



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

OCTOBER

2018

2019 ANNUAL BUDGET

Next year's budget is \$50,560. The tax levy is \$36,250. As always, the board is cognizant of the tax levy and does their best to hold the line.

ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS

Brooke Jensen and Dan O'Connell were re-elected for 3 year terms. The next Annual Meeting will be Friday, August 2nd, 2019.

FISH STOCKING

Dave Anstett attended the Sportsmen's Club meeting in May. They graciously voted to donate \$1,000 to add to the DPL fish stocking budget of \$5,000. Dave has been in contact with Luke Roffler of the DNR and Keystone Hatcheries. Luke's recommendation is to stock one species per year since that has proven to be the most successful method to enhance the fishing experience, safety in numbers. We stocked northern pike last year so Luke has approved a stocking this fall of 3,600 7 inch walleye. Dave will place the order with Keystone.

LAKE LEVELS

With the recent storms, the lake levels remain high. As of this writing, the Village of Bloomfield has removed some debris from under the outlet which was impeding the flow out of the lake. Since that has been rectified, the water is now flowing freely again. In addition, the Village is working to coordinate with land owners downstream for permission to remove additional obstructions which, once resolved, should also improve conditions and lower the lake level back to normal. The DPL continues to monitor and work with the appropriate agencies to manage the situation.

INVASIVE PLANT POSES NEW THREAT TO WATER QUALITY

Environmentalists who have discovered a new invasive plant in Geneva Lake are seeking funding from the state to prevent it from disrupting boaters or other users. Currently, environmentalists are unsure of other potential risks from finding it in a lake.



The plant was found this summer near the Town of Linn and is an algae known as Starry Stonewort. It was discovered in the Trinke lagoon, which is an area on the southern shore of Geneva Lake. The plant is rooted in sediment and is capable of growing into thick bushes which can disturb lake aesthetics and recreational use.

The Geneva Lake Environmental Agency is hoping to try and control the plant. They are also encouraging any lake users to be on the lookout for the plant. The Agency feels a sense of urgency to respond to the plant with a swift effort to combat it. Reports say it can take over areas before you even know you have it. \$10,000 in "rapid response" funding from the DNR is being sought through a program designed to help communities attack new invasive species. Boat companies and others on Geneva Lake have



been alerted to help control the spread. Officials say that the chemical treatments have proven ineffective and removing the bushes by hand has delivered only short term results.

Amy Kretlow, an invasive species specialist with the DNR, stated that the first known detection of Starry Stonewort occurred in 2014 Little Muskego Lake in Waukesha County. Since then a half dozen lakes in Door County, Racine County, Waukesha County and Washington County have reported it. Kretlow said efforts at containment have succeeded in knocking down outbreaks to what she termed “respectable, manageable populations”. But the DNR has not found a way to rid any lake of the unwanted algae entirely, she said. “No successful eradication method has been found.”

On October 4th, environmentalists launched an expedition to locate and combat the new invasive plant species that they fear has taken root in Geneva Lake. Crews from the state Department of Natural Resource and the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency raked plants along the lakeshore to look for evidence of an algae known as Starry Stonewort.

Once introduced to a new environment, Starry Stonewort reproduces aggressively. There is no known method of eradicating it, only controlling it. It would be the first known presence of Starry Stonewort anywhere in Walworth County. “We don't know where it is in the lake,” DNR conservation warden Brad Wilson said. “Or if it even is in the main lake.”

Crews began their effort along the shore at George Williams College in Williams Bay, and they planned to continue later in other

parts of Geneva Lake. The group was focusing on boat launch sites along shorelines in the belief that Starry Stonewort could be transported by boats and would take root near the shore.

“We don't know how it got here,” said Ted Peters, director of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency. “It probably came by a boat.” After a second sweep across the lake planned on Oct. 10, the environmental agency plans to report the results.



QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Friday, October 19th, 2018 @ 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.