

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

With the color turning on the leaves and the docks and boats being pulled for the winter, I always ask myself, where did the summer go? As I look back at this past summer, I believe it was one of the best we have experienced in a long time. With the early ice out in March and the warm water temperatures in June, I was concerned that the aquatic plant /weed population would be horrendous, especially after the explosion of Eurasian Water Milfoil – EWM and the prolific variable pond weed and other emergent plant growth that we experienced in 2020. The 2021 EWM treatment appears to have been very effective and for whatever reason the emergent plant growth was minimal. The upcoming Oct. plant survey will hopefully verify the July plant survey results. There was some algae growth, but not unexpected, because of the warm water temperatures and lack of rain. Filamentous algae was the most noticeable as large mats of the algae were occasionally observed floating on the lake. This type of algae is good for the lake as a food source for lake dwellers as well as ducks and other water birds.

The South East (SE) storm water pond Phase 1 is scheduled to start the week of Oct. 4th. This phase will involve connecting the 3 storm water drains (catch basins) from the City parking lot and several others collection basins behind the utility and businesses along the alley to a new storm water pond. The pond will be the first of three treatment facilities that will be located in the area where the three houses were removed about one year ago. Trees will need to be removed where the storm water piping and ponds will be located, but during the future phases of the project, trees, shrubs, appropriate plantings and shoreline restoration will be included. (see artist conceptual drawing)

Simultaneous with the aspects of the SE pond design, bidding and awarding of the construction contract, the Lake District along with Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.-EOR have been working on a WDNR grant application for Phase 2 of the SE Storm water pond project. This needs to be submitted by Nov. 1, 2021 and is a lengthy process that requires lots of interaction between the WDNR, EOR and the Lake District and support from the City. Phase 2 will include directing storm water from Main Street and the 4 corners area along with the water from highway 63/48 going west from the Corner Bar to another new pond. This pond is referenced as an iron enhanced sand filter. The iron filings mixed in the sand will capture phosphorous as the storm water filters through the sand within the confines of the pond. For every pound of phosphorous that is contained in the pond potentially 350 to 500 pounds of algae is prevented from growing in the lake. Phase 3 will focus on the cultural aspect of the project including walkways, ATV and snowmobile access, parking areas, informational signage, planting areas, benches, tables, etc. The small stage used for the pepper eating contest at the Rutabaga Festival and the summer Tuesday evening music event will be moved temporarily during the construction activity. Low bidder Desantis Excavating & Underground Utilities will be constructing the project.

The Lake District is also working on obtaining a permit to dredge sediment from various areas of Library Lake. Once a dredging permit is obtained, a fund raising effort will initiated to raise the assets necessary to cover the dredging and handling costs.

Along with all the previously mentioned undertakings the Lake District is also working on updating the Library Lake – Lake Management Plan. An approved updated Plan is a prerequisite

when applying for grants and other funding sources. The update is required every 10 years by the WDNR. A committee of BDLMD residents is currently reviewing the 2010 approved Library Lake – Lake Management Plan and will provide input and feedback for what the updated Plan should include.

The City is completing the Water St. and 4th St. project that includes the rebuilding of the boat launch adjacent to the intersection of the two streets. The concrete ramp and boat dock will be a nice improvement. Please do not power load when trailering your boats. The scouring of the sand and stone at the end of the ramp creates a drop off that makes use of the ramp difficult. It also causes an expense to repair the damage.

There are other things going on related to the lake and Lake District but they will be covered in future article. The BDLMD commissioners and I appreciate the continued support from the community of our efforts to protect and preserve our great lake. There is still a lot of work to do. Have a wonder fall season.