



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

JUNE

2014

APRIL 4th DPL MEETING

In addition to our regular agenda, there was excellent presentation by the Randall Town Board (RTB) Chairman, Bob Stoll at our last DPL Meeting. His presentation was on possible changes to the Chapter 20 ordinance that the RTB is considering. Chapter 20 is the ordinance that regulates most lake related activities on Powers Lake, Lake Benedict and Tombeau Lake. Mr. Stoll initially outlined how a change is made to an ordinance and the limitations on what the RTB can do.

There was an excellent attendance at the meeting by approximately 30 residents of the district and there was an excellent exchange of ideas between everyone in attendance.

The RTB is reviewing all or most of its ordinances. The RTB is systematically going through all of its ordinances, updating them and bringing them into compliance with current laws and reducing redundancies. Ideas and suggestions may be incorporated into an ordinance and this meeting was part of their public participation in the process. The reason that the RTB is reviewing Chapter 20 is that it was last codified in 1991 and a great deal has changed since then. Some items in Chapter 20 mirror the state statute and may be redundant or may be in conflict with state statute. So, those items could be removed from the RTB ordinance as they are covered by the state statute. Inflatable rafts/trampolines are an example of something new since 1991. Piers and wharves are an example of possible conflicts with the state.

The RTB feels strongly that safety should be the paramount consideration in whatever changes are considered. Lakes are resources with a variety of uses and interests so their purpose is to balance all interests whenever possible. Two examples of changes that the RTB will address are newer toys/rafts, and older ski jumps/platforms.

Most informative for many in attendance was a list of what the RTB can and cannot do, a sam-

pling of which is as follows:

Cannot regulate lake access, limit parking and choose amount of parking fees. The DNR feels very strongly about public access. The DNR sets the maximum fee that RTB can charge. This fee depends on how developed the launch is. The current rate is the maximum rate which can be charged.

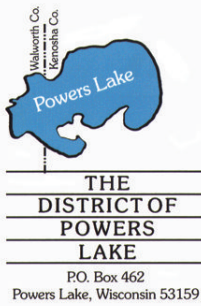
Cannot close off either of the 2 public access launches to limit access.

The majority of Randall's ordinances will be eliminated since they are adapting so much of the state ordinances, i.e. pier and wharves. The town cannot be less restrictive than the state but can be more restrictive.

Cannot regulate types, kinds, sizes of boats and personal watercraft (PWCs). All watercraft that comes into the lake are designated watercraft by the DNR.

Randall would like to retain some existing regulations but add some flexibility and add variances. For instance, the 12 1/2 foot buffer space recommended between piers and property lines. If neighbors have workable solutions that are acceptable, the town wants to provide a variance for that. Flexibility would be achieved through variances. The current maximum 100 foot length of piers would be retained. Also desired would be a 50 foot buffer between mooring buoys and rafts and the SNW buoys for a safety factor.

The DNR does not require removal of piers or wharves during the winter. Our ordinance has removal by December 1st so they are not a safety problem for snowmobilers. Permanent piers must have marker flags. This provision will be maintained. A benchmark has been established for Lake Benedict for SNW similar to ours and is no longer subjective. As far as the ski pattern, the only agenda the RTB has is a concern that the lake is used in a safe manner and the rights of all are balanced and evenly administered. The water patrol cannot enforce



Elected Commissioners:
 Jim Michels, Chair
 Nancy Michael, Sec.
 Brooke Jensen, Treas.
 Neal Kuhn
 Mary Adams

Appointed Commissioners:
 Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.

anything that is not an ordinance. They have no discretion if not codified. The ordinance implementation process will take all the time necessary to get the best result.

After these informative remarks by Mr. Stoll, an hour long discussion with attendees ensued regarding but not limited to safety, usage, custom, bottlenecks, traffic and parking in the ski pattern. Concerns of those who wrote letters were also addressed.

On a related note, Mike Halvorson did not run for re-election to the RTB and will be replaced at a future date as the RTB representative on our board.

ICE ON / ICE OFF DATES

December 19th, 2013 was our ice on date and this exceptionally thick ice cover went off on April 10th, 2014. Ice cover on Powers Lake was reported as 2 feet or better and areas of Lake Geneva recorded 3 feet. It will be interesting to see what effect if any this has on aquatic plant growth.

POWERS LAKE GAUGE

One gauge is mounted on the upstream headwall to the outlet and the other gauge is mounted on a pole farther out into the water. The first gauge is to measure the water level of the lake when there is outflow from the lake. The second gauge is to measure the water level of the lake when there is no outflow, as during the drought in 2012.

Nancy Michael of the DPL Board took weekly water level readings on the same days that she performs E-coli testing during the summer and she will measure the water level once a month during other times of the year. The measurements taken on the gauge that is mounted on the headwall will be used to determine "slow no wake" (SNW) restrictions for the lake. For the gauge on the headwall, 1.2 ft. would indicate SNW restrictions for Jefferson bay, and 1.5 ft. on the gauge would indicate SNW restrictions for the entire lake. Corresponding readings for the gauge on the pole in the lake of 2.91 ft. would indicate SNW restrictions for Jefferson Bay, and 3.24 ft. would indicate SNW restrictions for the entire lake.

DATES	HEADWALL	LAKE
6/3/2013	0.9	2.6
6/11/2013	0.5	1.8
6/18/2013	0.8	2.5
6/25/2013	0.95	2.65
7/1/2013	1.2	3.0
7/10/2013	1.1	2.8
7/18/2013	1.0	2.7
7/23/2013	0.85	2.55
7/29/2013	0.7	2.45
8/5/2013	0.7	2.45
8/12/2013	0.675	2.4
8/19/2013	0.6	2.3
SEPT.	0.5	2.2
OCT.	0.6	2.5
NOV.	0.7	2.5
4/7/2014	1.475	3.5
LATE APRIL	1.35	3.45
5/15/2014	1.5	

So far in 2014, the variation has been 0.95 ft. and approached the SNW water level. However it was at a time when there was little boating activity. Also, the base water level at which there is no discharge from Powers Lake through the outlet culvert is 0 ft.

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Friday, June 13th, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, Bassett, Wisconsin.



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.