



Eagle Spring Lake Management District  
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## Flotsam Got You Down?

Last fall was a difficult time for some lake residents who had to deal with problems on their shoreline related to end of the year floating weeds. Unfortunately, this occurred after what our DNR Permit for harvesting allowed and our aquatic harvesting equipment had already been removed from the lake for the year.

Thanks to those who sent in photos of the problems and issues and we have a reasonable accumulation of evidence to ask the DNR for an extension to our harvesting season.

The Chairperson has sent a letter to the DNR asking for an extension to our harvesting season for the collection of floating aquatic growth until October 31 of the year (weather permitting). Stay tuned for the latest development on this topic and we will do our best to solve this pressing issue for lake district residents.

## Muskrat Issues?

The best time for muskrat trapping is immediately after the ice is off the lake and BEFORE vegetation greens up. There is a general lack of naturally available food at this time and the animals are more willing to investigate and accept baits during this period.

The lake district uses parsnips that have been sprinkled with anise oil flavoring (to cover up the human scent) in our traps and it seems to work well as a bait. Don't forget you need a DNR trapping license if you intend to catch the critters too.



## We are DIGITAL NOW!

In order to keep Lake Residents informed on all of the recent developments and important information, the Lake District will now be publishing an electronic newsletter to supplement our traditional printed editions.

This is the first electronic version of the newsletter and we will publish a newsletter (more or less) every two months with print editions in May and July. All will be available on our website ([www.eaglespringlake.us](http://www.eaglespringlake.us)) for viewing or downloading.

And while you are looking at the latest edition of the newsletter, check out all of the other wonderful information on our web pages!



## Water Patrol Update

It appears doubtful that we will have water patrol services for 2024. In addition, the DNR Conservation Warden position is vacant for our area and likely will not be filled until November of 2024.

The board is working to find solutions in time for options to be presented to the Annual Meeting for 2025 but that does not help much for our current situation.

See Fireworks next page for more information.



For the latest and greatest breaking news on Lake District issues go to our web site at:

[www.eaglespringlake.us](http://www.eaglespringlake.us)

**(And you could win valuable prizes too!)**

Terms and condition apply.

## Factoid

Did you know that all Newsletters will not be available on our web page?



Update on 02/21/2024

Fireworks are still up in the air (sorry about that) for 2024. The issue was discussed at the February 20 Lake District Commissioners Meeting and several options were discussed, but nothing was cast in stone.

One option that was suggested was to have a Laser Light Show and the Chairman is looking into that option.

A second option is to work out some kind of arrangement to have the Town provide law enforcement officers and boat just for the display and the District would reimburse the town for their expenses.

A meeting was tentatively set between the Lake District and Town for Thursday, February 29, 2024. Should a meeting occur, notice will appear on the Lake District Web site as it does for all meeting notices.



Spring is approaching and thoughts are turning to springtime activities. How do you maintain lawn turf while protecting the lake environment? This is a very important and critical question for lake property owners. Lawn fertilizer is major contributor to lakefront problematic aquatic growth not only for the land owner but for neighbors too. A number of problems with excessive aquatic growth along shorelines can be traced back to the homeowner's improper application of fertilizers.

You CAN have a nice lawn and protect the lake by following a few key tips and rules when it comes to using fertilizers.

The first question is do you really need a fertilizer and, if so, what fertilizing elements does your site require? There is no need to add fertilizing elements that are already in abundance or sufficient quantities and to miss those elements that your lawn really needs.

You can purchase soil testing kits from most garden centers and online. These are inexpensive, semi-accurate screening tools to give you a quick assessment of the state of your soil and to point you in the right direction for fertilizer selection.

However, if you want a more accurate and specific test you can use the services of the University of Wisconsin Soil and Forage Laboratory. To explore this route, you should contact the lab by phone (608-298-6945) or email:

[planthealth.advisors@extension.wisc.edu](mailto:planthealth.advisors@extension.wisc.edu)

to be sure that a soil test will provide the information you are looking for. Once you learn what nutrients your soil needs to support a good lawn you can move onto selecting the right fertilizer.

First and foremost, **DO NOT** select a fertilizer with any phosphorus content. While fertilizers containing phosphorus are sometimes available online, they are highly restricted for use in Wisconsin.

**The chemistry behind fertilizer can be confusing to novices.** Even gardeners with experience may find it frustrating to choose the correct fertilizer for a specific need.

You'll often see gardeners wandering from one product to the next, attempting to interpret the label and the numbers, befuddled by symbols they barely remember from high school science classes.

There are three key elements to common fertilizers and each element does something specific. These are:

- **Nitrogen** for vegetative growth like grass, plants, or leaves. (First number on packaging)
- **Phosphorus** for root growth (Second number on packaging).
- **Potassium** for everything else. (Third number on packaging).

These fertilizer numbers represent the percentage of the three macronutrients found in that package. Plants use several nutrients to fuel their growth, but the N-P-K ratio is the most crucial.

A pack of fertilizer with the fertilizer numbers 10-0-10 on the label, for example, contains 10% N, 0% P, and 10% K. The remaining 80% of the carrier product makes up the bag's weight.

**The initials SR after the numbers stand for Slow Release.** Instead of being immediately available to the plant (and perhaps harming it), the fertilizer is released regularly over time. A slow-release fertilizer reduces the need to reapply it. You can also use this fertilizer on a more regular basis.

Liquid or Granular fertilizers is always a question that comes up. Liquid fertilizers have a quicker response action, but lasts for a much shorter time frame than a granular application. Also, deposition of liquid fertilizers can be more challenging as overspray becomes an issue which can lead to waterway pollution and involvement.

A granular fertilizer applied by a drop spreader is the most accurate application method and is easiest to control and prevent misapplication leading to waterway involvement.

One of the bigger problems around lakes is the timing of fertilizer applications. Fertilizer should never be applied to frozen ground and only when there is active plant growth. The best recommendation is to apply fertilizer after the first cutting of the grass or at least three weeks after full green up of the lawn.

A buffer strip of at least 10 feet should be left between the turf and the edge of the waterway or beach (if there is one). Fertilizer elements will leach into this area over time and will reduce the nutrient loading of the local water features.

Keep fertilizers off any concrete or asphalt surfaces. Rainwater could carry these materials into a drainage system that connects to surface water. Sweep or blow fertilizers off the hard surfaces back onto the lawn.

Never apply fertilizers when heavy rain is expected. Light rain will help locally distribute the fertilizer in the ground whereas heavy rains will cause it to run off and migrate. Light rain is defined as 1/10<sup>th</sup> of an inch of precipitation per hour.

Predicted rainfall timing and amounts for SE Wisconsin can be found on the National Weather Service website at:

<https://www.weather.gov/mkx/summer-information>

If you plan on watering, limit your sprinkler time to no more than 20-30 minutes approximately once per week. Use the screwdriver test to determine if

you have correct watering based on soil dampness. If you can push a screwdriver into the ground 1 inch with ease the soil has sufficient moisture for turf.

If you are using a “professional” garden service be sure to monitor their activities and clarify with them that fertilizer applications must be kept away from waterways and the buffer zone.

Another concern for turf management is the use of weed killers mixed with fertilizers. These products are a double whammy if used inappropriately. A number of herbicides for weeds are toxic to fish and aquatic life so extra application care is needed with these substances.

A tip deals with proper mowing techniques. Proper mowing can produce healthier turf that can withstand more stress and pest pressure.

Mow high and regularly. Raising the mowing height will enhance the quality and health of your lawn. A height of 2.5 to 3.5 inches is a general recommendation for most turf species. For best results, remove only one-third of the leaf blade at each mowing.

Sharp mower blades provide a better cut and a healthier turf stand. Dull blades tear leaf blades and provide more sites for disease infection.

Returning clippings to the turf can reduce the total need for fertilizer. Routine clipping removal from the lawn will reduce soil phosphorus levels over time.

Do not allow clippings to reach the water! This is like throwing fertilizer into the water and must be as diligently avoided.

If you follow these tips and tricks you will not only have a healthy lawn but will protect the lake and limit undesirable weed growth along your shoreline that can result from the misapplication or over application of fertilizers.



**Salt belongs in your shaker, not in the lake!**

### **The Impacts Of Too Much Salt**

Although salt keeps Wisconsin roads safe during winter, using more salt than needed comes at a price. In Wisconsin and much of the U.S., chlorides

from salt are infiltrating lakes, streams and groundwater. According to Wisconsin Salt Wise, one teaspoon of salt is all it takes to make five gallons of water toxic for freshwater organisms.

The DNR measures chloride levels in Wisconsin rivers over time, monitoring cumulative chloride loading results at 26 of the state's largest river systems. Recent studies have shown a steep increase in chloride loads. In the early 2000s, the DNR measured about 600,000 tons of chlorides annually. By 2018, that number increased to nearly 800,000 tons per year. Fifty lakes and one stream in Wisconsin have been designated impaired by high salt concentrations.

These increased chloride loads are partly due to road salting, but chlorides also enter Wisconsin waters because of water softeners and fertilizers.

Increased chloride levels, including environmental and economic effects, significantly impact our daily lives. Nationwide, winter salt causes \$5 billion in damage to infrastructure each year, causing corrosion on bridges, roads and other infrastructure. Road salt can also impact pets by causing irritated paws or other health concerns if ingested.

### Salt Tips For Wisconsin Residents

Reducing salt use is critical to decreasing chloride loads in our waters. Follow these steps to right-size your salt use:

- Shovel: Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow removed manually, the less salt you will need and the more effective it will be.
- Scatter: When using salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.
- Switch: Salt won't work when pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.



Have pets? Use a pet safe ice melter to limit paw problems too! Rock salt is not safe if pets ingest it and its sharp edges can harm their paws and result in cuts and infections.

## Factoid

The most common reasons for boating accidents over the previous 5-year period were:

- Operator inattention
- Improper lookouts
- Operator inexperience
- Excessive speed
- Impaired operation



Here are a few important recalls that may be of interest to you. For all recalls contact your local product dealer for more information

### Polaris Recalls Sportsman All-Terrain Vehicles Due to Fire and Crash Hazards

Name of Product: Model Years 2021-2023 Sportsman 450 and 570 All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

Hazard: An improperly assembled wiring harness can contact the brake line and/or vehicle frame during use which can result in a loss of the use of the front brakes and/or fire, posing fire and crash hazards.

Remedy: Repair

Recall Date: March 16, 2023

Units: About 80,000



**Polaris Recalls MATRYX PRO RMK and MATRYX RMK KHAOS Snowmobiles Due to Serious Injury Hazard**

Name of Product: Polaris Snowmobiles, Model Year 2022-2023 MATRYX PRO RMK and MATRYX RMK KHAOS

Hazard: The handlebar hooks on the recalled snowmobiles pose a puncture hazard and risk of serious injury if the rider's body impacts the handlebar hook during a crash.

Remedy: Repair

Recall Date: August 31, 2023

Units: About 15,900 (These vehicles were **previously recalled** in May 2023 for a different hazard).

**Yamaha Outboard Motors CERTAIN 2021 AND 2022 PROGRAM YEAR VF200LB, VF200XB, VF225LB, VF250LB, AND VF250XB OUTBOARD MOTORS**

Name of Product: 2021 & 2022 VF200LB, VF200XB, VF225LB, VF250LB, AND VF250XB Outboard Motors

Hazard: B, VF200XB, VF225LB, VF250L.B, and VF250XB outboard motors. In affected motors, the ignition coils may be energized while the main switch is turned on or, on certain models, may even be energized by power trim and tilt switch operation with the main switch off.

Remedy: Repair

Recall Date: August 10, 2022

Units: Numbers not provided.

**Husqvarna Recalls Grass Trimmers Due to Fire Hazard**

Name of Product: Gas-powered Grass Trimmers

Hazard: Incorrect wiring in the ignition module on the recalled grass trimmers can cause an electrical spark or arcing, posing a fire hazard if gas is on or near the unit.

Remedy: Repair

Recall Date: February 08, 2024

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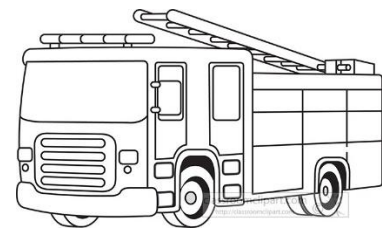
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**ENHANCE** your network of water-focused professionals.

at the Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention

Chapter 33 Golden Jubilee **April 10-12** 2024  
50 years Partnering for OUR WATERS  
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produced in partnership by Extension Lakes at UW-Stevens Point

**WisconsinWaterWeek.org**



## Reminders

Winter driveway conditions and vegetation damage can hinder emergency vehicles from getting to you when you need them most. Please remember:

Large fire department vehicles require an access route that is at least 12 feet high and 12 feet wide to get through. During the winter months this can also include a 12-foot-wide path that is free of ice and snow.

And the U.S. Postal Service reminds you that snow and ice should be removed regularly for mailboxes at the curb to allow the carrier to safely access the box. This includes an ingress and egress route for mail carrier vehicles to safely navigate.

The USPS understands that winter weather can make delivering mail and packages difficult, but it is committed to ensuring the safety of its employees. The agency is committed to providing postal service to all Americans every day of the week, and it is essential that residents take steps to ensure the safety of their mail carriers and neighbors.



## You're fine, but what about your neighbors?

January brought some nasty winter weather to our area. The snow, wind created power outages and the extreme cold exacerbated the situation leaving some residents in a precarious position.

Please remember these few safety tips (that really apply all year around).

- Stay away from downed power lines, they can re-energize without warning. WE Energies suggests that you stay at least 25-feet away from any downed power line.
- Report any power outages to WE Energies by calling 800-662-4797. They cannot fix what they don't know is broken.
- Use extreme caution with generators. Generators should be only used outdoors at least 15 feet away from buildings and air intakes. **USE EXTREME CAUTION** when refueling generators. A drip of gasoline on a hot muffler can be dangerous.
- Limit your use of cell phones to maintain battery power for possible emergency service calls.
- Keep track of pets. Extreme heat or cold conditions may be deadly for them. And they don't recognize the danger of downed power lines and other hazards.
- Check on your neighbors as well as your neighbor's property. If they are not permanent lake residents they may not be aware of damage to their homes or power outages that could cause a number of problems to unattended residences.
- Use common sense and caution when using snowblowers, chain saws, ladders and other intermittent use equipment. During an emergency it is not the time to have a "Here, hold my beer" moment.
- Keep a 7-day supply of essential medications on hand at all times. Pharmacies are subject to power outages and supply chain disruptions too. Please see

[www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) or <https://emergency.cdc.gov/>



## Winter Invasive Species

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and UW-Extension are asking anglers to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin's lakes and rivers while fishing this winter.

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals and diseases that cause great ecological, environmental or economic harm. Aquatic invasive species can crowd out native plants and animals and threaten the quality of boating and fishing in Wisconsin waters.

Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil are aquatic invasive species that remain hardy under the ice in the winter, giving them an advantage over our native aquatic plants. The plant-like algae starry stonewort dies back for winter, but its tiny, star-shaped bulbils can be present on plants yanked up through the ice or in the mud that can come up if the bottom is disturbed by augers. Disease and the larvae of invasive snails and mussels can also be present in the water and mud in winter.

Because of the possible spread of diseases like Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia that can threaten fish populations, buying minnows from a licensed Wisconsin bait dealer is important. Up to two gallons of water may be kept for minnows provided they will be used on the same waterbody or if no lake or river water from the fishing site(s) has been added. Dead bait must be preserved in ways that do not require freezing or refrigeration. Visit the DNR's webpage on bait preservation to learn more. Find more rules regarding bait in the current fishing regulations.

A few minutes of preventative action can help preserve and protect waterways for future generations. Before stepping onto the ice or into a stream this winter, anglers should:

- **Inspect** fishing equipment for attached aquatic plants, animals or mud
- **Remove** all attached plants or animals
- **Drain** all water from buckets, containers and gear
- **Never move** live fish away from a waterbody (fish out of water = dead)
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash

In addition, the DNR encourages anglers to leave fishing gear where it can freeze for eight hours or more, as this will kill most species. Other methods to kill aquatic invasive species hiding in fishing gear are to steam clean the gear or to soak it in either 140° water or a bleach solution (2.44 tablespoons per gallon) for 10 minutes.

To learn more about invasive species and their impacts on Wisconsin's waters and economy, visit the DNR's invasive species webpage at:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives>



## Carp Removal News

From 1990 thru 2023, a conservative count of 4,746 carp have been removed from Eagle Spring Lake & Lake Lulu.

### New Suggestions –

Since the dumpster was removed from the public launch (October 2022), I am suggesting if you get carp, bag them to minimize the odor issue and put the bag in your garbage every week.

If that doesn't work for you, or you don't live on the lake and you have harvested one or more carp, call Tom Day and I will meet you and provide bags and put them in my garbage.

In the past there has been complaints about noise and lights. Call me immediately and I will attempt to contact the guilty parties and give them one warning. If this disturbance happens a second time, I will provide identification information (i.e. license plate number) to the sheriff's department for appropriate action.

**Tom Day 262-594-3231**

By the way, carp spawning usually occurs May 6 to May 27th. Spearing or using a bow can make your efforts more successful.



## Litigation Update

In the ongoing matter of Waukesha County Court Case of 2021 CV0001294 a hearing was held on December 22, 2023 before Judge Michael Abrahamian. The results of that hearing was a ruling in favor for the District on all counts.

Arguments about the Mediation Agreement we signed and the judge ruled in favor of giving the Lake District the summary judgement we asked for denying Mr. Wruck's claim that the Agreement was flawed and invalid.

The Judge further ruled that Mr. Wruck's motion to amend the pleadings against the Lake District was denied.

The third motion to add a person to Mr. Wruck's witness list (that being the sole witness requested) was not ruled on as it was rendered moot by the court's denial to amend the pleadings.

A final written ruling was issued by the judge on January 22, 2024 and has been posted on our web page reading.

Unless an appeal is filed, this ends any litigation between Mr. Wruck and Lake District.

### Did you Know

That the American Red Cross offers FREE online water safety training? [Water Safety for Parents and Caregivers](https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class) and [Become an Ambassador for Water Safety](https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class) are available online at:

<https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class>



## SHORELINE EROSION: CAUSES, PREVENTION, AND CONTROL OPTIONS

### WATERWAY PROTECTION CAUSES OF EROSION

Streams are continually downcutting into their valley, carrying sediments downstream particle by particle. The current moves from side to side, undercutting banks and causing the stream channel to meander.

The ice of frozen lakes can expand shoreward with a force of many tons per square foot, moving most obstacles in its path (including shoreline soil). Masses of ice put in motion by winds or currents can scour the banks of lakes and streams.

Even in small inland lakes, breaking waves and nearshore currents can dislodge sediments. Headlands (points) usually have relatively high erosion rates because the waves, currents and ice attack from all sides and transport sediments to bays, where they are deposited. Bays are usually the most erosion-resistant areas.

Erosion and the transport and deposition of sediments is a natural process along shorelines. Erosion is happening gradually and life along the shoreline adapts to gradual changes maintaining a healthy and productive ecosystem. A catastrophic natural or human disturbance may cause accelerated erosion. Examples of natural disturbances include large trees uprooted by a windstorm, or a flood resulting from a torrential rainstorm. Human disturbances include vegetation removal, dredging, filling, or construction on or near the shoreline.

### IDENTIFYING SERIOUS EROSION PROBLEMS

There are several signs of serious erosion problems:

- A large area of bare soil on a steep, high shoreline bank.
- A measurable change of the shoreline over the short term.
- Leaning or downed trees with exposed roots on the shoreline.
- Large patches of muddy water near a lakeshore, or unusually muddy streams during periods of high water or following a rainstorm.
- Excessive deposits of sand or other sediments on the streambed, or very wide, shallow areas in a stream.

### PREVENTING SHORELINE EROSION

There are some several basic measures that can be used to prevent erosion:

- Preserve rocks and vegetation which naturally occur along the shoreline.
- Prevent surface runoff from yards, patios, and driveways from flowing to the shoreline, especially bluff areas.
- Avoid construction within 100 feet of the shoreline or the edge of nearshore bluffs.
- Protect nearshore berms pushed up by ice action along lakeshores. They prevent excessive surface runoff and trap sand, which nourishes the beach.
- Limit the amount of foot traffic and other recreational activities in erosion-prone areas.
- Regardless of preventive measures, the right combination of conditions, such as high-water levels, violent windstorms, drastic ice movement and certain shoreline configurations, may result in serious shoreline erosion.

### PLANNING AN EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Before beginning any actions to correct erosion, determine why the erosion is occurring. Without understanding the problem, any actions may be a waste of time and money and may cause or worsen the problem. Decide if the problem is severe enough to warrant correcting. Is the erosion more than in undisturbed reaches? What are the threats to private property?

Even though there have been numerous studies and publications on this topic, each problem is unique and there are no manuals with generic plans



for bank protection projects which are guaranteed to work. Although it may be possible to install a simple erosion control structure by yourself, most techniques have technical standards for size, height, shape, underlayment and placement of structures. It is best to consult with a resource professional experienced with a variety of techniques when planning the installation of erosion control structures.

## **BIOLOGICAL SHORELINE PROTECTION METHODS**

Biological shore protection structures use vegetative and natural materials for stabilization and protection. Living plants, such as native grasses, sedges and forbs, or organic materials may be used as live stakes and posts, jute netting, or coir fiber rolls and mats. All materials used in biological shore protection techniques must be biodegradable. Biological Shore Protection Techniques fall into three categories: bank treatments, integrated toe protection, and biodegradable/temporary breakwaters.

**Brush mattress**

**Live staking**

**Brush layering**

**Fiber rolls**

## **BIODEGRADABLE METHODS**

### **INTEGRATED BANK TREATMENT METHODS**

Vegetated armoring techniques integrate biological and hardscape methods. The purpose of using these techniques to control waterward erosion is to combine the structural integrity of hard armoring with the benefits of living vegetation. Providing woody cover and vegetation is key in establishing and preserving critical habitat for shoreline organisms.

Dead trees and woody debris provide a significant amount of food and cover for a wide variety of animals. Additionally, roots add tensile strength, binding together masses of stone and soil. Stems and branches dissipate wave energy, shielding the soil from the erosive force—growing vegetation sprouts to fill in any open, eroding areas. As a supplement to structural wings, live woody cuttings have the advantage of extending roots and sprouts that protect and bind masses of soil. As vegetated systems grow, they become increasingly effective in preventing shoreline erosion.

## **Integrated toe protection**

Biotechnical integrated toe protection designs have toes made of inert materials, including rock and armor units. The bank above the ordinary high-water mark may incorporate inert materials if necessary into the particular selected design.

One crucial aspect of integrated toe protection is the establishment of the hard toe, made of rock and filter cloth. In most instances, this will provide scour protection for the vegetative material located above the toe. When establishing any type of integrated toe protection technique, the specifications for individual sites will depend on the amount of wave action and scour activity. Rocks should be lined below the water level at the deepest scour depth over a layer of 3-inch filter cloth and gravel or a 6-inch layer of gravel only. This will prevent the most destructive waves from reaching the biological shore protection placed above.

### **Vegetated riprap**

This technique involves vegetation placed in the joints of a stone riprap network. A "stinger," a long metal probe mounted on a backhoe, can be used to create a pilot hole in the joints of riprap for inserting a live willow or cottonwood post. This combination allows excellent waterside erosion protection with natural scenic beauty similar to biological shore protection.

## **STRUCTURAL EROSION CONTROL METHODS**



**Riprap**

Riprap is a blanket of medium to larger sized rock, fitted to the slope and shape of the shoreline, extending from the toe of the slope to a height needed for long-term durability. It is appropriate where long-term durability is necessary, design discharge is high, and there is no practical way to use vegetation in the design.

Other stabilization techniques and vegetation plantings should be used as appropriate to stabilize the upper bank and to ensure a source of shoreline vegetation. Riprap is flexible and not impaired by

slight movement from settlement and other adjustments.

Any hard structure modifies the shoreline, and with increasing rates of occurrence will lead to homogenization of shoreline habitat. In other words, a lakeshore that is entirely riprap has less variety of habitat than a lake with a natural mix of shore habitats.

### Seawall (retaining wall)

Seawalls are near-vertical structures commonly constructed of timber, concrete, steel or aluminum sheet piling.

The structure is installed parallel to the shore and is intended to retain or prevent the sliding and slumping of land while protecting the adjacent upland area from wave action. Seawalls should not be used where wave action will overtop the structure, causing bank erosion to continue as if the bulkheads were not there. Seawalls can also lead to the erosion of beaches fronting the structure.

Technical shore protection methods by far have the least natural scenic beauty of all shore protection options, due to the lack of natural materials used in construction, and the aesthetics of the environment in which they are placed.

In general, construction and placement of technical shoreline erosion control structures may reduce complex natural habitat elements; riprap replaces natural complex substrate elements with coarse substrates, while seawalls result in less habitat diversity. Shorelines with inert erosion control structures generally lack woody debris and hanging cover and less emergent and floating vegetation.

### Before You Start

Before you start any shoreline protection work be sure to consult with the Wisconsin DNR and Waukesha County Planning and Zoning for permitting and other relevant information.



## NOAA WEATHER RADIO NOAA

Weather Radio-All Hazards is the direct link to weather and hazard information for your area. Weather radios can be purchased at many stores that sell electronic equipment and online. Make sure the radio that you purchase has the alarm feature and a battery backup. The broadcast includes:

- Watches
- Warnings
- Advisory
- Current local/regional conditions
- Local/regional 7-day forecast
- Daily weather statistics

Buy a weather radio and as part of the Lake District Weather Ambassador Program we will program it for you and give you a free set of batteries. For details contact:

[Chair@eaglespringlake.us](mailto:Chair@eaglespringlake.us)

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## Wisconsin Lakes proposal to update Chapter 33

Fifty years ago, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a law creating “inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts,” which would undertake programs of lake protection and rehabilitation.” This became Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin statutes, and now in 2023 over 250 lakes are managed in part by a local lake district. Districts work to control or prevent aquatic invasive species, manage dams, work on water

quality issues, and more.

While small changes to lake district law were enacted over the years, no comprehensive set of revisions has occurred since 2003.

Wisconsin Lakes, working with our partner the Extension Lakes Program at UW-Stevens Point, and with help from the UW Madison Division of Extension Local Government Center, asked Wisconsin's lake districts for suggestions of revisions that could help the law work better.

Those suggestions have been reviewed, discussed, and distilled into this proposal. Time has run out for this legislature and with the complexities of possible redistricting this bill will not be introduced in the current session. That gives everyone time to fine tune it and introduce for passage in 2025 and prepare us for the future.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 33**

- 1) Voting: The proposal would better define who gets to vote at district annual and special meetings by clarifying some of the definitions and using consistent language throughout the chapter. It would also end the irrational situation where a candidate could receive less votes for the board of commissioners than other candidates but be declared the winner because under the current statute the board must have one resident if a resident runs for office.
- 2) Increasing the bid limit: The proposal would increase the threshold for putting out a bid from \$2500 to \$10000
- 3) Formation of a district: The proposal provides better definition of terms and fleshes out a more detailed process for the creation of a district. It would provide a definition of "petition," provides a structure for how petitions are certified, and clarifies other provisions related to district creation.
- 4) Initial funding of a district: The proposal allows a newly formed district to obtain a loan to cover operational costs until the taxes are received as voted on at the initial annual meeting. This is important because it is virtually impossible to collect taxes in the first year of operation

- 5) Prevents "incompatibility of office": Under Ch. 33, both the county and the largest town in the district appoint individuals to serve on the board of commissioners. To avoid outsized influence by the town, the proposal would not allow the county to appoint someone who has direct influence over who the town appoints.
- 6) Commissioners would be paid for work done for the district outside of board duties: The proposal would allow lake district commissioners to be paid for work done on behalf of the district outside their duties as commissioners, in the same way town board members are allowed to be paid for such services.
- 7) Allow creation of a contingency fund: The proposal would allow a contingency reserve like is allowed to other local governments. The statute is currently silent on this.
- 8) Emergency provisions for annual meetings: We learned in the COVID-19 pandemic that Chapter 33's prescription of certain times of year for annual meetings can be problematic if an emergency prevents those meetings from being held. The proposal would provide some guardrails on how to get around that issue if a formal emergency declaration is in effect.
- 9) Recall of elected commissioners: The proposal creates a process for the recall of elected commissioners before the end of their term.

The proposal also cleans up some other ambiguities in the chapter and clarifies some other definitions.

***Please see the Lake District Web Site for a full table of the existing legislation and the proposed changes.***

***The National Institute of Health Reports...***  
Water sport accidents were the second most common cause of traumatic quadriplegia among patients treated in the United States.

**Did you know?**



Our web site contains Easter Eggs! They are hidden throughout the web site and if you find one you may redeem it for a prize. Some prizes are gags, but some are worth up to \$35.00. Find an Easter Egg, copy down the code and let Nancy Wilhelm know at:

[nwilhelm@eaglespringlake.us](mailto:nwilhelm@eaglespringlake.us)

to claim your prize. You may win only one prize within a 90 period.

Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

### **Notes from the Chair on Chapter §33**

The preceding article was put together by the Wisconsin Lakes Association, of which the Lake District is a member. Chapter 33 is the governing legislation for Lake Districts throughout Wisconsin and is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Passage this year. A very special milestone that when it was passed was groundbreaking in creating a system to manage and improved lakes that allowed multiple voices of lake residents to be heard.

But 50 years is long time. And, like many pieces of legislation, times have changed and we have learned a number of things from working with this law. Add into the mix that significant parts of the law have not been changed or updated and it is easy to see that a modernization of our governing legislation is needed.

A detailed explanation of the Lakes Association proposal can be found on our Lake District web page and I encourage every lake resident to look at it as it will play a significant role in the way the lake district operates in the future, if passed and signed into law.

I do want to point out several of the proposed changes to you. So here we go:

The proposal is made to change the way audits are performed. In the past we have complied with the audit requirements of having a lake resident with a financial background perform a review of our books at no cost to the district and issue an opinion which is presented at the Annual Meeting.

In the proposed legislation an informal audit is still allowed but it must be performed by someone not affiliated with the district. This is the concept of an independent audit which has become commonplace. However, this may entail costs for

the Lake District in the future to have this done by an outside person with a financial background.

Currently the Lake District must bid all contracts over \$2,500.00, a figure which has been in place for over 45 years. The new legislation raises that threshold to \$10,000.00 and clarifies the exemption for certain professional services, such as legal representation.

Many years ago, the legislature made provisions that a lake district could expand its board membership from three local elected officials to five. Our lake district elected that option and we have five local elected officials and one county and one town appointed members to our Board of Commissioners for a total of seven.

However, when that was done, the legislature did not change another portion of the statutes which stated that a quorum of the board was three members. In our case, this means that business can be conducted with a minority of the board present. The proposed legislation corrects this to be that a majority of the board must be present to conduct business (or in our case four members).

We, like many lake districts, do not have a vast employment pool to draw from. Your board does many, many things to keep things running. And for these actions, some board members may receive additional payment for those actions. In the past we handled this possible conflict of interest by passing a resolution acknowledging this fact at our Annual Meeting. The new legislations accepts this as reality and only requires that compensation for these individuals not be set by the Board but by the electors at the Annual Meeting (which we have done in the past).

Every year at the Annual Meeting we have had to have the electors vote on amendments to the current budget per state law. Our budgets are prepared almost a year in advance and passed at the annual meeting months before they go into effect. The reality is things happen during those periods that require tweaking of the budget. Most often this is moving funds from an account that has a few dollars extra to an account that is a few dollars short. The levy and bottom line of the budget remain the same, but these are essentially internal transfers of funds that current state law requires be done by the electors. Under the proposed



legislation such transfers can be done by the board with a 2/3 majority vote, which seems much more reasonable.

Based on a legal interpretation that extended other state statutes to lake districts, we created a contingency fund this year to handle unexpected costs and issues. The need for a contingency (reserve) account has been added into the proposed legislation to clarify this common sense and essential financial tool. Under the proposed legislation a reserve account may be created that does not exceed 15% of the passed annual operating budget.

Another new area are provisions to deal with emergencies. What if a tornado or wind storm hits the lake? What if there is another pandemic? A lot of what ifs are out there and the current law does not allow the Lake District Board to take actions to protect our dams and environment and deal with other emergency measures. The new legislation gives the lake board better ability to deal with such rare, but critical issues.

And finally, the legislation contains provisions for the removal of lake district commissioners before their term expires. A number of lake districts have been paralyzed when due to ill health or other situations when the Board is unable to function as it cannot meet its quorum requirements. This provision would put lake districts in sync with other governmental units throughout the State to deal with this issue.

Overall, this legislation is practical, reasonable, and in a number of areas is desperately needed to meet the current needs of our Lake District now and into the future. I urge you to review the package on our web site and I hope you will agree with me on the benefit of this legislative package from the Wisconsin Lakes Association.

This is just one set of ideas that is being floated. There are other possible changes that will be offered as this moves along. One of the other bigger elements that has been suggested to be added to a final legislative package is financial budgeting and record keeping must be GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles). Our treasurer, Tom Tynes has been working diligently to make our financial systems fully GAAP compliant and if this is part of the final bill (which I expect it will

be) we are in a very good position to meet this new requirement.

I will work to keep everyone informed as this effort progresses.

## Climate Change Report

Argonne National Laboratories has published their nationwide climate change report which includes projections until the end of the century. Part of this report, which includes the Eagle Spring Lake Area has been posted on the Lake District Web site for your review of this interesting data.



## Open Water in Winter?

### Why is there open water in the Lake?

A number of residents have pointed out that there is a large expanse of open water on the East Side of Travers Island that extends beyond Duck Island this year. This area is not solidly frozen and so far this winter is open or made of slushy thin ice (and obviously dangerous). Some “old time” residents have never witnessed anything like this before and have expressed concern about it.

So, what is going on? To be honest, we don't know. Inquiries have been made to the DNR, National Weather Service, University of Wisconsin, etc. and no one has come up with a solid explanation. (Some local social media accounts have reported it is site of a UFO crash landing but that has not been verified at this point.)

There are a number of sites where ice development is retarded due to upwelling springs, but this area is clearly too large for fully explain what we are seeing. In addition, water flow out of the lake has been minimal for winter so that does not explain what we are seeing.

We will continue to research this unique event, but it current remains a puzzle to all.

# Septic System Problems

During the operating life of a sewage disposal system the soil structure within the soil absorption field will gradually begin to seal with solids. These solids come from the sewage waste itself, bacteriological buildup or waste by-products. As the soil pores seal over the soil gradually loses its ability to absorb sewage eventually causing the system to fail. Wisconsin State Statutes identify the presence of the following conditions as indicators of septic system failure:

## Sewage Back-up

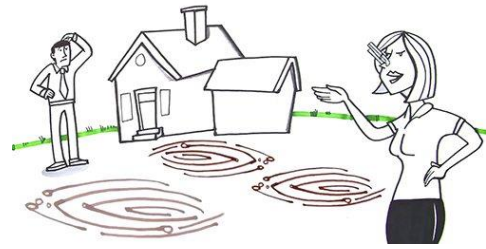
When sewage backs up into a dwelling or business a blockage or collapse of the conveyance pipe between the building and septic tank, or between the septic tank and soil absorption field may be the cause. It might also be caused by the run-back of sewage from the absorption field (the field itself is clogged).

If a clogged conveyance pipe is the problem, it will be necessary to remove the blockage or replace the pipe.

If the sewage back up stems from a clogged or overloaded soil absorption field, you may have to replace it if water conservation measures and more frequent septic tank pumping no longer solve the problem. Any soil absorption field will eventually fail with age and use. Once this happens, it's necessary to replace the soil absorption field. Contact a certified soil tester to find out the type and location of the replacement system suitable for your property.

## Sewage Groundwater

Any sewage disposal system that uses a soil absorption field works efficiently because it is designed with a minimum 3-foot separation between the bottom of the field and the water table or bedrock. The 3-foot separation is necessary so that wastewater containing bacteria and viruses is filtered before it reaches groundwater or bedrock. An existing soil absorption field installed in soils where the 3-foot separation does not exist is considered a failing system. When these unsuitable soil conditions are verified, you must install a replacement sewage disposal system that complies with plumbing code requirement.



## Sewage on the Ground Surface

When the soil absorption field becomes clogged or overloaded, sewage may seep onto the ground surface. Although this sanitary waste has been partially treated in the septic tank, when it reaches the soil absorption field it still contains many thousands of bacteria and viruses per milliliter of liquid volume. These pathogens can cause illness, and create odors. The pooled sewage can also become a breeding area for insects.

As a septic system ages, the soil in the absorption field gradually loses its ability to absorb wastewater. Eventually wastewater flows in faster than it can be absorbed. Sewage can then appear on the ground surface over the soil absorption field, over the septic tank or elsewhere on the property. Once this happens, it's necessary to replace the soil absorption field. Contact a certified soil tester to find out the type and location of the replacement system suitable for your property.

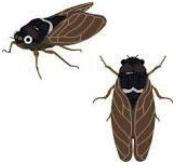
A failing septic system near a river or lake is a recipe for disaster. Effluent getting into a waterway can cause serious health issues as well as contribute to uncontrolled aquatic growth and be dangerous to fish and other water wildlife. Such an event will not only effect the property owner of the failing system but neighbors and others over a wide area.

To report a possible failing septic system, notify Waukesha County Environmental Health at 262-896-8300 or visit their web page at:

<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/environmental-health/>

## Factoid

Ground frost only went to a depth of 2 inches this year! This compares to a normal winter where it is 26 inches.



## They're Here!

(Well, almost)

This year South East Wisconsin will be buzzing with the hatch of Brood XIII of Cicada's which will reemerge from the ground for the first time in 17-years.

The first sign of the hatch is a loud buzzing noise that the males use to attract a mate. They emerge from when the soil about 8" in depth heats up and warms their bodies. A warm rain is often responsible for triggering an emergence. They can produce a buzzing noise that may reach 107 decibels at a distance of 20 inches (perhaps outside your window?). That equates to the sound a gasoline powered lawnmower makes when heard about 3 feet away.

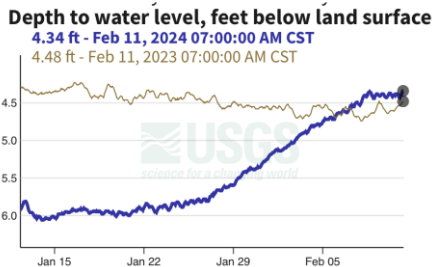
Break out your earplugs. It is going to be a noisy buzzing summer!



## Low Flow Conditions Continue to Improve

The low water flow conditions that we have been experiencing for the past few months may be getting some relief.

The nearest USGS groundwater monitoring station is showing that current ground water levels are now above the same period last year after a dramatic increase in late January and February.



The snow of January helped as it melted this year with good absorption into the soil as frost depths barely reached 2" at their peak which greatly minimized run off.

The current long term seasonal forecast is calling for near normal precipitation for the next 4 months.

That will help but we need an extended period of much above precipitation to really improve things. As always, Mother Nature is control and all we can do is talk about the weather.



## To Save a Life

At the request of several residents the Lake District is sponsoring a combination First Aid, CPR, AED, NARCAN, Epi-pen use and Stop the Bleed training that is open to anyone over the age of 12 years.

To make it easier for more people to attend, and to reduce costs, we are looking at a blended training program where the "book" learning can be done self-paced and online and the "practical" or hands on training would be conducted on Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 8:00 am to 2:00 PM at the Town Municipal Building, 820 East Main Street, Eagle, WI 53119 with lunch provided.

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is an essential skill for everyone and to be effective it must be applied promptly.

Compared with patients who received CPR within 1 minute, those with a time to CPR of 2 to 3 minutes were 9% less likely to survive to discharge and those with a time to CPR 4 to 5 minutes were 27% less likely to survive. Recognizing that it may take 8 minutes or more for EMS to arrive on site you can see the importance of prompt bystander or family member action.

You never know when a family member or friend will suffer a cardiac event and your actions to give CPR minutes before the arrival of EMS personnel may be a lifesaving action.

Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) are becoming more popular and can be found in many public buildings and elsewhere. They are easy to use, self-directing and are another tool for dealing with cardiac emergencies. All participants will receive a rescue breathing mask for their keychain and an Adult and Child Rescue Breathing Kit (Value \$15.00).

Training in the use of NARCAN is unfortunately another critical skill. The use of a NARCAN kit can help reverse opioid overdoses, many of which are not related to drug abuse but due to accidental overdoses of prescribed pain killing medications.

Everyone who completes this part of the training will receive a free NARCAN kit (a \$50.00 value).

Many people have severe allergies that can be fatal. This program will include instruction on the use auto-injectors such as Epi-pens.

Basic First Aid skills are something that everyone should know. This course tells you what you should do AND what you shouldn't do too. Properly caring for common injuries can prevent future problems and complications.

To piggyback on the basic first aid course is Stop the Bleed training. This is a nationwide program that will teach you how to deal with severe bleeding that may accompany accidents, gunshot wounds, and boat propeller injuries. Everyone who completes this training will receive a free blood stopper tool as well.

Contaminated food or water can come from a variety of sources, including food from grocery stores or restaurants, or water from pools, lakes, or rivers. Certain bacteria, viruses, or parasites can cause vomiting and diarrhea. In Wisconsin and the United States, it is believed these illnesses are under-reported, since many people who are infected get better without seeing a doctor. This new online tool is just one way for public health professionals to learn about food and water related illnesses and outbreaks to help prevent others from getting sick too. This tool is not a substitute for health care, and people who are feeling sick should contact their health care provider.

The new tool is a simple questionnaire that asks for current symptoms, places recently visited, and food items recently eaten. The information is sent to local health departments that identify potential sources of illness. If additional information is needed, public health specialists may contact Wisconsinites who report their illness. All follow-up will remain confidential.

The American Red Cross charges \$168.00 per person for their instruction. To register for this program, please see the lake district web site, or contact Peter Jensen at 414-791-5751 or

chair@eaglespringlake.us



## Feeling Sick? Report it Quick!

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has launched a new online tool at: <https://sr.wi.gov/#/form/p/foodborne> to encourage Wisconsinites to report food or **water sickness** when symptoms occur. The online questionnaire, which takes less than five minutes to complete, helps local health departments identify sources of contamination to prevent others from getting sick.

"By using this tool, Wisconsinites can help other people in their community from getting sick and prevent outbreaks," said DHS State Health Officer Paula Tran. "Ingesting contaminated food and water may cause just a little stomach upset for some, for others it can lead to hospitalization and be life threatening. We're asking people - when you're feeling sick, report it quick."



## Updated Fish Consumption Guidelines 02/06/2024

**MADISON, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), today announced updated fish consumption guidelines for Wisconsin waters.

Fish are full of important nutrients like omega-3s and are a great source of lean protein, however, they may also contain pollutants from their environment and the food they consume that can cause health risks for humans.

To address this, DNR fisheries staff routinely sample fish from areas with suspected pollution or contamination as well as from heavily fished areas. Based on the levels of contaminants found, like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), experts are able to determine the amount of fish that is safe to consume over a person's lifetime to avoid negative health impacts.

"We test for contaminants in fish from a number of locations each year and use those new results,



along with past testing, to update the advice for those newly tested waters,” said Sean Strom, DNR environmental toxicologist. “It’s important for anglers who frequently eat fish to be aware of advisory updates.”

The DNR encourages the public to follow the safe-eating guidelines outlined in the Choose Wisely booklet to reduce the risk of exposure to unwanted contaminants.

“When you follow Wisconsin’s fish consumption advice, you are still able to enjoy the many health benefits from eating fish while limiting your contact with contaminants that can build up in them,” said Dr. Sheryl Bedno, DHS Chief Medical Officer for Environmental and Occupational Health.



## 2024 Clean Boats Clean Waters

We have received confirmation that our Clean Boats Clean Waters grant has been approved. This will provide up to \$4,000.00 for our program and the Lake District provides a 25% match for the program.

This year we are contracting with Waukesha County for our CBCW staffing as many other lake districts and associations are doing as a more cost-effective management option to put more hours at the launch and save administration costs. The county will hire and train college interns for our program.

### DNR Fish Consumption Advisory Eagle Spring Lake / Lulu Lake Pollutant: Mercury

**Women up to age 50 (child bearing age) and children (under age 15) may safely eat:**

1 Meal Per Week

Bluegill and sunfish, bullheads, crappies, inland trout, yellow perch

And 1 meal per month

Bass, catfish, pike, walleye, all other species and sizes

**All men (15 and older) and older women (50 and older) may safely eat:**

Unrestricted

Bluegill and sunfish, bullheads, crappies, inland trout, yellow perch

1 Meal Per Week

Bass, catfish, pike, walleye, all other species and sizes



### Five Knots To Know

For the past several years we have found or had reports of unmanned boats floating in the lake. Some of these have actually washed up on shore and lake good neighbors have retrieved them and tied them up until the true owners of the craft could be contacted and reclaim their vessels.

The common denominator in these events seems to deal with how the boat was secured. One boat was found floating with the remains of twine attached to it, not a very secure mooring system in anyone’s book.

Everyone who owns a boat should know the five basic boating knots. These are:

- Bowline
- Square Knot
- Clove Hitch
- Sheet Bend
- Fisherman’s Bend aka Anchor Hitch

If you are not familiar with these knots you can easily learn them by going to:

<https://www.boat-ed.com/blog/fit-to-be-tied-5-essential-knots-for-boaters/>

For illustrated instructions on how to tie them. And remember, your knot is only as good as the line you tie it in. The minimum mooring line thickness for most inland watercraft is 3/8ths of an inch. Be sure your ropes are in good condition and capable of both normal and stormy conditions to avoid finding your dock space empty someday.



## Did you Know? There is a smartphone app for pet first aid?

Download this award-winning **FREE** Pet First Aid app to be completely prepared to keep your furry friends safe and healthy!

The American Red Cross Pet First Aid app is the perfect on-the-go reference guide for pet owners to have on their smartphones. Be prepared to deliver fast and effective care for cats and dogs, along with several other features!

**Available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.**

Online pet first aid training is also available at:

<https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/classes/cat-and-dog-first-aid-online/a6R0V0000015EUf.html>



## Protect Your Home and Save Money Too!

Saving money on your homeowner's insurance can be one of the best deals that you can have. Like the discount that you get when you have your home and auto insurance under one insurance provider. Because why not try to do and have anything that can save you some bucks right? But what other homeowners don't know is that there are other ways to get discounts. So, let me ask you, does your home have safety features like fire extinguishers? You need a fire extinguisher in case you have fires in your home. But does homeowners' insurance give a discount if you buy a fire extinguisher?

The answer is YES! Just like Auto Insurance, the more safety features a car has, the lower your auto insurance is. The same goes for your home insurance. If your house has an alarm system, it can prevent theft and any intruder to get into your home. Now, let's say, you buy a fire extinguisher, having that can prevent fire from happening. And we all know that fire can cause so much harm. If worse comes to worst it can even lead to your house getting totally destroyed from the ground.

### ***The Advantage Of Having A Fire Extinguisher In Your House***

If you buy a fire extinguisher can potentially save you a 5% to 10% discount on your premium. Yes, just buying this protective device will not only save your assets from getting burned but also can save you some money. Moreover, the National Fire Protection Association highly recommends that houses should have a fire extinguisher. This should be kept in an accessible area for adults like the kitchen and garage. Doing this can prevent fire more.

Imagine you're grilling in your backyard with your family on a Sunday afternoon, then suddenly a fire broke out. Just think about how easily you can get rid of the fire using a fire extinguisher compared to not having it and just using water to kill the fire. Sounds exhausting not having it, right? When you buy a fire extinguisher is like having extra coverage on your assets plus a discount. Now that seems like a win-win situation to me!

### **How to Use a Fire Extinguisher?**

Before you use a fire extinguisher, you must know first how to use it properly. Upon buying it, ask a trained employee how to use it. If you have a family member or friend who knows how to use it, you can also ask them for help.

The National Fire Protection Association suggests that you follow the "P.A.S.S." procedure when using your fire extinguisher. PASS stands for:

- Pull the pin
- Aim the nozzle at the fire
- Squeeze the lever
- Sweep the hose from left to right

## How To Maintain A Fire Extinguisher?

When it comes to the maintenance of a fire extinguisher, following the manufacturer's instructions is always the right choice. You cannot just buy it and leave it in a safe place in your house for years until you need to use it.

Some fire extinguishers require that you shake them monthly. While others need to have pressure testing. That is why you must read the instructions and follow them religiously. Also, be vigilant in checking for any rust in case it has been kept for too long.

## Other Ways To Lower Your Homeowners' Insurance Rates

Now, you already know that having safety features in your house like fire extinguishers can lower your insurance rate. But that's not the only way that can help you save some bucks. There are options that you can do to save without sacrificing the coverage that you really need.

### Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors

The record states that 93% of homes have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. This only proves that having these features in your house does work in preventing your house from fire and from keeping it smoke-free. However, most homeowners forget to update and maintain their detectors which is why many cases reported that theirs didn't work at all after 5-10 years. So, make sure to have them checked regularly.

## Factoid

Did you know that some homeowner's insurance policies cover the losses from your refrigerator or freezer in a power failure?

**BUT you must have proof of the loss.** Take *PLENTY* of photographs and note the time the power failure started and ended to support your claim.



## Power Outages: During *and* After When the Power Goes Out . . .

Here are basic tips for keeping food safe:

1. Keep the **refrigerator and freezer doors closed** as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature.
  - The **refrigerator** will keep food **cold for about 4 hours** if it is unopened.
  - A **full freezer** will keep the temperature for approximately **48 hours** (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.
2. If you plan to eat refrigerated or frozen meat, poultry, fish, or eggs while they are still at safe temperatures, it is important that each item is **thoroughly cooked to a safe minimum internal temperature** to ensure that any foodborne bacteria that may be present are destroyed. However, if perishable food has been held at room temperature for 2 hours or more (or 1 hour if outdoor temperatures are above 90 ° F) — **discard it**.

Once Power is Restored . . .

Determine the safety of your food:

- If an appliance thermometer was kept in the freezer, **check the temperature** when the power comes back on. If the freezer thermometer reads 40° F or below, the food is safe and may be refrozen.
- If a thermometer has not been kept in the freezer, **check each package** of food to determine its safety. You can't rely on appearance or odor. If the food **still contains ice crystals** or is 40° F or below, it is safe to refreeze or cook
- **If the power was out for no more than 4 hours**, refrigerated food should be safe as long as the doors were kept closed. When the power comes back on, check the temperature in the refrigerator or of the food. **Discard any refrigerated perishable food** (such as meat, poultry, seafood, milk, eggs, or leftovers) that has been at

refrigerator temperatures above 40°F for 4 hours or more. Perishable foods with temperatures that are 45°F or below (measured with a food thermometer) should be safe, but should be cooked and consumed as soon as possible.

Perishable food such as meat, poultry, seafood, milk, and eggs that are not kept adequately refrigerated or frozen may cause illness if consumed, even when they are thoroughly cooked

## Factoid

Fish Spawning Temperatures			
Smallmouth Bass	59-60	Largemouth Bass	68-72
Bluegill	70-75	Crappie	62-68
Northern Pike	40-52	Carp	68-72
Perch	46-50	Wear your PFD!	

### Did you know?

The regulatory provisions of a Slow No Wake Buoy are in effect for a radius of 100 feet.



## Upcoming Lake Projects

The Lake District has bid out a tree removal project at the Kroll Outlet and the winning bid for the removal of six trees is Kettle Moraine Tree Service who submitted a bid for \$2,500.00. A total of 10 bids were received with the highest bid being \$5,190.00. Trees and dams do not mix and good practice for dam maintenance is to remove all woody vegetation from the dam area. Contrary to common belief, roots of woody vegetation do not strengthen a dam but weaken it as they can serve as water seep points.

Also, as anyone can see after a wind storm, trees can be blown over and raise up large root balls which on a dam can lead to the failure of the dam, particularly with earthen dams such as ours.

This project is part of the Lake District's ongoing maintenance program to follow good dam maintenance standards and protect our lake.



Here are some lake friendly spring cleanup tips.

- Never rake or blow leaves, grass clippings, and other debris into the lake. Not only is it illegal but it adds phosphorus to the lake which promotes unwanted aquatic growth.
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. This is a health issue as well a means of promoting unwanted aquatic growth and the addition of unwanted bacteria to the water.
- Avoid washing soaps, detergents and cleaners into the lake. Often these come from power washing actions where runoff is washed into the lake. Read the label. If there are warnings about skin or eye irritation it is probably not good for the lake either.
- Keep fertilizers and herbicides away from the water. The runoff from these can encourage unwanted aquatic growth and be harmful to aquatic life.



## Report Fish Kills Immediately

We have seen an unusual number of dead fish going through the dams this year. As the ice retreats, please be observant for dead or dying fish and report any issues using following these guidelines:

- Note the waterbody, date, fish species and number of dead or dying fish and report it immediately to the DNR tip line (1-800-TIP-WDNR or 1-800-847-9367).
- If possible, and it's safe to do so, take clear images of the affected area (e.g., waterbody showing dead/dying fish) and close-up images of the affected fish.





## Small Steps Lead to BIG Progress!

The flooding of July in 2017 was a wakeup call. Burlington was fighting off a severe flood event when catastrophe almost struck when an unexpected sudden wall of water arrived at the city due to the failure of the Hillburn and East Troy dams. This occurred without advance notice to Burlington and a valuable lesson was learned.

Several years ago, a big step was taken to deal with dam failures and flooding. Waukesha County received a six-figure federal grant to look at mitigation planning along the Fox River watershed. Prior to this while plans to prevent flood damage were written, they were at the county level and not as well coordinated as they could have been.

This planning effort recognized that flooding and water flow did not stop at the county border and coordinated efforts were needed. The South-East Regional Planning Commission developed what is believed to be the first watershed mitigation plan in Wisconsin using the Federal grant funds obtained by Waukesha County.

During this planning process, a number of things became glaring issues. The role of dams in a flood event were critical elements to the response. And this became a concern to us as dam owners and operators as we are legally liable for damage caused downstream by a failure or unwarranted water release from our dam.

In 2021 a dam failed in Michigan that caused a cascading effect downstream when the next dam when hit with the flow of the first dam failure collapsed in series as well. Lawsuits involving millions of dollars resulted and, so far, the courts have ruled that the owners of the dam are responsible for the loss and damages.

For Eagle Spring Lake, which sits at the headwaters of the Mukwonago River, part of the Fox River Flowage, this is an obvious concern. Cannot blame anyone above us when we are at the start of the flowage.

A second issue was the identification that the dam operators on the Mukwonago and Fox Rivers did not have a reliable way of communicating with each other in an emergency. Everyone had different

public safety radio frequencies and cell phone numbers changed constantly.

This resulted in a study by the Lafayette Consulting Group with full funding provided by the Federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. This report is in its final development phases but outlines a path for communications and coordination between all dam operators, public safety agencies and the National Weather Service which for the most part uses existing systems, but more efficiently.

It appears that the next phase of this program is on the horizon. The National Dam Safety Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is accepting applications for free Technical Assistance for dam safety and emergency response programs.

We expect that over the next few months a planning team will be formalized to prepare a grant application for this program.

If awarded, the dam operators on the Fox River Flowage would receive free support from FEMA to model threats, develop real time flood event support tools, support planning and coordination efforts to function under existing DNR program and legal requirements, and provide training and exercising of the plans as well.

This would bring to bear tools and resources that would be totally beyond our capabilities and budgets to reduce liability and threats from dam failures and flooding.

Stay tuned and look for more developments as forward movement is made on this project.



## Short Term Rental Advice

Thinking about a short-term rental in the near future? Here are a few things to consider.

- Place the address of the property in several prominent locations. Should emergency assistance be needed, the renters will be able to give the proper address to the 911 operator to speed a response.
- Check with your insurance to see that you are covered for damage and liability issues.

Short term rental insurance may be something to consider.

- Be sure your renters know the rules of the lake and area.
- Don't leave valuables in the property.
- Take photos to show the condition of the property prior to the renters arriving.
- Be sure smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are working and instructions are provided how to reset them. (also, a good idea to have fresh batteries in them to prevent getting calls late at night about beeping noises).
- Provide a fire extinguisher and a weather alert radio for your rental unit and be sure your renters know where they are and how to use them.
- Make your expectations clear in writing to the renters regarding parking, trash, noise, etc.
- Make positive identification of your renters including making a copy of their photo ID.
- Provide your neighbors with your contact information if concerns develop so that you can handle any issues immediately.
- Be a good neighbor and set limits on the number of occupants allowed in the rental.
- If problems develop, have a plan of action to deal with them.
- If you have evidence or suspicion of illegal activities (drug sales or manufacture, human trafficking, etc.) report them to law enforcement authorities at once. **DO NOT TOUCH ANY SUSPICIOUS POWDERS OR SUBSTANCES.**

checks in favor of using an Electronic Transfer System (EFT) for things like payroll, vendor payment and reimbursements. And a key advantage of the EFT system is the speed and ease of which our funds get to the proper payees.

## Factoid



Did you know that the average water softener uses 640 lbs. of salt per year? This salt is used in the recharging process and is then discharged into your septic system or local environment.



Have any feedback or ideas for our newsletter? Send your feedback, comments and suggestions to:

[Chair@eaglespringlake.us](mailto:Chair@eaglespringlake.us)



## New Financial Management System!

Tom Tynes, our Lake District Treasurer has instituted a new financial management system for the Lake District. This system will be GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) compliant and will bring us up to date with standard business accounting practices.

In addition to being much more efficient, the new system saves the lake district over \$1,000.00. Part of this will be a vast reduction in the use of paper



# PFAS Explained:



## Where are PFAS found?

Most people in the United States have been exposed to some PFAS. People can be exposed to PFAS by touching, drinking, eating, or breathing in materials containing PFAS. PFAS may be present in:

 <b>Drinking Water</b> An important potential source of PFAS exposure.	 <b>Waste Sites</b> Soil and water at or near landfills, disposal sites, and hazardous waste sites.	 <b>Fire Extinguishing Foam</b> Used in training and emergency response events at airports and firefighting training facilities.	 <b>Facilities</b> Chrome plating, electronics, and certain textile and paper manufacturers that produce or use PFAS.
 <b>Consumer Products</b> Stain- or water-repellent, or non-stick products, paints, sealants, and some personal care products.	 <b>Food Packaging</b> Grease-resistant paper, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, and candy wrappers.	 <b>Biosolids</b> Fertilizer from wastewater treatment plants used on agricultural lands can affect ground and surface water.	 <b>Food</b> Fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS and dairy products from livestock exposed to PFAS.

Very little of the PFAS in water can get into your body through your skin, so, showering, bathing, and washing dishes in water containing PFAS are unlikely to significantly increase your risk.

### ELECTED COMMISSIONERS

Peter Jensen, Chairperson, Dam Operator, Emergency Coordinator  
414-791-5751

Tom Tynes, Treasurer  
262-719-1825

Chris Hinz, Secretary  
262-370-7314

Tom Day, Commissioner  
262-594-3231

Nancy Wilhelm, Commissioner  
262-370-7502

Appointed Commissioners  
Lance Matthews – Waukesha County  
920-606-2938

Ryan Hajek – Town of Eagle  
262-955-3260

Eagle Spring Lake Yacht Club  
[commodoresyc@gmail.com](mailto:commodoresyc@gmail.com)

### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY FIRE, EMS, SHERIFF

# 911

Non-Emergency Waukesha County Dispatch  
262-446-5070

Non-Emergency Walworth County Dispatch  
262-741-4400 Option 3

WI DNR Violation Hotline  
800-847-9367

WE Energies Power Outage  
800-662-4797

WE Energies Natural Gas Emergency  
800-261-5325