

# **DISTRICT DIALOGUE**

Volume 19, Number 1

August, 2009

Dear Fellow Lauderdale Lakes Homeowner:

This issue of the District Dialogue focuses on our upcoming annual meeting and budget hearing. As in past years we will meet at Lutherdale Bible Camp, Saturday, September 5, on Labor Day weekend. Please attend to learn more about the various activities managed by your Lake District, plans for the future and exercise your right to vote.

This year Jack Sorenson and Peter Van Kampen are up for re-election. They are running unopposed for another term. I have had the privilege of working with them for many years and they are an important part of our Lake District team.

This year has been busy for the District, managing the ongoing projects, relocating resident geese and working through the challenges of the outflow dam project. More on these topics follow in this newsletter.

Our proposed 2010 budget is presented in this newsletter. I am pleased to report that the board worked hard to control expenses while executing the programs you have come to rely upon. For the second consecutive year our proposed budget has a slight decrease over the previous year.

Although Labor Day is right around the corner many great days on the water remain. Enjoy & boat safely.

Scott Mason, District Chairman

**ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING**

**LUTHERDALE CHAPEL, N7891 HWY. 12**

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2009**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:30 AM**

**MEETING BEGINS AT 10:00 AM**

**BUDGET HEARING & AGENDA**

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of 2008 minutes
3. Election of Commissioners
4. Wetlands property plan & Aqua Skiers use
5. Treasurer's report
6. Water Safety Patrol report
7. Golf course report
8. Environmental Projects
9. Outflow Dam report
10. Septic pumping report
11. Weed harvesting report
12. Amendments
13. Approval of 2010 budget & tax levy
14. Other business for discussion

### **COMMISSIONER NOMINATION**

Two positions on the Lake District Board are up for re-election this year. Incumbents John "Jack" Sorenson and Peter Van Kampen are running for re-election. Their names will appear on the Commissioner ballots as unopposed.

### **GOLF COURSE UPDATE**

Chris White has continued to do an excellent job as our General Manager. Although this has not been a record year, rounds and revenue are within budget and fairly average compared to the last two years.

May rounds and revenue were down slightly over 2008, while June & July were up in both rounds and revenue. More on this at the annual meeting.

### **VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING**

Scott Mason

In 2004, the Wisconsin State Legislature changed the laws governing lake districts. One of the more significant changes eliminates the provision for absentee voting. Anyone wishing to vote must be present.

Registration for the Annual meeting and Budget Hearing will begin at 9:30 AM. All Lake District residents and property owners are considered eligible Electors. We will use Walworth County tax rolls and LaGrange/Sugar Creek voter registration lists to check in electors and distribute ballots.

## **WATER SAFETY PATROL**

Nestor Dyhdalo

The joint (Lauderdale Lakes-Town of LaGrange) water patrol continues to work well. We are seeing two frequent violations on our lakes this season. The first violation, and understandably so, is expired registrations. Many registrations expired this past spring (Mar. 31, 2009) and boaters have either forgotten to renew their boat registration (required every 3 years in Wisconsin) or have neglected to replace the old sticker with the new one on their boat. The second violation we are seeing is underage operation of Personal Water Craft. The age limit has been creeping up each year and now the age limit, as of Jan. 1, 2009, for operating a PWC in the state of Wisconsin is 20 years of age unless the operator has successfully completed a DNR-sanctioned boating safety class and they must be prepared to show their completion certificate. If such training has been completed, the PWC can be operated by anyone 12 years of age and older.

For those boaters who pull skiers or youngsters in some sort of tube behind their boat, please be aware that there is a limit on our lakes of 2 skiers/tubers etc. being towed at any given time behind your boat. There are safety concerns about being able to retrieve more than two skiers/tubers from the water on a busy weekend on the lakes. Under some circumstances, it may be challenging to retrieve even two people who have capsized in the water at the same time.

We wish you safe boating as we head into the final months of this boating season. The non-emergency number to the Water Patrol is 262/742-4300 which may transfer to a pager or to the boat.

## **WEED HARVESTING**

Peter Van Kampen

We are having a very normal year for Weed Harvesting. The year started in January with a major overhaul of the harvester. We replaced many parts and components that were part of the original unit purchased in 1990. That investment is looking good so far in that we have had no breakdowns this summer. For being 20 years old we are very happy with the equipment. Virtually all of the components are repairable or replaceable. We did an inspection inside the hull and are happy to report that we found little rust. For the most part, the inside hull looks quite new.

The harvesting is going as planned. We generally hit the high concentration areas of Don Jean Bay and Sterlingworth bay early and often. We never go into the sensitive areas until after the fish have spawned, typically around June 15. From there we hit all the normal spots and respond to reports from homeowners. With the cooler weather in July we have cut fewer weeds to-date than in some years, but August is the big tonnage month. The crew works 4 10-hour days to max the time the machine is on the water and to have less interference to boating activities on Fridays.

This is the third year for our cutters Carl and Doug. We are very happy with their work. Our other team members, Mike, the crew chief who provides great leadership, and Jerry, have been with us for many years. This crew not only does the cutting and hauling but also most of the routine maintenance that keeps the equipment in top shape. Hats off to a great crew!!!

## **GEESE CONTROL**

Peter Van Kampen

The USDA conducted their second consecutive annual goose round-up in early June. During this period the young are not yet able to fly and the adults are molting their primary flight feathers so they too can't fly. The system works as follows: We have spotters on the lake relaying the collection team the locations of the geese. The team boats drive the flocks to shore and then up on a yard. The geese are then encircled by the land team, each carrying a lightweight piece of fence 8 ft. long. The circle gets progressively smaller until a cage is formed. The geese are then carried one by one to a trailer with about a hundred cages. The geese end up in food pantries in the Milwaukee area. Extra care is given not to over stress the geese. The handlers are very gentle. We were able to find all but one family of geese who currently congregate on Middle lake. There were also six others that got away (two could still fly) causing some confusion and allowing the others to escape. These too were found on Middle lake. From subsequent observations these were the only two groups on the lakes this summer.

Next year we plan to identify nesting pairs and oil the eggs thereby preventing hatching. USDA feels this is a good approach since the number of geese on the lakes is significantly down after two consecutive years of round-up. Pleasant Lake also conducted a round-up this year which should help control our local population. Thanks to Des Johnson and Scott Mason for their on-water scouting this year

A total of 105 birds were collected this year. Last year 134 birds were collected.

## **LAKE ORDINANCE INVESTIGATOR (LOI)**

Peter Van Kampen

This is our first season for the LOI position. Much of the time to-date has been spent getting organized and understanding the Town and County and DNR ordinances. We are organizing files of pier sketches and photos submitted to the Town in 2007 as well and digitizing photos taken of the entire shoreline in 1999. We will be taking new shoreline photos this year since the original photos are ten years old. The objective is to have conformance with or possibly suggest changes to the lake ordinances. We need data and understanding before we can do either.

One positive action taken by the Town since our discussions with them is that the old law of replacing only 10% of a pier per year has been dropped. When your pier needs replacement you need only contact the Town's local building inspector (Greg Guidry 903-5932) and provide him a sketch of the conforming pier. He can issue the permit on the spot. If the pier is not conforming, you will need to appear at a town meeting to request a variance.

Over time the objective of complete conformance for all homeowners is expected to be achieved. If you are considering any changes to your existing pier check the ordinance in the front of the LLIA Directory or the Town's web page. The easiest time to get into conformance is when you are replacing an old pier.

Here's a SAFETY TIP that could save you a lot of problems. Make sure your raft is marked with reflectors on every corner. This is law and your failure to comply could get you in deep water if a boat hit it at night and someone was hurt. So protect yourself with some nice

big reflectors on each corner. The Water Patrol also suggests you put your LL # on it. When it breaks loose they can get it back to you.

### **CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATER (CBCW)**

Peter Van Kampen

The Lake District and Town of LaGrange are experimenting with a program to staff the launch sites to educate boaters on the importance of cleaning their boat after leaving any lake. Boaters are advised to remove all plants from the trailer and to empty the live well in fishing boats. These actions can prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases. There is a new fish disease in Wisconsin that if allowed into the lake can kill virtually all the game fish.

The state-sponsored CBCW program has been adopted by other lakes in Walworth County. Lake resident Floyd Pochowski has been certified by the state to educate the boaters at our launch ramps. If all goes well we would expect to expand the program in 2010.

### **LAUDERDALE AQUA SKIERS**

As many of you already know there have been several years of controversy over the use by the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers LAS of the wetlands, owned by all of us through the Lake District. The current Lake District Commissioners have spent many hours attempting to resolve the issues with the understanding that the majority of the Lake District Residents support the LAS and their use of the Wetlands for the ski practices and rehearsals. To fully understand the sentiment on this issue we will be asking for a ballot vote at our Annual Meeting on September 5, 2009.

As background information, the electorate in 2000 approved the purchase of the wetlands for the following reasons:

- To prevent Mr. Biagi, the owner at that time, from continued attempts at development of the property
- To have a permanent place to dock the Water Safety Patrol Boat and Weed Harvesting Equipment
- To provide a permanent home for the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers

Other public uses of the wetlands include; use by local schools and organizations as an outdoor environmental classroom, Scouting Field trips, Scouts participating in restoration activities etc. These public uses and the municipal uses by the Water Patrol and Weed Harvesting crews are not the subject of the vote being taken.

The ballot will read,  
“Do you support the use of the Lake District property by the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers? Yes or No”

Your board has followed the direction of the 2000 annual meeting vote that this is an activity the community supports and wants to see continue. We simply want to gauge if any change in the level of support by the community has occurred.

### **SEPTIC PUMPING**

Wally Yandel

The septic pumping program is working well with a new three-year pumping cycle underway. If you receive an orange card from the County, forward it to the Lake District's septic pumper, Otto Jacobs Company. They will complete the card verifying that your property has been pumped and will return it for you to the County. This process fulfills your

obligation for compliance with the County's ordinance requiring a pump every three years.

### **OUTFLOW DAM & CULVERTS**

We have been working with an engineering firm on the replacement of the culverts since the 2007 annual meeting. We have analyzed a lot of data and will be prepared at the annual meeting to give you the latest details.

The good news is that our dam has been thoroughly inspected and passed with flying colors. Furthermore the engineering for the new culverts is complete and we just received all of the permits to proceed with the project. The contractor has ordered all the materials and has scheduled our work. We are hoping that the project will be completed by the time we see you at the annual meeting. Jack Sorenson and Peter Van Kampen have done an incredible amount of work to see this through to completion.

### **2010 BUDGET**

On the following page is the proposed 2010 Budget. We will be discussing and voting on this at our annual meeting. You will notice that the proposed 2010 budget shows a decrease of \$5,366 over last year which translates to a 1.94% percent decrease over last year.

<b>PROPOSED 2010 BUDGET &amp; TAX LEVY</b>			
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>2009 BUDGET</b>	<b>2010 BUDGET</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
<b>WEED HARVESTING</b>	45,000	45,000	0.00%
<b>WATER SAFETY PATROL</b>	49,260	50,535	2.59%
<b>DAM MAINTENANCE</b>	2,000	2,000	0.00%
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</b>	14,500	17,300	19.31%
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	7,500	7,500	0.00%
<b>INSURANCE</b>	12,000	12,000	0.00%
<b>LEGAL</b>	7,500	7,500	0.00%
<b>SEPTIC PUMPING ADMIN</b>	100	100	0.00%
<b>EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT</b>	500	500	0.00%
<b>LAKEVIEW PROPERTY</b>	13,866	13,865	-0.01%
<b>WETLANDS PROPERTY</b>	0	0	0.00%
<b>CERTIFIED AUDIT</b>	2,500	2,600	4.00%
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	4,500	5,000	11.11%
<b>GENERAL RESERVE</b>	10,000	10,000	0.00%
<b>CULVERTS PROJECT</b>	10,000	0	-100.00%
<b>LAKE ORD INVESTIGATOR</b>	10,000	10,000	0.00%
<b>GOLF COURSE</b>	85,000	85,000	0.00%
<b>TOTAL TAX LEVY</b>	274,266	268,900	-1.94%

**LAKE DISTRICT CONTACTS**

LL Lake Management District  
N7498 Country Club Dr.  
Elkhorn, WI 53121  
(262) 642-1690

Scott Mason, Chairman	642-1690
Nestor Dyhdalo, Treasurer	742-4066
Water Safety Patrol	(847) 729-3554
Data Base	
Wally Yandel	495-8596
Septic	
Jack Sorenson, Secretary	742-3161
Outflow Dam	(847) 498-4613
Insurance	
Peter Van Kampen	742-2567
Weed Harvesting	
Dorothy Burwell	728-6085
(Walworth County)	
Rick Callaway	374-2387
(Town of LaGrange)	
Water Safety Patrol	742-4300
Weed Harvesting Cell Phone	215-2442
Lauderdale Lakes Country Club	742-2454