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# MCGINNIS LAKE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Volume 2 Issue 5

April 2024

## QUICK NOTES

The Lake Aeration System worked as planned this past winter. Rob Ramotar Resigned as Lake District Secretary.

## Future Meeting Dates

Saturday, May 25, 2024

Saturday, August 31, 2024

Saturday, December 7, 2024

Saturday, March 1, 2025

## LAKE DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 134

Oxford, Wisconsin 53952

Email:McGinnisLakeDist@AOL.com

Website

## Message from the Board

The December and March meetings were held as scheduled. The Aeration system operation was discussed and some failures occurred this past winter with our aeration pumps. Due to these failures we requested and have been allocated funding from the **Town of New Chester (ARPA Fund)** to purchase new primary pumps and upgrade our backup system. We were allocated \$15,000 to complete this equipment purchase. The equipment should be acquired and installed prior to next winter to meet our operation needs and eliminate having to use Lake District Funds for Equipment Replacement in the future. Additionally, the **ARPA Fund** purchased (\$2500) a new Oxygen Level Testing Device to be used to monitor the oxygen levels in the lake to insure appropriate levels exist. Oxygen levels are important to maintain a stable fish population, minimize algae growth and overall lake quality.

Planned Lake Maintenance Activities such as Curly Leaf Spraying, Eurasian Milfoil and Weed Harvesting were discussed. We also have new vendors providing lake surveys and lake treatment services. These vendors have an excellent reputation and will help to maximize our abilities to achieve our Lake Management Plan Goals. Our new lake survey vendor has already provided us some new insights in our goals to treat Eurasian Milfoil. The survey that was performed last fall identified a hybrid strain that after analysis (University of Montana/DNR) is unique to McGinnis and a special treatment plan will need to be completed and monitored for effectiveness long term. A lake survey will be completed this spring for Curly Leaf Pondweed and treatment will occur pending permit approval using a

herbicide called Aquathol K® (endothall). Additionally treatment will also occur for Eurasian Milfoil on or about the same time. There are no restrictions on fish consumption or swimming associated with this herbicide. Warning signs were posted at the time of treatment.

Weed Harvesting is also scheduled to be done the week of July 29, 2024 based on lake condition. We currently have permitting to accomplish this from the DNR.

At the March Meeting Rob Ramotar (Secretary) resigned from the Lake District Board effective immediately. Rob will be moving out of the area and the Board thanks Rob for his dedication and support along with best wishes!!

## **Wanted McGinnis Lake District Board Member/Secretary!!**

The McGinnis Lake District needs a new Board Member/Secretary to fill the position vacated by Rob Ramotar. Please Contact Barry Berndsen or any Board Member if you have interest in this key position.

The job position requires the following:

1. Attend Quarterly and Annual Meetings (4 per year)
2. Create Agenda for each Meeting
3. Create Meeting Minutes
4. Maintain Mailing Lists for Email and postal mailing
5. Communicate with Board Members/District Members via Email/Postal
6. Some computer skills needed and willing to be trained on processes

### **Q: What about finding the latest information about the Lake District?**

A: The Website for the McGinnis Lake District is available for all to access. Listed on the site are the members of the Lake District Board, future and past meeting Agendas, Minutes, Newsletters and other informational documents. Utilizing this new site is a great asset to provide easy access to the Lake District Information. <https://newchestertown.gov/mcginnis-lake-district/> Thanks to the Town of New Chester for providing this resource for our use!!!

### **Q: What about the lake levels that we are currently experiencing?**

A: The McGinnis Lake level is controlled by the dam which is owned and maintained by Adams County. The County is continuing to monitor the level to make sure we don't experience the excessive water levels as happened previously. Current lake levels are much lower than in previous years mostly due to reductions of both snow/rain. We are lucky that we are a spring fed lake and are not experiencing severe lower lake levels like other lakes in Adams County currently.

### **Q: Have You Seen The Sign? Friends of McGinnis Lake adopt-a-highway!!!**

A: The adopt-a-highway program is the official coordination system for the generous volunteer efforts to remove trash, recyclables and litter from Wisconsin's roadsides. Adopt-A-Highway helps reduce litter along Wisconsin's highways, builds statewide support for the anti-litter and highway beautification programs. It educates the public about properly disposing of litter, enhances the environment and allows for more beauty along Wisconsin's roadsides. Friends of McGinnis Lake adopted a 1.7 mile stretch of Cty Hwy G, from Brooks to Ember Ave. Who are the friends of McGinnis Lake? Everyone can be a friend of McGinnis Lake. Follow us in the newsletter for the date and time for next clean up or/or contact Ken Roberts at 608 617-6723 for more information.

**When is the next Clean Up?** – It is scheduled for April 20, 2024 at 10am meet at the Boat Launch. Rain date is April 27, 2024 at the same time. Let's all pitch in if we are at the lake on that day!! THANK YOU in ADVANCE!!!!

**Q: What can I do to help the McGinnis Lake District?**

A: We are currently looking for volunteers to help the District doing water quality surveys. These surveys don't require a lot of time but need to be completed to insure the lake quality is the best it can be. The surveys begin in the spring and take less than an hour of your time throughout the summer at your convenience. Training is available and all the necessary items to complete the tests are supplied. Please contact Ken Roberts (608-617-6723) regarding helping us with this activity.

**Q: What if I want to become a member of the Lake District Board?**

A: All members of the Lake District are eligible to join the board as an elected member. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are elected to terms of 3 years. Not all of us are full time residents of the lake but know how important it is to insure the quality of the lake is preserved!!! A couple of us have served on the board since the District was formed many years ago and would welcome new individuals to take over in the future. Please contact me if you're interested in reviewing the future opportunities as a board member!!! Barry A. Berndsen (630-452-6645)

**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 30 to date☺) Its Never too Late!!!!

**Q: Is it time to update our email mailing list??**

A: Yes it is!!! We will be sending all current email recipients an email to confirm that you want to continue to receive electronic distribution from the McGinnis Lake District. Just respond and acknowledge you want to continue and we will continue the distribution as in the past. Remember in the future if your email changes so we can update our list. If you want to opt out just let us know and we will be happy to put back on postal mail distribution. No Problem!!

**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: Burning Permits!!! 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 (IT'S FREE). 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: Are we still members of the Central Sands Water Action Coalition and Adams County Lake Alliance?**

A: We continue to be active participants in these organizations and have attended many meetings to date and have found these to be very beneficial organizations for us to support. I continue to encourage you to look at the website [www.centralsandswater.org](http://www.centralsandswater.org) to review current actions and information. The Adams County Lake Alliance is <http://aclakes.org/index.html> for your reference of ongoing meetings and activities.

**Q: Do we have a Lost and Found?**

A: Periodically items end up in the lake like rafts, paddles, various swim toys and etc. People find these items and are not sure who's they are or what to do??? If you find something and/or lost something please email the Lake District email or call Barry Berndsen at 630-452-6645. We will try our best to help find the happy homes for these items noted based on the **input we receive!!**

**Q: Are you interested in purchasing Trees or Scrubs?**

A: The Adams County Land and Water Department provides an annual sale of a wide variety of trees and scrubs. Anyone interested should please contact Adams County at (608) 339-4268 for information on order form and availability of product.