, we passed a budget of \$25,000 for chemical treatment on 8/03/07, we applied for and received a DNR “whole lake permit” in Feb. & Mar. 2008, and we entered into a contract on 4/04/08 with Marine Biochemists, Mequon, WI to provide treatment services as early in the year as possible. Unfortunately the excessively high water level and unusual weather has only allowed our consultant to treat once this year for a total of approximately 8 acres of treatment. Additional treatment will take place this year and we recommend transferring the unobligated balance into the budget of next year.

Budget and Finances — As reported last year, we went from a 12 month budget from 7/01/06 to 6/30/07, to an 18 month (transitional) budget from 7/01/07 to 12/31/08, and back to a proposed 12 month budget from 1/01/09 to 12/31/09. If approved, we will be back on track for a fiscal year that coincides with a calendar year. This certainly makes sense as most income and expense items occur during one calendar year and therefore the receipts and disbursements are not split up between two fiscal years as they have been in the past. So far things have worked out very well and we expect that this will continue into the future. As

recommended and approved last year, the DPL has taken a more aggressive approach to treatment of EWM. Accordingly, we budgeted \$26,500 for this year. As reported above, we will not spend that amount, but recommend carrying the unobligated amount forward for next year.

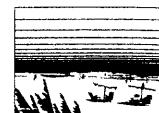
In order to “stretch” our tax dollars, the DPL has always been proactive in seeking grants from various sources of funding. In our current fiscal year, we applied for an “Aquatic Invasive Species Grant” and a “Wisconsin Waterways Commission Grant”. Competition is tough and we did not receive either grant. Time permitting, we will apply for a lake management planning grant this year to help fund an initiative that we discussed at our quarterly board meeting on 6/20/08. And, the other good news is that we have received \$4,500 from the Town of Randall for the second year in a row to help defray the cost of EWM treatment. Furthermore, the Town of Randall has initiated a Launch Fee at the 396th Avenue Boat Ramp and the DNR Boat Ramp, which may increase the amount of funds that they contribute to the DPL for EWM treatment. Our proposed budget reflects these items and is presented in this newsletter.

Recreational Use Management — The initiative that we discussed at our 6/20/08 quarterly board meeting is to engage the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) to conduct a “Lake Protection Plan” to update our management plan entitled “A Management Plan for Powers Lake” which was produced by SEWRPC in 1991. This initiative would give us an objective “audit” and/or “work plan” for consideration by our board as we go forward over the next several years. All of us enjoy the beauty of Powers Lake, but we can be our own worst enemy by overusing or abusing the lake. We are moving from natural resource issues to lake use issues and they can help us with both issues going forward.

SEWRPC conducted a “Lake Use and Water Quality Survey” in 1990 and again in 2000 to provide a basis for determining opinion of constituents of the DPL. We envision that another survey would be conducted as part of the Lake Protection Plan and could include topics such as “Slow No Wake” to get the opinion of our approximately 280 constituents. This information could then be forwarded to the Randall Town Board to communicate the opinion of our constituents. Since this has been such a controversial topic, we would expect that we would have a very good response, perhaps even better than the 40% response that we had in

2000. We hope that you support this initiative that is part of our budget.

Jim Michels,
Chair, District of Powers Lake



POWERS LAKE NEWS BITS

Mandatory Boating Education — The Wisconsin Legislature has recently passed a Mandatory Boating Education bill. This bill requires everyone born on or after 1-1-1989 and at least 16 years of age to have a boating safety education certificate to operate a motorboat on Wisconsin’s waterways. The Randall Water Patrol will hold a Water Safety Class for kids age 11 or older which will earn them a permit to drive a boat or personal water craft at 12 years of age. These classes will be held for three days: July 31, August 1, and August 2 from 8 AM to 12 noon at the Randall Town Hall in Bassett, WI. Register by calling the Town Clerk at 262-877-2165.

High Water — After an unusual winter, virtually no spring and now an unusual lake season we are all coping in our own way. So far this year we have had the highest water level that I have seen in almost 40 years of lake-front life. All of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin have experienced what we have. Piers and boats could not go in at the normal time because of the storms. The Town of Randall has an established “No Wake” water level in its ordinances. The lake level is measured at a gauge installed by the USGS and when the trigger level is reached the town declares the “No Wake” rule in effect until the water level recedes to a safe level again.

Adopt-A-Lake — The Adopt-A-Lake program under the leadership of Ms. Karen Redden was impressive again this year. The kids look forward to the time at the lake all year. This year 80 kindergarten kids, 88 third graders and 6 high school kids were involved in lake studies covering four class periods. High school kids were helpful instructing the younger kids, and the third graders from Karen’s own class worked with the kindergarten kids. By far the most fun for the kids were the fishing experiences. Interestingly, none had any prior experience or knowledge of fishing. The weather was windy and cold but they miraculously caught 3 fish which made it pretty exciting.

Pat Miller,
DPL Newsletter Editor

