

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

As the New Year approaches I think about all the people I observed enjoying our great lake. All the tubing, wake boarding, skiing, paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming, and just plain lounging in the crystal clear water is indicative of the water quality of Beaver Dam Lake.

As I reported with more detail in previous “A view from the Lake” articles, the Eurasian Water Milfoil – EWM treatment this spring was very successful. The Oct 2019 follow-up plant survey verified the July plant survey results that EWM is at the lowest level since 2006. This can be attributed to the continued aggressive treatment plans over the past ten years and the effective use of various approved herbicides. During the week of Aug. 18th, Hunts Bay was treated for EWM with the recently approved herbicide ProcellaCor. Our lake was one of ten lakes in Wisconsin that were approved for ProcellaCor use. The Oct 2019 survey results were spectacular with only one 11 foot multi-stemmed plant being found and removed. It was severely damaged with only one of the stems showing partially remaining growth. This is especially encouraging for spot-treating EWM and other invasive plants rather than having to treat a whole bay or segment of the lake.

The WDNR did a fish survey this past spring using both nets and shocking in the process of gathering the data. The walleye population continues to remain below the goal of 12 walleye per acre. There is little evidence that the walleye are reproducing naturally. As a result the WDNR stocked the lake with 16,500 extended growth walleyes (6 to 8 inches) this fall. In 2020 the BDLMD will plan to stock walleyes in the continuing effort to support this important recreational activity.

The Jeffery Blvd./3rd Ave. storm water project was awarded a WDNR grant that was funded through the US-EPA. You may recall, during late Oct. and Nov., Mother Nature did everything to make life miserable for the contractor, Dave Desantis Excavating and Underground Utilities. Dave and his employees persevered through the many challenges the three separate installations presented. The 6 ft. dia. x 13 ft. high concrete dynamic hydraulic separators are designed to separate solids from the storm water entering them. Each separator had to be placed in an excavated hole over 14 feet deep and then tied into existing and new concrete drain piping. Once this was completed the area was back-filled and compacted. Only some seeding, sidewalk and driveway pavement elements remain to be completed next spring. The City of Cumberland maintenance workers will use the City’s vacuum truck to periodically suck all the muck, leaves, etc. from the separators sumps. Before this project was completed, all the collected debris would have gone directly into the lake. Hopefully, in the future other direct storm water runoff sources around the lake can be addressed in a similar manner.

The replacement of the box culvert under Hwy 63 between the east and west segments of the lake continues to progress within the WDOT. By 2022, we should have a good idea of what the project will encompass with construction projected for 2024. The culvert replacement should

coordinate with the replacement of the road surface on Hwy 63 from approximately Louie's Meats to the split of Hwy. 63/48 west of town.

As the lakes freeze up for the winter, please be cautious when on any of the lakes.

Temperatures and ice conditions can change the relative safety of the ice. The opening (often referred to as the sand dam) between Rabbit Bay and Williams Bay often freezes over during periods of below zero temperatures only to open up again when the temperatures return to the high twenties. Use caution when riding snowmobiles and other vehicles near this area.

I want to thank everyone who in some way helped the BDLMD accomplish many of the projects and activities that help keep our Beaver Dam Lake the jewel that we can all continue to enjoy. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and may 2020 bring you good health, happiness, and peace.