

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

The middle of August is here, Rutabaga Festival begins next week and the summer of 2022 is all but in the sunset. Up to the past few weeks what a summer it has been, with weeks of hot weather and little but timely rains. Hopefully, the rest of August and Sept. will provide good at the lake weather.

The BDLMD Annual Meeting was held on July 9th with 40 residents in attendance. I explained the Annual Newsletter was late due to the Printing Company changing ownership, supply side materials and available labor issues. Adjustments have been made to the schedule for 2023 so the letter will be sent out on time. The budget was approved, which again for the 13th year will hold the tax levy at the same mill rate, yet allow for expenditures to cover EWM treatment, Library Lake SE pond construction, new grant applications and other Lake District needs. Two commissioner terms expired, however, Mike Werner agreed to serve another term and Tim Defoe had submitted a nomination application. Absent any additional nominations from those in attendance, Mike and Tim were unanimously approved. During the open comment session, the major concern voiced by those present centered on various types of water craft creating large waves. Based on the many comments that were voiced, it is apparent many watercraft operators lack knowing and understanding WI. Boating Regulations and overall acceptable boating etiquette. The Sand Lake wave ordinance was discussed as an option for Beaver Dam Lake. An ordinance was not seen as viable approach to addressing watercraft usage concerns on Beaver Dam Lake. A motion was made and passed for the BDLMD to update signage at the boat landings especially pertaining to boating regulations and to create written information to communicate the lake culture BDLMD members promote to all Lake District residents and visitors. A committee has been formed to address the stated concerns of the motion.

The team working on updating the Library Lake - Lake Management Plan is close to finalizing the draft plan. A public hearing/meeting to review the plan will be schedule soon with approvals by the WDNR, Barron County, and the City of Cumberland to follow.

I am encouraged by the volunteers that have come forward to manage the Lake District website, become lake monitors for taking secchi disk readings and water samples, manage placing and removing navigation buoys, and joining committees to review the Library Lake management Plan and the fund raising for dredging/restoring Library Lake. If you are interested in becoming involved with the BDLMD contact me.

The 2022 treatment for EWM was completed during June with the July plant survey showing encouraging results. The planned treatment of Cemetery Bay was prevented by the highway 48 bridge construction obstructing movement of the necessary equipment for the herbicide application. Hopefully the 2023 treatment for EWM will be minimal.

I continue to be amazed by the damage that is done to the navigation buoys. So far this year three buoys have needed to be repaired due to props cutting through the buoys shell and one due to people playing on it which caused water to enter the inside cavity. A number of adults were observed throwing stones at the buoys at the Narrows just 4 days after a new buoy replaced a damaged one. There are substantial fines associated with damaging, moving or playing with navigation buoys. Please leave the buoys alone. They are provided for everyone's safety.

I want to remind boat operators to not allow passengers on their pontoon to ride on the front deck that is absent guard rails or on the gunnels or railings while under power. There are numerous websites that show what can happen to people being struck by engine props. Please operate your watercraft responsibly.

The BDLMD will be applying for various grants again this fall. The major grant application will be for constructing Phase 2 for the SE storm water pond. More updates will be coming in the near future. Enjoy the remaining lake season and I will see you on the lake!