



# DISTRICT DIALOGUE



VOLUME 21, NUMBER 1  
AUGUST, 2011

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Dear Fellow Lauderdale Lakes Property Owner:

This year the Lake District recognizes several milestones.

- In February, the Lake District celebrated its 20th year of being established by Walworth County.
- This is our 15th year of owning and operating the Lauderdale Lakes Country Club golf course.
- Chris White, our golf course General Manager, celebrates ten years working for the Lake District.

As in past years, this edition of “District Dialogue” focuses on our upcoming Annual Meeting where we will be voting for commissioners, the budget and other agenda items.

This year a group of district electors requested that the agenda include consideration to pay for replacement of a storm sewer on Sterlingworth Drive. This is an important subject for all district electors. Please attend to hear the pros and cons on the topic and most importantly, to cast your vote. This is covered in detail in an article by Commissioner Jack Sorenson “Lake Leak Report.”

Our proposed 2012 budget is presented later in the newsletter. Your Board has worked very hard to control expenses while executing the programs you have come

to rely upon. After three consecutive years of decreasing budgets, we are asking for an increase in funding over the previous year. This will be explained fully at the annual meeting.

We have had many great days at the lake this summer and although Labor Day is fast approaching, many good days on the water remain. Enjoy our lakes and be safe.

Scott Mason,  
District Board Chairman

**ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING**

**LUTHERDALE CHAPEL, N7891 HWY. 12**

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2011**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:30 AM**

**MEETING BEGINS AT 10:00 AM**

**BUDGET HEARING & AGENDA**

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the 2010 minutes
3. Commissioner Election
4. Treasurer's report
5. Water safety patrol report
6. Golf course report
7. Environmental projects
8. Septic pumping report
9. Weed harvesting report
10. Presentation and consideration funding Sterlingworth storm sewer
11. Amendments
12. Approval of 2012 budget and tax levy
13. Other business for discussion

## **COMMISSIONER NOMINATIONS**

Scott Mason

Two positions on the Lake District Board are up for re-election this year.

Incumbents Nestor Dyhdalo and Wally Yandel are running for re-election. Their names will appear on the Commissioner ballot as unopposed.

## **GOLF COURSE UPDATE**

Scott Mason

Under Chris White's management the golf course continues to perform as projected and within budget. This is Chris' tenth year working for the district and many improvements have been realized under his leadership.

2011 is the 15th year of our ownership of the golf course. Many of our lake residents have commented on the community's vision in supporting the golf course purchase in order to preserve open space and a natural resource. The golf course will be paid in full in three years (2014), two years earlier than projected.

Lake resident Larry Meyers has embarked on restoring the golf course water tower and creating a park around it. The following link will take you to a recent article on this outstanding project.

<http://www.elkhornindependent.com/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=6176&SectionID=11&SubSectionID=11&S=1>

Many thanks to Larry and his family for managing and providing the resources for this exciting and historic project.

## **VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

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.

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 verify elector status and distribute ballots.

## **WATER SAFETY PATROL**

Nestor Dyhdalo

This is the 11th year that the Lake District has been operating a water patrol on Lauderdale Lakes. The merging of the water patrol operations with the Town of La Grange a few years ago has been a success, saving money and resulting in more streamlined operations. Thanks to Ken Blanke, our Water Patrol Chief, who has been with the department since day one.

Unfortunately, the Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) citations are up this year. For the past several boating seasons, we were tracking at around three such violations per season but we have already had five such violations this year. On another front, we made our first drug abuse arrest on the lake. In cooperation with the Walworth County Sheriff's department, two men were arrested for cocaine use and possession. However, it appears that their boat was not registered to anyone on Lauderdale Lakes.

We continue to see underage operation of Personal Water Craft. The age limit has been creeping up each year and now the age limit, as of Jan. 1, 2011, for operating a PWC in the state of Wisconsin is 22 years of age, unless the operator has successfully completed a DNR-sanctioned boating safety class; 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.

If you invite guests, please do not let them operate your PWC unless they are at least 22 years of age or have successfully completed a DNR-sanctioned boating safety class. Although it is recommended that operators take the in-class version, the course is also available online.

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 water patrol boat.

## **WEED HARVESTING**

Peter Van Kampen

We purchased a new 3 cylinder diesel for the 20 year old harvester. It replaces a 2 cylinder diesel that went well over its intended hours. The new one is performing very well. All the equipment is in good shape and we plan to keep it another 20 years. We have one new crew member this year and two returning; Mike our Crew chief has been with us over 10 years.

The weed harvest has been lighter than usual in the first half of the season, cooler temperatures and lack of sun being the main contributors. The Eurasian Milfoil (EA) is the dominate invasive plant that we harvest. In past years it represented 90% of the tonnage. Native plants seemed to have made somewhat of a comeback and we may have seen the peak of EA a few years back. Plants like arrowhead and chara are becoming more predominate and they do not generate the tonnage like the EA. Consequently, we are seeing a more balanced plant community which indicates a very healthy lake.

## **GEESE CONTROL**

Peter Van Kampen

We had another very successful geese roundup in June. During this period, the adults have lost their big pin feathers and cannot fly and the young have not yet matured enough to fly. So we, with the help of the USDA, chase them up on shore, surround them with fence sections, bring those sections together and gather them up.

We gathered 74 birds this year and believe that was all of them. In the first year of this program, we collected over 135 birds.

The USDA says this is normal and we should continue to see fewer and fewer each year although it may never go to zero. We appreciate the help of Des Johnson, Mike Bromeland, Scott Mason and Ann Pochowski during this roundup.

### **CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS (CBCW)**

Peter Van Kampen

The CBCW program is now in its third season. We have staff that are stationed at the various public launch sites on Lauderdale Lakes as well as Pleasant Lake. Our first objective is to educate the people launching boats of the dangers of invasive species. These include invasive plants that are even more aggressive and hard to control such as the Eurasian Milfoil that we have been battling for 20 years. There is also a fish virus capable of killing all the game fish and even some invasive crayfish.

By making people aware of the major problems that can be caused by transferring invasive species, we hope to prevent their introduction into our Lakes. The cost of this program is shared by the DNR, you folks in the Lake District, the Town of LaGrange and the residents of Pleasant Lake.

### **ELKHORN SCHOOL BOARD**

Peter Van Kampen

I am quoting the Elkhorn Independent of July 28, 2011. "A group of only a dozen electors-all of whom were either members of the school board, administrators or teachers, were present at the Elkhorn Area School District's annual meeting" Not a single person to question

how they are spending more than 50% of our property taxes attended the meeting.

The article goes on to say that they unanimously approved an \$18.5 million dollar budget, up 2.46 % (assuming no drop in property value assessment). The largest levy of this amount, \$6.1 million, will be paid by the Town of LaGrange which includes most of Lauderdale Lakes. The City of Elkhorn's levy is \$5.4 million.

There is no representation on the School board from the Town of LaGrange. If you know someone who might like to run for the school board, please encourage them to do so. It would be nice to have a Lake or Town representative on the board since our area has the largest tax levy.

### **LUTHERDALE A GEM IN OUR BACKYARD**

Scott Mason

Lutherdale offers a full schedule of summer youth programs. Programs run Sunday to Friday for youths 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up and there are half week programs for grades 1-3.

Lutherdale invites the Lauderdale community to attend two special events next year.

- June 3rd, 2012 Open House
- July 29th, 2012 Pancake Breakfast

For a full listing of programs visit their web site at [www.lutherdale.org](http://www.lutherdale.org). If you would like a brochure mailed to you, call 262-742-2352 or e-mail [info@lutherdale.org](mailto:info@lutherdale.org)

## LAKE LEAK REPORT

Jack Sorenson

In the fall of 2009, a large vortex was noticed near the south shore of Sterlingworth Bay. The leak that caused the vortex involved water flowing underground from the shoreline of the Bay into Honey Creek, the outfall river of the lake. The flow was significant; I have been told that the vortex was about 6 feet wide and it washed enough “foreign” stone from somewhere underground into Honey Creek to actually change the flow of the creek.

Town of LaGrange officials acted quickly to enlist a contractor working in the area, to install sheet pile into the shore line area where the vortex had occurred. This stopped the flow.

The Town has taken the lead on the investigation as sewer pipes fall within some of their easement areas and their jurisdiction. Their investigations did not result in an answer to the location and the route of the leaking water. It did, however, show that the storm sewer draining the area near the boat launch to Honey Creek is in disrepair and in need of replacement. They have developed plans and are underway with the sewer replacement program now.

The Town established a Special Service Area (SSA), also known as the Utility District, to fund the needed repairs. SSA’s are used by many municipalities to apportion the cost of repairs to properties affected by various improvements. In this case Crispel – Snyder, the Town engineer, has determined that approximately 64 properties fall within the drainage area served by the storm sewer. These properties will be assessed the cost of the repair over a 10 year period, estimated to be around \$160,000.

During the construction of the new sewer, any old pipes crossed will be plugged. But the Lake District is still concerned about the potential for a future leak. Conditions that may have aggravated the original leak, such as muskrats burrowing and old tree roots rotting, still exist and may continue to cause leaks in the already poor organic soils.

The Lake District's interest is in protecting the greater lake community by continuing with further investigation into a long term solution. Therefore, the 2012 Lake District Budget includes an item to hire an engineering firm to explore the options to permanently prevent such water leakage in the future. Upon completion of the study, it is anticipated that the Lake District will act to mitigate any potential leak, the cost of which will be shared by all Lake District residents the following year (2013)

Certain residents of the SSA, also members of the Lake District, have proposed that the Lake District pay for the new sewer system instead of the residents of the SSA area. The Lake District Board does not support this position. It is our belief that the Town has acted in a normal municipal fashion by creating the SSA and assessing those who are affected. We believe the Lake District should continue pursuing the potential of a leak which may affect our entire lake community.

The discussion and vote has been added to the agenda of the annual meeting. The SSA property owners will present their position to the electorate. The Lake District will present its case and after a brief question and answer period, a vote will determine if the entire Lake District community will be involved in the payment of the project.

We hope there will be a large turnout of voters at the LLLMD Annual meeting on Saturday, September 3 (Labor Day weekend), so that such an important issue is understood and decided by a fully representative contingent of voters.

### **LAUDERDALE SHORES SEWAGE DISCHARGE**

Scott Mason

On Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup> Lauderdale Shores (LS) Condominium Park (former Lubke's resort) experienced a power outage caused by a car hitting a utility pole near highway 12/67. There was a brief discharge of sewage into Green Lake before WE Energies restored power in the area. When the septic pumps came on simultaneously, a pressure spike caused the failure of a discharge pipe.

We applaud LS leadership for taking immediate and appropriate management of the situation.

Although this occurred over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, LS had contractors on-site Saturday evening. After contractors deactivated and secured the failing unit, a professional clean-up firm came in to sanitize the paved areas and remove contaminated soils and sand from the beach area. By Tuesday repairs had been made.

Later in the week, a testing firm was contracted to take water samples near the spill site and at a remote location. Initial testing showed elevated e-coli levels especially near the spill site at LS beach. One week later the same testing resulted in levels which many lakes would be envious of. State standards for safe swimming are e-coli below a count of 500. LS was below 50.

In spite of this unfortunate incident, the LS leadership did everything “right” in responding to this event and made a wise and very timely decision to self-disclose. They were very forthright in their reporting of the details of what had occurred. This allowed the Lake District to inform appropriate agencies including the Wisconsin DNR and Walworth County.

Our collective goal is to ensure that corrective measures are implemented to prevent a reoccurrence and LS is doing just that. Because of the way this was handled none of the agencies are seeking punitive measures.

### **2012 PROPOSED BUDGET**

On the following page is the proposed 2012 LLLMD Budget. We will be discussing and voting on this at our annual meeting.

During the last three consecutive years we have had decreasing budgets. If it were not for the new proposed items in the budget, this would have been the fourth year. However, for 2012 we are asking for an increase.

It should be pointed out that although we have included \$20,000 in this budget to help pay for the Sterlingworth sewer repair, the potential for paying for the entire Sterlingworth sewer repair project (estimated at \$160,000) is not included in this proposed budget. The additional \$160,000 will be subject to your vote.

The details of the entire budget will be presented and discussed at the annual meeting.

<b>PROPOSED 2012 BUDGET &amp; TAX LEVY</b>	<b>2011 BUDGET</b>	<b>2012 BUDGET</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
<b>WEED HARVESTING</b>	45,000	44,000	-2.22%
<b>WATER SAFETY PATROL</b>	51,800	55,000	6.18%
<b>DAM MAINTENANCE</b>	1,000	1,000	0.00%
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS</b>	23,500	23,500	0.00%
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	3,000	3,000	0.00%
<b>INSURANCE</b>	12,000	12,000	0.00%
<b>LEGAL</b>	10,000	15,000	50.00%
<b>COMMUNITY CENTER</b>	12,470	7,800	-37.45%
<b>CERTIFIED AUDIT</b>	2,800	3,200	14.29%
<b>COOPERATIVE DEPT MAINTENANCE</b>	4,200	4,000	-4.76%
<b>PIER INSPECTOR</b>	3,000	3,000	0.00%
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	5,100	5,000	-1.96%
<b>GENERAL RESERVE</b>	10,000	0	-100.00%
<b>GOLF COURSE</b>	85,000	85,000	0.00%
<b>NEW ITEMS</b>			
<b>REFURBISH WP BOAT</b>		20,000	
<b>LAKE LEAK ENGINEERING</b>		12,000	
<b>STERLINGWORTH REPAIR</b>		20,000	
<b>BUDGET TOTAL</b>	268,870	313,500	16.60%
<b>TOTAL WITHOUT BOAT / LEAK / STERLINGWORTH</b>	268,870	261,500	-2.74%

## 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 Water Safety Patrol Data Base	742-4066
Jack Sorenson, Secretary Outflow Dam & Insurance	742-3161
Wally Yandel, Septic	723-7558
Peter Van Kampen Weed Harvesting, CBCW & Pier Inspector	742-2567
Dorothy Burwell (Walworth County)	728-6085
Don Sukala (Town of LaGrange)	742-2177
District Water Safety Patrol	742-4300
Weed Harvesting Cell Phone	215-2442
Lauderdale Lakes Country Club	742-2454