

A View from the Lake by Tom Schroeder

Even though “summer” is more than half over, activities impacting the Lake continue to evolve. The July 14, 2018 Annual Beaver Dam Lake Management District was attended by 35 district residents, which included State Senator Janet Bewley and State Representative Romaine Quinn. Commissioner John Epple chose not to run for another term and was recognized for his service which included working on the DASH and the Healthy Lakes Fish Stick project. John Bavier was elected and I was re-elected to 3 year terms as commissioners. The officers for 2018-19 will be Tom Schroeder- President, Dr. Alan Carlson – Treasurer, and John Bavier- Secretary. The budget was approved and includes funding for EWM and CLP weed, matching funds for the Jeffery Blvd. and 3rd Ave. storm water improvements, the match for the Hwy. 63 Bridge study with the WDOT and other expenses.

The SW Storm water pond is completed and is functioning as planned. The trees and shrubs that were planted survived the winter although some deer damage was noted. Additional grass was seeded in spring and has been left to go to seed in an effort to fill in the bare spots left by the annual grass that was planted last fall. Once the seed is well established the City will be mowing and trimming the area. This fall some dead trees along 5th Ave. and elsewhere on the property will be cleaned up and several additional trees and shrubs will be added.

One last attempt to create a navigable channel from the Grove Street Bridge to the dredged channel along the parking area adjacent to Library Lake will determine whether more costly dredging will be needed. Hopefully the use of low cost equipment, like that used in the shallow waters during the Vietnam War will do the job. There may be a need for volunteers to help remove loosened cattail and other vegetation from the channel. A public notice will be posted should the need for volunteers arise.

The 2018 treatment for EWM was quite successful yet early July plant survey results indicate that EWM still exists. The July data and that gathered in Oct. will be the basis for developing the 2019 Treatment plan. With the approval of the herbicide ProcellaCor by the Fed. EPA and the State of WI., the Lake District is working with the WDNR, SEPRO - the Manufacturer of ProcellaCor, and others on approving a test site on Beaver Dam Lake. This product can be used in spot applications and is applied in parts/billion rather than parts/million as is the case with other approved aquatic plant herbicides. More to come on this subject as the test program develops.

One baffling observation again this year is the prolific growth of fern grass in Norwegian and City Bay's. Normally fern grass grows to only a foot or two from the bottom. However, the past two years the grass has canopied on the surface causing navigation issues. By now the fern grass should be through its growth cycle and laying down beneath the surface. This issue will be addressed at the Jan. 2019 planning meeting for next year's EWM/CLP treatment

I encourage those that use the lake to read the latest edition of the Wisconsin Boating Regulations. I continue to observe safety violations that should you be stopped by lake law enforcement officers, may cause you to be ticketed. Most fines range from \$90.00 to as much as several hundred dollars. Many of the safety violations I continue to see involve not having Personal Floatation Device –PFD on paddleboards and Personal Water Craft. Another violation is PWC being operated too close to other PWC, boats and pontoons. So far this summer I have fortunately not observed people riding outside any railing in the front of pontoon boats while under power. This is not only very dangerous but carries a hefty \$170.00 plus fine.

The navigation buoys at the narrows, the sand bar (sometimes referred to as “the dam”) between Williams and Rabbit Bay and the four “no wake” buoys across the lake near the beach are there for safety reasons. Four times this summer a buoy has broken free from its mooring location. I know for a fact that twice the north buoy at the Dam came free after I watched 3 young boys playing and hanging on it. This just happened again as I am writing this article. The north “dam” buoy is currently floating past the house and will need to be retrieved. Please stay away from the buoys. There is a hefty fine should you be caught playing on or moving the buoys on purpose.

Last, please continue to follow clean boat precautions when traveling between different lakes. The constant threat of invasive species being transported to our Lake is never ending. With Zebra mussels in many Minnesota Lakes as well as the nearby Lake McKenzie chain, the threat to our Lake is as close as the next boat launched onto our Lake. The three Boat Monitors this summer are at the boat launches to inspect boats and to inform owners of the need to make sure they are clean of invasive species both before they launch the boat or PWC and when they trailer it again. Please continue the pleasant dialog with the monitors that I understand has been the norm this year.

Have a great time the rest of this summer and enjoy the week of the Rutabaga Festival.