



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

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2016

2016 Annual DPL Meeting

Our guest speaker was Mary Knipper, President of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Lakes Association. Here is an overview of her presentation:

Times are changing for lakes and the money is harder to come by for lake projects. Federal programs are no longer in existence but county and state options are still available. Under the Public Trust Doctrine, all waters belong to the people.

- The legislators conduct their business regarding waters with bills and laws. The legislators write the laws.
- The DNR writes the administrative rules which would cover implementation and enforcement of the laws. The trustee of those waters would be the DNR which is the state agency tasked with protection of the waterways.
- Lakes are cared for by districts, associations and The WI Lakes Association {WLA}.
- The partnership can be viewed as a 3 legged stool.

- The DNR has science and regulatory knowledge and are the boots on the ground.

- The UW WI Extension educates and produces materials and handles outreach. These 2 legs cannot do policy work, lobby or legislate.

- The value of the WLA partnership is that as a nonprofit they can do policy work. They cannot be partisan or support political candidates however; they can discuss policy and brief legislators on issues that affect the lakes. The WI model is held up as the best model nationally and other states are encouraged to implement it to protect their lakes. Minnesota is adopting the exact model now.

Act 55 in the latest budget removed funding from natural resources. 2/3 of the WLA budget was also cut. As a result of this:

- In the last 3 budget cycles, the trend has been to reduce staffing and work for the DNR. The burden of boots on the ground now falls to districts and associations.

- Staff @ the WI Lakes Partnership {WLP} and the DNR Science Center were cut as were natural resource educator positions.

- The state of WI also no longer funds state parks and will now rely on funding through entrance fees.

Aquatic Invasive Species {AIS} treatments are the most costly for associations and will continue to be. 3 new invasive have arrived: Water Pennywort, Sacred Lotus and Yellow Floating Heart. These also are spread by boats going from lake to lake. It is not just fishing boats. To be included are kayaks, wave runners, sailboats, sailboards and paddle boards during inspections of Clean Boats, Clean Waters. Lake protection grants, lake planning grants and AIS grants are still well funded.

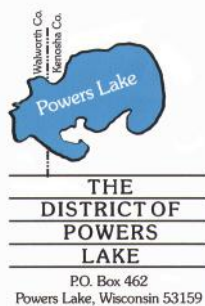
We learned that Zebra Mussels are outcompeted and typically run out of their food source. Subsequently, they will cycle out and fail to mature and accumulate. Timing for this cycle will vary from lake to lake. The estimate is a 10 year cycle in which they can diminish quickly. Thereafter, they will self-regulate. This does not mean they will disappear altogether, it means they are less likely to take over the entire lake.

2017 Annual Budget

Next year's budget is \$49,000. As always, the board is cognizant of the tax levy and does their best to hold the line.

Election of Commissioners

Neal Kuhn was re-elected. Dave Anstett was elected to his former appointed position. The next Annual Meeting will be Friday, August 4th, 2017.



Elected Commissioners:

Neal Kuhn, Chair
Secretary
Brooke Jensen, Treas.
Jim Michels
Dan O'Connell

Appointed Commissioners:

Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.
Mark Halvey, Randall Twp.

Water Level

We are working to install an electronic monitoring device to measure levels in order to feed into a database and then onto the website. This should create an historical perspective. This is our 4th year of manually tracking with the new gauge and will continue until the new electronic device is installed.

Below is the historical data we have gathered since 2013:

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016
June	0.9	1.05	0.7	0.9
June	0.5	1.05	0.8	0.8
June	0.8	0.98	0.75	0.7
June	0.95	1.4	0.75	0.7
July	1.2	1.4	0.7	0.7
July	1.1	1.35	0.65	0.5
July	1	1.05	0.9	0.5
July	0.85	1.2	0.9	0.4
July	0.7	1.2	0.85	0.5
August	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6
August	0.675	0.9	0.75	0.5
August	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.5
August	0.6	0.9	0.65	0.55
August	0.6	0.9	0.725	0.7
September	0.5	1	0.8	0.7
September	0.5	1	0.8	0.8
September	0.5	1	1.1	0.75
September	0.5	1	0.9	0.8
October	0.6			0.8

Interesting fact: One inch accumulation of rain over an acre of water or land requires 27,154 gallons of precipitation.

The DPL has spent a significant amount of time, energy and resources to validate the facts as we know them. It is important that everyone understand that water levels on Powers Lake currently cannot be regulated since we do not have a dam. Our lake levels in a normal year, with average rainfall are determined primarily by 4 factors:

- 42% precipitation 21% Powers Lake inlet
- 32% groundwater 5% shoreline drainage.

- We have had meetings with the DNR and the Village of Bloomfield to confirm that nothing has changed at the outlet.
- We are in a below normal rainfall/snowfall period.
- Rainfall this this year has been 6" below normal (as of August).

Our preliminary investigations as to what it would take to install a dam to control the lake levels provided the following:

- A dam project would require 100% agreement of all riparian owners.
- It would likely take up to 5 years or more to accomplish and require a significant investment and coordination with the multiple divisions within the DNR and Corps of Engineers.
- It is not just the inlet that feeds our lake and the outlet where the water exits our lake that is involved. It is a whole ecosystem that is interrelated.
- Our lake feeds Benedict/Tombeau and all downstream lakes. Their levels do not affect us; however our levels may affect them.
- Consensus and consent from their riparian owners would likely also be required.

The DPL will continue to investigate and monitor the situation. As you can see in the historical data, the recent rains in late August & September have brought the lake levels back up some. Our hope is that the precipitation next year will get us back to more historical normal levels.

The DPL is happy to support any volunteers who are passionate about this issue and interested in forming a committee to continue the effort of gathering additional facts and possible solution.

New Website

We are updating the website after forming a committee to obtain bids. The committee is working with a marketing/design firm in Racine on the new website and email system. The goal is to have a more complete and efficient way to communicate with everyone around Powers Lake. We hope to have most of the system in place by early 2017.

When the new site is set up, please sign up for information and notices to keep you informed.

Quarterly Board Meeting



Our next meeting will be held Friday, October 28th, 2016 at 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.