

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

During January 2021 with Covid-19 still dictating much of our day to day activity, I was unsure what the rest of the year was going to present as to challenges for the BDLMD. As I reminisce about 2021, from a lake management perspective, it was a successful year. There were no reported boating accidents or serious injuries on the lake. The 2021 Eurasian Water Milfoil - EWM treatment plan appears to have been effective and the SE storm water pond phase one was completed. There was a band concert on the lake but unfortunately the weather dampened the attendance. Hopefully next summer there can be other concerts on the lake. The 4th of July fireworks was one of the best ever and was well attended by the number of water craft I observed coming and leaving the event. During the Water St. and 4th Ave construction the boat launch was improved with concrete slabs installed in the lake bed and a concrete approach to the dock that meets ADA requirements was constructed. The sediment at the storm water out fall adjacent to the launch area was dredged. In August, a group of volunteers again removed two dump trailers of cattails and aquatic plants from the channel leading to the dock in Library Lake.

Phase 1 of the SE storm water pond project was completed just prior to Thanksgiving. The project connected the three storm water catch basins along the City parking lot to a new storm water pond on the property where the demolished buildings were located. Two catch basin drains along the alleyway behind the Utility could not be connected as planned because the drain pipes to the lake were lower in elevation than what was expected. These catch basin drains will be addressed in the phase 2 engineering scope of work.

Unfortunately due to the WDNR requirement 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, the Lake Protection grant application that would have help fund the Phase Two of the SE Storm water pond was cancelled. This will delay the Phase 2 storm water pond construction until 2023. 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. We should find out by March 2022 whether we were successful in obtaining the grants.

A team of Lake District residents was formed to work on updating the Library Lake Management Plan. The input from the team will be incorporated into the overall plan by Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc. - EOR which developed the original plan. Once the draft is finalized, a public comment meeting will be scheduled during the second quarter of 2022.

The Lake District received several unexpected donations for use by the Lake District at the discretion of the commissioners. Donations help fulfill a grant application category where points are awarded for inclusion of outside funding sources. The Lake District is positioned to accept donations of stocks as well as cash which in most cases is tax deductible.

Although the spring was fairly cool, once June arrived, the water warmed up and was pleasant all the way through Labor Day. I did receive several inquiries about algae growth and snails. The algae growth was not unexpected with the early ice out, the lack of precipitation and extended period of warm water. Some types of algae are good for the lake and luckily none was of the blue-green variety. The snail questions were related to the Chinese Mystery snail and snail egg formations that were found attached to boat lifts and dock legs when they were removed in the

fall. I have discussed the existence of the Chinese Mystery Snail in previous letters. There is a lot of info. on the internet. If you find any Chinese Mystery snails remove them from the lake and dispose.

With the start of the final storm water pond construction on Library Lake the Lake District has applied for a dredging permit for the SE shoreline of Library Lake. Once the permit(s) are in hand and the scope of the dredging is finalized, a “Fund the Library Lake Dredging” committee will be commissioned to raise the funds necessary to cover the cost of the dredging, estimated to be \$300,000 to \$500,000 dredging costs. This is going to be a major community effort! Currently the plan is to block off the channel by the Grove St. Bridge during late Nov. and lower Library Lake by 4 feet or so. The lake would remain low through the winter and once the sediment freezes, the cattails and sediment will be removed by mechanical means. The lake will be refilled at the completion of the dredging.

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. If everything goes as presently scheduled, more information may be available shortly after the first of the New Year. The construction of the replacement structure is currently scheduled for 2025.

The EWM plant survey results continue to be encouraging especially on the east side of the lake. Only a few small areas of EWM were found, however on the west side of the lake, EWM was observed around areas of Tiger Bay (by Camp Brigadoon), by the west edge of the rice bed and in Cemetery Bay. Based on the successful use of the herbicide ProcellaCOR in Hunts Bay in 2019, we will be looking at using ProcellaCOR in 2022. The effectiveness of ProcellaCOR on EWM is significant because it is applied in **parts per billion** (ppb) and can be used on small areas with better results whereas the other herbicides that are used are applied in **parts per million** (ppm).

The WDNR stocked Beaver Dam Lake with 19,194 large fingerling walleye (6.2” average length). I would appreciate anyone that catches a walleye(s) from Beaver Dam Lake to let me know the number, size and approx. weight whether you release the fish or not. It would help to determine if stocking these extended growth walleyes is making a difference.

I would like to thank the BDLMD commissioners for their commitment and help over the past year. To all the volunteers that have again stepped up when they were asked to help, I owe a big “Thank You”. The support of all BDLMD residents, contract companies, local government officials and the WDNR personnel is also recognized and appreciated. Without the involvement and dedication of all these groups to making sure that the challenges affecting Beaver Dam Lake are addressed, the lake would not remain one of the premier lakes in NW Wisconsin.

Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Safe and Prosperous 2022.