

A View from the Lake by Tom Schroeder – President, Beaver Dam Lake Management District

As I am typing this article, I can see the lake from the office and it finally appears that the ice is going to be off the lake soon. After last year's early ice out in March, I was hoping for a repeat this spring.

The BDLMD commissioners continued to be busy during the winter months. This year's Eurasian Water Milfoil -EWM treatment plan was developed with input from the WDNR. The treatment permit application has been submitted, and treatment will take place approximately 3 to four weeks after ice out. This will depend on the growth rate of the EWM at the various treatment locations. The permit application and treatment plan are on the website at beaverdamlake.org.

A team of Lake District residents continued work on providing input for updating the Library Lake Management Plan. With the successful award of a grant to cover 75% of the cost of updating both the Library Lake Management plan and the City's Storm Water Management plan, Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc. - EOR has been working on producing a final draft. This work is expected to be completed by mid May, 2022. After the Lake District team reviews the draft, a public comment meeting will be scheduled during the second quarter of 2022.

As covered in the Dec. 2021, A View from the Lake article, it is hard not to notice the SE Storm water pond work associated with Phase 1. This past week, Dave DeSantis finished up the final part of this phase when baffles were installed in three catch basins located along the City Parking lot. The baffles should allow sediment to drop out before the water heads to the SE storm water pond. Once the weather warms the small stage used for the pepper eating contest during Rutabaga and other events will be repositioned to its preconstruction location.

In my Dec. 2021 article, I reported that because the WDNR required that the Library Lake – Lake Management Plan needed to be updated by Sept. 1, 2021 rather than by the Nov. 1 2021 grant submittal date, a Lake Protection grant application was cancelled. However, on Nov. 1, 2021, three different grant applications not requiring an updated Library Lake Management Plan were submitted to help fund various Lake District projects. The Lake District was successful in being awarded all three grants totaling \$85,000. These grants will offset the cost to complete the previously mentioned Library Lake Management plan and the City's Storm Water Management plan, the planning costs for the SE pond Phase 2 and restoration costs for the area associated with the SE storm Water pond. All three grants were ranked by the WDNR scoring process as number one in their respective categories.

Over the winter the BDLMD, along with EOR, worked persistently to obtain a dredging permit to help in the continued restoration of Library Lake. I am ecstatic to report that the Lake District received a WDNR permit to remove the cattails and sediment along the south side. With the permit now in hand, plans are underway to create a bid package for the project. A "Fund the Library Lake Restoration" effort will soon be announced to raise the funds necessary to cover the restoration costs.

WDOT engineers continue engineering the design for the replacement of the Highway 63 box culvert going between the east and west sections of the lake. The current design envisions a

“bridge-like” structure. The design will allow for continuous traffic flow during the construction. The current schedule is for a public information meeting to be held during the 3rd quarter of 2022. The construction of the replacement structure is currently scheduled for 2025.

I have had many inquiries as to why various names are used when referencing areas of Beaver Dam Lake. For years the lake had a few specific areas that were referred to by names such as Tiger Bay on the far NW end of the lake, Norwegian Bay on the far north end of the east part of Beaver Dam Lake, Library Lake, and Cemetery Bay known previously by a not so pleasant name when the waste water treatment plant was located where City Hall currently is located.

When it became necessary for the BDLMD to apply for permits to control EWM with herbicides, the WDNR preferred treating big areas or a whole lakes rather than spot treating small areas. Because Beaver Dam Lake has such a diverse topography with various bays and water depths, just referencing Beaver Dam Lake in the application wasn't acceptable. The BDLMD commissioners decided to assign names to specific areas of the lake, so when applying for a treatment permit for a given year, the various area names were used as applicable. Besides the previously mentioned areas, the bay north of Grove Street was named Rabbit Bay. From the narrow shallow sand dam like area on the north end of Rabbit Bay, the water extending north to the shallow area known as the Rice Beds is Williams Bay. The Rice Bed area is located between the Eagle Point boat launch and the point directly west (referred to as Jerome's point) but does not hold any wild rice but rather bulrushes. Williams Bay is like a big deep bowl with the deepest part around 93 feet deep. The lake area north of the Highway 48 Bridge is City Bay. City Bay is shallow and is where the saw mill was located. East Bay lies to the east of where the channel that comes from the Highway 63 box culvert intersects with north boundary of City Bay. East Lake is also like a big deep bowl reaching 80 feet plus. Transitioning from the East Lake area to the north is Norwegian Bay that extends north to the boat landing off the road to the Cumberland landfill. There are several other locations around the lake that are referenced by names, including Golf Course Bay, Hunts Bay, the Narrows and Nelson Bay. A map of the lake with these names and others can be purchased at various businesses in Cumberland. A map is also on the Lake District's website.

Finally, I invite everyone to attend the BDLMD Annual Meeting which will be held at the Middle School commons on Sat. July 9th starting at 9:30 AM. I'll see you on the Lake.