

Annual Meeting Highlights

Highlights of our annual meeting held Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 7:00pm at the County Annex Bldg are:

The treasurer's report was given. Our 2004 expenses were lower than budgeted. As a result, the **2005 Lake Association dues will be** reduced this year from \$175 to **\$150**. The main reason for the variance was last summer we only had 2 workers doing weed harvesting. In the past, we would use 3 during peak harvesting with the 3rd worker on a rotation to help unload and haul the weeds away with the dump truck.

This year 536 loads of weeds were removed as compared to 739 loads in 2003 and 575 loads in 2002. The big reason for the fewer weeds was the cooler summer. It should be noted that the DNR allowed us to skim weeds off the surface for aesthetic purposes by the bay near Post Road. For those with boats, it was 2 years in a row that boating was much more enjoyable with less weed fouling of the motor props.

Gary Rogers and David Quick ended their 3-year Board terms. Bernie Landerman also resigned as Chairman of our Conservation committee. For those that know Bernie, he has been active with McDill for a very long time and was the unofficial custodian for the Ospreys. Thanks Bernie. Appreciation plaques and a small gift were provided to both Gary and Bernie for their efforts.

Nominations were held to fill the 2 vacated Board positions. Unanimous approval by the 33 members in attendance at the meeting elected David Quick and Dave Enerson. David (his second 3-year term) will continue again as our treasurer and Dave will become the member at large. Please give them your support and appreciation.

Wayne Ganzer and Gary Oudenhoven provided information for group discussion on phosphorus free lawn fertilizer. Our waterways in the nation are becoming loaded with weeds and algae. Algae becomes a big problem since it will eventually destroy the water ecology. Minnesota has recently enacted a law limiting phosphorus that basically only allows up to 3% phosphorous and then in certain areas, no phosphorus unless it is a newly seeded lawn or soil testing indicates the need.

Note: Phosphorus is only needed for establishing root growth and it is routinely over applied. A review on the Internet show similar standards are being implemented in Madison and other areas where water quality has become a problem. The Lake District plans to study this further and hopefully develop a plan. If you are interested, please contact Gary Oudenhoven. Please be extra careful when fertilizing along the water to limit its runoff. Every little bit helps.

If you haven't noticed, the Lake District installed No Wake signs on all the inlets to our Channels in late summer. It is unlawful to operate a personal watercraft faster than slow-no-wake within 200' of shore on any lake. "Slow-no-wake speed is about 3 miles per hour and the slowest possible speed a boat can travel and still have steering control" per the DNR. Most of our channels are well less than 400' wide and it is critical since a boat wake can wash in the shoreline banks. Thus, we added the signs as a reminder.

Final Dredge Sand Removal and Site Restoration is Complete

At our December 14th Board meeting, Jack Negaard, McDill Lake District president was pleased to announce that the final items from our dredge project are complete and we came just under budget per our grant allowances. You may have noticed recently that the Patch St site has been leveled off and cleaned up in accordance with the DNR and our dredge permit. Special thanks to Mayor Wescott, Joe Euclide-City Engineer and Tom Schrader-City Parks & Recreation for all their efforts. Thanks to Deb Pingel of the DNR. And thanks to Stuczynski Excavating for working with us to restore the site. Recognition also needs to be given to Jack Negaard who almost single handedly represented the majority of Lake District involvement thru the whole dredge process. If you see him, tell him thanks for a job well done.

Miscellaneous

Per previous newsletter, two lake studies are being done by other groups and the final reports have been delayed to Spring. The first is being done by UW SP and the County to establish a base line for 29 Portage County lakes including McDill. The

second study is an aquatic weed study being done by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and Golden Sands RC&D.

A group of us plan to get together to expand our website to use more for education, reference links, etc. If you have any ideas or would like to help, please contact Gary Oudenhoven. If you have Internet at home, please email your address to gomcdill@charter.net It is the best way to get our newsletter plus a lot of other info. Your email address is kept confidential. It also saves the Lake District postage expense.

If you have any suggestions/questions or would like to volunteer, please call one of us or email at gomcdill@charter.net

Jack Negaard, President	345-0588
John Jones, Secretary	342-8891
David Quick, Treasurer	343-6192
Jim Laszewski, Aquatic Plant/ Harvesting Chairman	344-7750
Dave Enerson, Member at large	341-7717
Jack Barr, City Council Rep.	344-6817
Bill Peterson, County Board Rep.	344-3538
Gary Oudenhoven, Newsletter	343-9648

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McDill Pond News