



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

JANUARY

2010

KENOSHA COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE RETAINED

Your commissioners are pleased to announce that Judy Jooss has been retained as our county representative. You may remember we passed a resolution to do just that at our annual meeting. This resolution was submitted to the Land and Water Conservation Committee on October 7th, 2009. Citizen comments by Jim Michels, Brooke Jensen, Nancy Michael and Bill Lynch were also presented at this meeting. We believe our resolution, comments and Ms. Jooss's impressive resume were invaluable in obtaining a unanimous vote for her retention. We are grateful to be able to continue to have her as a knowledgeable and energetic member of our board.



RANDALL TOWN SURVEY

The Town of Randall is planning a survey of all residents which is expected to be mailed to residents by March. The purpose of the survey is to gauge resident's opinions on a wide range of town-related issues. Included are a number of questions on lake usage, so we would encourage you to give your input. Last time town residents were surveyed, some 1,300 surveys were mailed.



54th ANNUAL ICE FISHING DERBY FEBRUARY 14th, 2010

Come and attend a "sweetheart" of an event in the "heart" of town on Valentine's Day! Various conservation projects will again benefit from the proceeds. It will be held at the north side launch on Powers Lake. Seven categories of fish will be entered to win hourly and grand prizes from 12-4 p.m. Food, fun and prizes can be enjoyed by all ages.

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL BANNING PHOSPHORUS FROM DISH DETERGENTS

Nov. 12, 2009 - Wisconsin Association of Lakes is pleased to announce that the State of Wisconsin today took another important step in controlling nutrient pollution in Wisconsin's waters, as Governor Jim Doyle signed legislation prohibiting the use of phosphorus in dishwasher soaps. We wanted to take a moment to say

"thanks" for your support of us, which helped make this law possible.

The bill (AB 281) was passed by the Assembly in June and the Senate in October and is the second in a series of legislative initiatives to improve water quality. Earlier this session, Wisconsin Association of Lakes and others led efforts in which the Legislature established a ban on the use of phosphorus compounds in lawn fertilizer and these efforts extended to the dish soap ban.

"This new law banning phosphorus in household dishwasher detergents is one more important step to protecting and restoring our lakes so they may continue to be enjoyed by all", said Karen von Huene, Wisconsin Association of Lakes Executive Director. "We are proud as an organization to have again been at the forefront of this important issue and thank the legislature and Governor for understanding how crucial it is to the health of Wisconsin's water."

A 1970's Wisconsin law prohibited the sale or use of most cleaning products containing more than 0.5 percent phosphorus by weight, but made an exception allowing dishwashing detergents with as much as 8.7 percent phosphorus. The new law eliminates that exception and limits dishwashing detergents to the same low phosphorus level permitted in other cleaning products beginning in June of 2010.

Our member lake organizations, individuals and corporations have long supported measures to remove phosphorus from the runoff flowing into our waters. Nutrients like phosphorus are degrading 90% of Wisconsin's inland lakes, causing smelly algae blooms, fish kills and declining water quality.

Enactment of this new law enhances Wisconsin's status as a national leader and model for other states in preventing phosphorus in runoff from contaminating its waters.



PROTECTING OUR SHORES

The state Natural resources Board has approved the first updates to WI shoreline building regulations in more than 40 years. Development patterns have changed significantly from small family cottages. Most counties have elected to create ordinances that go beyond the minimum standards, but are looking for up-to-date minimums to make these protective measures more consistent. Extensive scientific research has shown up-to-date

PROTECTING OUR SHORES (cont'd)

standards, which can be easily implemented, are critical to protecting Wisconsin waters. The proposal follows some key principals:

- Property owners may maintain existing buildings and lawns.
- For new buildings, reconstruction or expansion, property owners will need to either save some space for fish and wildlife habitat and runoff absorption in proportion to the project.

Many familiar standards are unchanged, including the 75 foot setback and the 10,000-20,000 sq. ft. lot sizes. Property owners would have to limit waterproof surfaces such as roofs and driveways. Buildings within 75 ft. of the water would be limited to 35 ft. in height

Homeowners who want to expand a pre-existing structure within 75 ft. of the water would have to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Rules limiting spending on renovations to pre-existing structures to 50% of their value would be wiped out, allowing unlimited repairs and internal remodeling. (Excerpts taken from the Summer 2009 Lake Tides available at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes.

Acknowledgement to Wisconsin Lakes Partnership.)

OCTOBER 3rd SOUTHEAST AREA LAKES WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 13th, 2010

The workshop for southeastern Wisconsin lake communities planned for Saturday, October 3rd has been rescheduled to Saturday, February 13th, 2010. The event will be held at the Waukesha County Technical College in Pewaukee.

Workshop topics will explore science, policy and case studies in aspects of lake management and

lake living. The event is an opportunity for lake enthusiasts to network with area lake group representatives, natural resource professionals, local decision-makers, volunteers and others interested in protecting Wisconsin's lakes.

More information about the February 13th event will be available soon at Wisconsin Association of Lakes' web site: www.wisconsinlakes.org.

People that registered for the workshop are being notified about the date change. Questions about the workshop may be directed to Susan Tesarik, Wisconsin Association of Lakes Education Director, at 608-661-4313 or 1-800-542-5253.

32nd WISCONSIN LAKES CONVENTION MARCH 30th - APRIL 1st, 2010 (Tuesday - Thursday)

FRINGE BENEFITS: RESTORING WISCONSIN'S SHORELANDS AND SHALLOWS

The convention will be held at the KI Convention Center, Green Bay, WI. The agenda and online registration or forms will be available in January at:

www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions/default.asp.

QUARTERLY MEETING

Our next meeting will be Friday, January 8th, at 5 p.m. at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, Bassett, WI.

