

Appendix G

Citizen Survey Results

Memo

To: President Dave Evenson, and
Members of the Beaver Dam Lake Management District

From: Committee on Aquatic Plant Management Planning

Date: September 14, 2011

Subject: Preliminary Report on Citizen Survey

This is a preliminary report with the results of the recently completed Aquatic Plant Survey. Citizen surveys are required by the WDNR as part of the Plant Management Planning process. About 1,150 surveys were mailed to the residents in the District and we received 189 back which is a 16.4 % return rate. There is a wealth of information in the surveys and the volunteer committee has tabulated the results.

We will review the individual results on the 16 questions but there are a few highlights:

- Most use of the lake – motor boating, enjoying the view, fishing, swimming, pontooning.
- About 60% feel their activities are negatively affected by weeds
- Fish stocking is supported by over 90%
- Boat inspection is supported by over 90% and many would support more
- Most citizens believe the volume of plants has increased
- Most citizens don't know about the types of plants and weeds
- Huge majority (15:1) support use of approved herbicide controls
- Most citizens support the current 5% goal of milfoil control (many would also increase goal)
- Large majority support action on curly-leaf pondweed
- Huge majority (6:1) support herbicide control in navigation channels
- About 50% have manually removed weeds
- About 25% have used private treatment
- Many more (300%) would consider private treatment in the future

Library Lake is still viewed as a major asset and major problem by citizens. The large majority urged the LMD to continue looking for a solution. There is concern over the lack of support by the DNR for restoring the lake and frustration with the current plan and a long dock necessary to utilize the downtown area. Tax and spending concerns were mentioned by some citizens. Most would suggest coordination with the City storm drainage plans and continuing with grant requests for funding.

There were many suggestions for management of the lake. We are working on a complete list for District members to review. But, clearly our citizens support the work of the Lake Management District and were complementary with numerous comments like "keep up the good work."

Lake Management District Citizen Survey

Summary Comments and Supporting Information

Question#

1. Lake Use - Busy lake with broad recreational use
 - Motor boating
 - Enjoying the view
 - Swimming
 - Pontooning
2. Plant growth impairment - About 60% feel activities are negatively impaired by weed growth
3. Plant growth impairment - Top 4 activities are impacted about equally by weed growth
4. Fish Stocking - Huge support (90.5%)
5. Volume of Plants - More than 50% believe that amount of vegetation in lake as increased
6. Types of Aquatic Plants - Most (57%) don't know about "types" of plants in the lake
7. Degree of Impact - (see attached survey)
8. Herbicide Control - Huge majority (15:1) support approved herbicide controls
9. 5% Milfoil Goal - Majority (71%) support current goal and 23% would support more control
10. Curly-leaf Pondweed - Large majority (83%) recommend reducing amount
11. Herbicide Control in Channels - Huge majority (93%) support clearing waterways
12. Boat Inspection Program - Huge majority (96.5%) support program or increasing program
13. – Edited
14. Live on Lake - About 85% of surveys were returned by citizens living on lake - and about 50% were returned by citizens that reported 20 year residency
15. Manual Removal of Weeds - Approximately 50% have cleaned their beaches
16. Approved Private Treatment - 21% have used private treatment
17. Future Consideration of Private Treatment - Majority (72%) would consider private treatment
18. Library Lake and Lake Management District Recommendations (See attached report)

**Beaver Dam Lake
Management District
Box 232
Cumberland, WI 54829**

**Beaver Dam Lake Management District
Aquatic Plant Management Citizen Survey**

The Beaver Dam Lake Management District needs citizen help to complete an Aquatic Plant Management Plan required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The plan is drafted every five years and is necessary to obtain permission to manage the lake. The survey also provides the opportunity for citizens to express opinions on management goals and the efforts to maintain the lake.

Please complete the survey by **August 31, 2010** and mail it to the Beaver Dam Lake Management District, PO Box 232 Cumberland, Wisconsin 54829, or you may deliver the survey to the Cumberland City Hall or the Cumberland Library.

Based on what you tell us we will establish goals for Lake Management Plan and there will be several opportunities to participate in the process throughout the next six months.

Thank you on behalf of the Lake Management District, Dave Evenson, President.

BEAVER DAM LAKE RECREATION

1) What recreational activities do you enjoy at the lake? (Check all that apply)

159 Motor Boating 23 Jet Skiing 63 Water Skiing 121 Pontooning
49 Canoeing 35 Kayaking 13 Sailing/Wind Surfing 128 Fishing
141 Swimming 127 Observing Waterfowl / Wildlife 146 Enjoying the view
___ Other _____

2) Are any of your lake uses impaired by current levels of plant growth?

88 Yes 72 No Mark the attached map with an X in areas of excessive plant growth

3) Which of the activities you checked in question #1 are impaired by plant growth?

34 Motor Boating 8 Jet Skiing 14 Water Skiing 49 Pontooning
9 Canoeing 8 Kayaking 3 Sailing/Wind Surfing 49 Fishing
52 Swimming 8 Observing Waterfowl / Wildlife 31 Enjoying the view
___ Other _____

4) Do you support fish stocking? 163 Yes 7 No

PLANT GROWTH and CHANGES IN THE LAKE

5) Has the volume of aquatic plants in Beaver Dam Lake changed in the past 5 years?

35 No change 43 Decreased 85 Increased

6) Have the types of aquatic plants changed in the past 5 years?

19 No change 42 More types 6 Fewer types 103 Don't know

7) Rank the degree that each of the following impacts your use or enjoyment of the lake.

Circle the impact in each category. (1 low.....5 high)

| | Low Impact | | | High Impact | |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Invasive plant species (milfoil) | 31 1 | 12 2 | 28 3 | 36 4 | 56 5 |
| Algae Growth | 46 1 | 24 2 | 36 3 | 32 4 | 32 5 |
| Native Plant Growth | 44 1 | 27 2 | 56 3 | 22 4 | 30 5 |
| Lake Level Too High | 61 1 | 21 2 | 31 3 | 18 4 | 29 5 |
| Lake Level Too Low | 59 1 | 27 2 | 16 3 | 19 4 | 34 5 |
| Loss of Habitat | 58 1 | 31 2 | 31 3 | 16 4 | 24 5 |
| Boat congestion | 49 1 | 36 2 | 36 3 | 20 4 | 18 5 |
| Noise | 44 1 | 37 2 | 42 3 | 16 4 | 18 5 |
| Loss of Natural Scenery | 58 1 | 38 2 | 26 3 | 22 4 | 17 5 |
| Small Fish | 44 1 | 35 2 | 46 3 | 18 4 | 25 5 |
| Not Enough Fish | 44 1 | 24 2 | 40 3 | 27 4 | 38 5 |

LAKE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

8) Aquatic Plants that are not native to Wisconsin Lakes generally cause problems. Do you support the use of herbicides to remove these plants? Note: DNR approved herbicides are applied before the native plants begin to grow so native plants are not harmed. These herbicides naturally disappear from the lake soon after the application is successful.

126 Yes 8 No

9) We have successfully used herbicides to reduce the amount of Eurasian Watermilfoil in the Lake from a high of 73% 12 years ago to the current 18%. Our current goal is 5% or less.



The goal should be: 41 More aggressive 10 Less aggressive 124 I support the 5% goal

10) Curlyleaf Pondweed is an invasive species that can cause problems in lakes. What is your opinion of managing Curlyleaf Pondweed?

- 139 Reduce it as much as possible to avoid future problems
- 25 Only manage if it gets worse
- 3 Do not manage



11) Do you support the use of herbicides to remove native plants in navigation channels if they interfere with boat navigation?

- 151 Yes 24 No

12) Cumberland operates a boat inspection program at the boat landings to prevent introduction of invasive species to the lake. What is your opinion of the management program?

- 142 I support the program 6 Do not support 20 Program should be increased

LAKE RESIDENTS

14) How long have you lived on the Lake? 0 less than 1 year 19 1-5 years

23 5-10 years 29 10-20 years 85 20 or more

15) Have you ever manually removed aquatic plants from your lakeshore?

- 69 Yes 81 No

16) Have you had approved private herbicide treatment of aquatic plants on your lakeshore?

- 33 Yes 124 No

17) Would you consider approved private herbicide treatment?

- 110 Yes 41 No

LIBRARY LAKE

18) The Lake Management District developed a DNR approved plan to improve Library Lake in 2010. The plan had water sediment collection basins, recreational areas and boat access to downtown. Funding for the plan was not approved by citizens attending a special meeting in October 2010. What should the Lake Management District do with Library Lake?

Thank you for helping us with the Plant Management Survey. It will help us with the task of managing plant growth in the lake. What other comments or suggestions do you have for the Lake Management District?

LIBRARY LAKE COMMENTS

The majority of the responses to question 18, concerning Library Lake were numerous but can be categorized as Supporting or Not Supporting the Restoration Plan. The number of responses to the continued effort to clean up Library Lake were approx. 3 in favor to 1 against. The majority of those in Support felt that the lake needed to be dredged and the results needed to make a significant change in the lakes appearance, objected to the DNR's bias to not dredge, and felt the restoration would be a benefit to the City of Cumberland. The responses Against doing anything with Library Lake centered on concerns about the restoration costs, the impact on the tax base and doing nothing (connected to costs and taxes). The responses to question 18 that were not related to Library Lake are summarized under the General heading. The responses below are representative of those responding with similar or like verbiage and connotation:

Supporting Library Lake Restoration

❖ Dredging Library Lake

"Dredge it". "Fix it",

" I would like to see Library Lake pumped out and blocked of by the bridge on Grove Street, wait until it is suitable for heavy equipment to work & remove bog by east + SE shoreline & riprap east shoreline by parking lot to make it more accessible like it was 25 years ago when Jaycees made it navigable."

❖ DNR objection

" Library Lake is a terrible eye sore as people enter into Cumberland from the west. The District should challenge the Wis. DNR about the dredging out of the 15" of toxic silt that is in the lake Library Lake should be restored to it's 1940's state with a drainage channel into Collinwood Lake so it would no longer be a dead lake. The DNR's position of "NO DREDGING" must be challenged (in court if neceesry). Since when has their role become protector of toxic waste that is in Library Lake. The DNR is totally out of control in Wisconsin and it is about time someone challenges them in court. The DNR's position on Library Lake would make a great court challenge to rein-in their out of control authority"

❖ Benefit to City

" Let the business owners who will benefit contribute to some of the funding. Everybody wants it fixed but nobody's willing to pay for it!"

" Wow. Not funded. I think the house on 63 are a eyesore and do nothing to enice families to purchase homes on the lake. They should be torn down and at least replaced with bushes and trees."

Against Library Lake Restoration

❖ *Restoration Costs and Tax impact Responses*

" It is the run off from streets in the City of Cumberland, let the City fix the problem"

" The City of Cumberland should improve the Lake. They created the problem."

" Library Lake affects only a few residents on that lake. It is too small to benefit many others. Keep it clear of invasive species& excess sediment. Costs of other improvements not warranted."

" The costs of any plan should be proportionate to the benefits derived from such a plan, that something should be done is without question but keep in mind the already horrendous tax burden that shore owners already are paying."

"Anything to improve without costing the taxpayers"

❖ **Do Nothing**

"Listen to the voters,. Leave it alone"

" Leave Library Lake alone! It was and never will be used for recreation. ALL the people that are for this want is to be able to go to Nezzy's Bar by pontoon. The lake should not be used for city business!"

" Let it go through its natural change-there are others ways to get to the downtown area if that's a major reason"

" Leave it as is. The money should be used to manage the rest of the lake."

General Comments or Suggestions

- ❖ "Increase the Bridge by Sammy's to allow easier boat traffic"
- ❖ It would be nice to have a tunnel under 63 so we could enjoy all of the lake."
- ❖ "Muskrats are eating up the lake shore. What can we do about them"
- ❖ "While we support the boat inspection program, the inspectors need to be diligent and understand the importance of the job. Only one of the inspectors did an outstanding job."
- ❖ "Have no wake signs regulations during high water to protect from shoreline erosion"
- ❖ Consider "no wake" zone in the narrows before a deadly accident occurs."
- ❖ Living near the sand bar it is very noisy when there are boats hanging out there, also concerned about the fact that there are no public rest rooms and what type of sanitary issue there maybe!"
- ❖ "Possibly restrict the size of boats and motors used. We have had very big boats on the lake – this affects the shoreline a lot."
- ❖ A screening fence/sound barrier at the bean factory. Get rid of the junk trucks and clean up /plant trees behind Trucking Co. across from Bean Plant."
- ❖ "A Lake Directory"
- ❖ Great improvement from 73% to 18% Stock more walleyes."
- ❖ "It's a great lake – continue to work to keep it a Great Lake, Thanks, - Thanks a lot!"
- ❖ "The board of the district does a good job, keep it up."