

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

As long as the weather and the covid-19 are dictating much of my day to day routine, I thought that it would be a good time to write an update on the Lake District activities. To the satisfaction of many city residents, the last house along Elm Street where the SE storm water pond will be constructed has been demolished. The area sure looks different with the buildings removed. If everything goes as planned, the Lake District will receive a construction grant that was applied for on Nov. 1, 2020. Once it is approved, work will start on the bid specifications for the project. The schedule is for construction to begin sometime in the 3rd quarter of 2021. Because of the scope of the SE pond project and associated costs, the project is currently planned to be completed in 3 parts (requiring 2 additional grants) over the next three years. The Cumberland Utility is in the process of placing some of the overhead electric service wires underground along the alleyway which will also help improve the appearance of the area.

Jay Michels from Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc. gave a presentation about the history of the Library Lake restoration and other past Lake District projects on Oct. 3, 2020 at the Middle School Commons. It was anticipated that the Covid-19 virus might discourage residents from attending, so the presentation was videoed and can be found on the Lake Districts website at beaverdamlake.org.

Now that the final Library Lake storm water pond is being planned, the dredging of sediment from Library Lake is being planned. This will start with obtaining the required WDNR permits. Once the permits are in hand and the scope of the dredging is finalized, a “Fund the Library Lake Dredging” committee will be commissioned to raise the estimated \$500,000 dredging costs. This is going to be a major community effort!

The WDOT engineers are working on the design for the replacement of the Highway 63 box culvert going between the east and west sections of the lake. Whether the structure is a replacement box culvert or a bridge structure remains in question. 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 surveys results continue to be encouraging especially on the east side of the lake. Only a few small areas of EWM were found, however the west side of the lake found significant EWM in Rabbit and Williams Bays, Tiger Bay (by Camp Brigadoon) and several other smaller clusters of EWM. Very little Curly Leaf Pond weed was found. Based on the successful use of the herbicide ProcellaCor in Hunts Bay in 2019, we will be looking at using ProcellaCor in various areas in 2021. The effectiveness of ProcellaCor on EWM is significant because it is applied in **parts per billion** (ppb) whereas the other herbicides that are used are applied in **parts per million** (ppm) and can be used on small areas with better results.

As the Beaver Dam Lake Management District approaches the 30 year milestone, I think of what Beaver Dam Lake will look like 30 years from now? Will the Hwy. 63 bridge be built as scheduled and how will that affect dynamics of the Lake? What will the “Downtown” look like as changes are made to Library Lake? Will past graduating Cumberland students and residents continue to return to Cumberland to retire and will new faces continue to find Cumberland as a place to relocate? Will people continue to volunteer and support the BDLMD? All the past

volunteers that have served as President, Secretary or Treasurer as well as all the commissioners are owed a big “Thank You”. In addition, the support of residents, contract companies, local government officials and the WDNR personnel is also recognized and appreciated. Without the involvement and dedication of all these parties to making sure that the challenges affecting Beaver Dam Lake were addressed, the lake would not have remained one of the premier lakes in the State of WI. Hopefully the next 30 years will be as satisfying as the past 30. Take care, stay safe, and I’ll see you on the ice.