

MCGINNIS LAKE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 10

QUICK NOTES

The Lake Aeration Operation worked fine with no issues.

Future Meeting Dates

Saturday, May 26, 2018

Saturday, September 1, 2018

Saturday, December 1, 2018

Saturday, March 2, 2019

LAKE DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 134

Oxford, Wisconsin 53952

Email:

McGinnisLakeDist@AOL.com

March 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The December and March meetings were held and a vacant position on the board still exists. The McGinnis Lake Board position needs to be filled as soon as possible as we run a risk of not having enough board members to conduct normal business. Please contact Barry A. Berndsen (630-452-6645) if you are interested in serving as a board member.

The 2018 Approved Budget this year saw an increase on your 2017 property tax bill. This was due to the increased funding to cover Lake Maintenance Activities. These expenses for Weed Harvesting and Curly Leaf Pond Weed Spraying were included this year. We won't know till spring if we will be Curly Leaf Spraying as the DNR recommended holding off one more year. We need to survey the lake after the ice melts and weeds start to grow to understand current status of the Curly Leaf. Funding will be reduced in the 2018 Budget if we defer spraying in 2018. We **will** however be weed harvesting twice this coming summer as per current plan (June & August).

We continue to be participants in the Central Sands Water Action Coalition and have attended many steering committee meetings to date and have found this to be a beneficial cause for us to support. I continue to encourage you to look at the website www.centralsandswater.org to review current actions and information.

Q: What can the new McGinnis Lake District EMAIL address mean to me? (McGinnisLakeDist@aol.com)

A: Yes we have established one and would hope it can be used for communication to and from the Lake District Board. As a member we encourage you to use it for any questions you might have regarding McGinnis Lake District Operations. But most importantly we would like to be able to communicate to you (our members) directly via EMAIL. Sending meeting notices, newsletters, and other important communication in a timely manner is important to us. Please help us by sending your EMAIL address to us and we will add you to the EMAIL mailing list. This mailing list has only **one purpose** and is for the board to communicate to you quickly in a cost effective manner. Once we receive your address we will begin to use it for future communications and remove you from receiving information via US MAIL. (I have received 7 to date ☺)

Q: Has the McGinnis Lake Management Plan been recently updated and filed with Adams Land and Water and DNR?

A: The plan has been updated and is on file with the appropriate organizations. It needs to be updated every five years and the last revision was in 2012. In the near future it will be available for review at the website listed below for Adams County Land and Water. This document contains graphs of water quality and types of weeds currently included in our watershed. It also contains the current weed harvesting plan along with other management items.

<http://www.adamscountylwcd.net/Lakes.html/>

Q: Adams County Riparian owner's information packets are still available? (New and Old Owners!!)

A: Yes we have them and are **still available** by contacting Barry Berndsen to make arrangements to pick one up. These packets are quite informative and are a must for each shoreline property owner. Please call Barry at (630) 452-6645 or pick your copy up at the next Lake District Meeting. (We'd love to see you!!)

Q: What's happening with the current shoreline ordinance?

A: As you're aware a new ordinance was put into effect on July 1, 2015. Recently the Adams County Board has made changes to the current ordinance that effects all lake property owners. In summary the percentage of shoreline available for recreational use has been increased. Some additional changes were adopted and we'll try to summarize these changes in a later communication if possible. These changes were brought about due to the need of the Adams County Ordinance to be more in unison with state guidelines. As always you need to check with the Adams County Zoning and Planning Department if you're planning on making changes to your lake lot. The link listed is the updated document for your future reference: <http://www.co.adams.wi.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=eCV3iY7oOnw%3d&tabid=81&mid=725>

Q: Burning Permits!!! 2018 is here and everyone should have one??

A: The DNR offers you an easy way to acquire a permit by using the self-service website or are available from your local fire marshal. For your information burning is only permitted between 6:00pm and midnight and never on Sundays and holidays. Without a permit you could be found guilty of either a civil or criminal charge when burning in violation of Wisconsin laws. <http://dnr.wi.gov/burnpermits/>

Q: What if I want to make changes to my shoreline or cut down trees?

A: Any actions within the lake buffer zone and outside for tree cutting requires Adams County Zoning and Planning Approval similar to a building permit application. Failing to do that may result in fines in accordance with county laws. Please contact the Adams County Zoning and Planning for permit information.

Q: What impact does high capacity wells have on our lake and lake home water supply? UPDATE

A: The water for all resources in central Wisconsin comes from the ground and is not unlimited! There is a growing concern and there are currently lakes in Central Wisconsin that are suffering a severe drop in lake level and/or drying up and the potential exists for individual wells drying up or needing to be drilled deeper. Just think of the impact of McGinnis Lake not having active springs and our lake level dropping severely and/or parts of the lake drying up.

The State Legislature and DNR are not taking this problem serious and are being influenced by industry lobbyists wants for more and more wells. This is not just a problem that can be solved locally alone. Additionally, we suggest that every owner of properties within our lake district write and/or email your local Wisconsin representatives in the McGinnis District, even those who live in Illinois. The 2017 Wisconsin legislative session produced groundwater legislation that failed to provide adequate safeguards for high capacity wells and showed how we need to keep pressure on these legislators as they seem to have different priorities. So your immediate input to our elected officials is important to create constant pressure on these individuals that seem to not want to hear our message!!! Who is concerned about well issues if you have Lake Michigan/Mississippi River as a resource!!! Most representatives in other parts of the state are not aware of our issues here in Central Wisconsin and they tend to vote not knowing the complete picture. So if you're a permanent resident in another part of Wisconsin contact your local Representative also to make them aware!!

These are the just some of the reasons why we should support the Coalition as a group of concerned citizens who own lake property for recreation and enjoyment. This is not just a short term issue but something that will impact future generations of family's wanting to enjoy Central Wisconsin water resources. Also sign up today to be heard www.itsyourwaterwisconsin.org (Signing up on this site will not make your information public or be sold!!)

Contacts for McGinnis Lake District Area:

State Senator – Luther Olsen (Phone) 608-266-0751 (email) Sen.Olsen@Legis.Wisconsin.gov

State Representative – Joan Ballweg (Phone) 608-266-8077 (email) Rep.Ballweg@Legis.Wisconsin.gov