

CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

As you may know, The District of Powers Lake is in transition.

At our Annual Meeting last August, Jim Michels our distinguished, longtime, fearless leader passed the gavel after 18 years of service as our Chairman.

Jim was first elected as a Commissioner in 1995 and has admirably served the District for 20 years. We are pleased and very thankful that Jim is still serving as a Commissioner and continues to provide his insight and guidance.

Personally, I have always leaned on Jim as the "Elder Statesmen" and "Resident Historian" on all things Powers Lake. He has a rich history of the lake, knows the inner workings of the DPL and his engineering background and experience are invaluable. Powers Lake is very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated individual at our disposal.

Jim's leadership has provided a litany of accomplishments over the years and there are too many to list here. Most notably, and likely often overlooked, was the purchase of the 71 acres of wetlands that the District now owns. This acquisition has a significant impact and long term benefits to the quality of Powers Lake. The foresight and diligence of Jim and the District for pursuing the purchase of these wetlands cannot be overstated. These wetlands act as a filter for the water upstream and are one of the reasons Powers Lake has such a high water quality. It is our insurance against potential development and continuing protection of the watershed.

It is only fitting that we acknowledge the sacrifice and dedication Jim has provided our community. The results of his efforts over the last 20 years will last for generations.

Next time you see Jim, please take a moment to shake his hand and express your gratitude.

Powers Lake is a better place because of him. Powers Lake needs a few more Jim Michels!

As we transition, the District has been actively engaged in several notable initiatives.



For the last several years, the District has been working to open the lines of communication and improve our working relationship with the Municipalities that govern the area, namely the Town of Randall and the newly formed Village of Bloomfield. We are unique in that our lake falls under the jurisdiction of multiple municipalities which can create confusion and challenges.

The Chairmen of both Municipalities attended our April 17th meeting which was very much appreciated. Their presence provided a renewed spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding. The end result was a commitment to work more closely and provide a level of consistency for things relating to Powers Lake. We are encouraged by the spirit of partnership as we work to maintain and build on these relationships.

You may be aware that the Town of Randall is in the process of revising what is commonly referred to as Chapter 20 which is the Ordinance that governs the rules of the lake. The intent of this undertaking is to simplify and bring the ordinance in alignment with the more current state statutes. The only expected significant change will be to provide boaters pulling a skier/tube the option to now cut across and not enter Jefferson Bay based on "judgment" if the traffic in the bay poses a safety threat. The current Ordinance requires every boater pulling a skier/tube to enter the bay and follow the ski pattern. This potential change will allow what is often a common practice to no longer be a violation. It is a welcome common sense approach to what was often not only a safety concern but an issue of much confusion and debate. **Please keep in mind the Ordinance has not yet passed. As of today, it is still a violation, so please keep this in mind when on the water. We will let you know when the changes are official.**

This is a great example of the benefits of having a good working relationship with the local municipalities and partnering with them on important issues.

The District is also in the process of investigating the installation of an electronic measuring device which will monitor precipitation, air & water temperature and most importantly the water level of the lake. Our goal will be to electronically link the measuring device to our web site and provide us with historical reference and the ability to share with the community and other interested entities.

Please join us on August 21st for our Annual Meeting if you would like to hear more on this initiative which, by the way, was another idea provided by our friend, Jim Michels . David Kraft from Hey & Associates will be presenting the various options available to us. We look forward to your participation and we welcome your input. We will also continue our discussion of the lake level which we began at the June meeting as we continue to investigate the situation and gather more facts.

While I am no Jim Michels, I will do my best to continue his efforts to lead the District in a thoughtful direction to preserve the legacy that Powers Lake has on each of our lives.

Respectfully,

Neal Kuhn, Chairman