

■ WIND LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ■

# ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 2, AUGUST 2013

## THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING

Will be held Thursday September 5, 2013 at the Norway Town Hall. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. All residents and landowners are encouraged to attend. Annual meetings are always very important, with a number of votes taken on various issues. The proposed budget, the agenda and the minutes from the 2012 meeting are included in this newsletter.

**Aquatic Plants (Weeds):** Over the last 7 or 8 years, there has been a major change in the way plants grow in Wind Lake. Milfoil has always been a big problem, but dense, diverse native plants have expanded into areas that have never had plants. Large parts of the West shoreline for instance, had never needed management until the last 2 or 3 years. Near-shore areas are chock full of diverse native plants. While that's good for the lake and the fisheries, it's not something that many of the property owners like. Plant growth is also unpredictable. While many say that cold snowy winters means less plants, that has not been the case for Wind Lake. Fortunately, the milfoil is not as bad this year as it was last year.

**Algae:** Three years ago, we conducted an alum treatment on Wind Lake. The main purpose was to tie up phosphorus in the lake bed and prevent the blue-green algae blooms that were an increasing problem on the lake. When blue-green algae is present, DNR does not allow treatment of any plants or algae. Without treatment, the algae blooms can increase to a point where it is not safe to swim, and weeds block residents access to open water.

This year, a different type of algae was a problem in some areas of the lake. Filamentous algae is a slimy mat-type algae that accumulates along the shorelines. Nitrogen levels in runoff fuels filamentous algae growth. The spring runoff and above average rainfalls early in the year led to more filamentous algae than we have seen in recent years.

**Weed Chemical Treatment:** We have conducted 3 treatments this year, mostly targeting milfoil and filamentous algae. All treatments are done under supervision of the DNR. Although landowners may request that all plants be treated, DNR may not allow their treatment. We take every effort to open up areas when allowed.

**Harvesting:** *There are no plans or proposals to purchase harvesting equipment for the 2014 season.*

Harvesting was conducted for six weeks this summer. We contract with two different companies. The main focuses of the program are to make sure residents around the lake can access open water and to create channels through large weed beds.

A number of people ask why we don't purchase our own equipment. Creating a new harvesting program is a very expensive proposition. A single harvester can cost more than \$180,000. Then you need a barge, a conveyor, a big truck, a storage facility, a supervisor, a maintenance person, at least 3 people to staff the equipment, insurance, etc. When we investigated and developed a draft budget for a program, equipment costs alone were over \$400,000. Although grants are possible to assist with acquisition of some of the equipment, it would still be over \$200,000 local costs. Annual

operating costs would more than double our current budget and would result in lake fees of almost \$500 per year.

**Road-side Weed Pick-up:** A road-side weed pick-up program continued this summer to give landowners a place to go with the raked plant debris. The pickup program will continue for next year.

**Lake Level:** The Drainage District, the County and WLMD previously had an agreement that WLMD would operate the Dam, with half of the costs paid by the Drainage District. The agreement called for the Drainage District to add WLMD to their insurance policy. They were not able to acquire insurance, and everyone's efforts to find insurance proved fruitless. No one will insure dam operation unless you own the dam, so we were forced to turn operation back to the County. Although we have tried to work with the County on alternatives, they have refused to cooperate and are now operating the dam themselves. We will continue to try to work with the County and Drainage District.

**Annual Charges:** Over the years, WLMD has tried to maintain low annual charges while trying to conduct the management activities that the residents vote for. Because we had built up a small reserve, charges could remain the same even when spending went up for any given year. Unfortunately the past three years have been very bad for weed growth and expenses have dramatically increase. Our reserve is now depleted. To continue to provide the requested harvesting and chemical treatments, the board is recommending an increase in the special charges. The new lakefront charge will be \$220, canal front will be \$130 and off lake charges will be \$90.

**Goose Control:** No goose control was conducted this summer. The very cool spring delayed nesting and molting for the geese. Some geese nested so late that the goslings are even now still very small. At the time the roundup would have been done, half the geese still had their flight feathers. Rather than spend the money and risk not getting geese, the decision was made to cancel the roundup. Goose control is planned for next summer.

## MINUTES - Annual Meeting - Sept 13, 2012

Present: R. Mohr, G. Kotsiris, J. Marks, R. Schopp, K. Aron, J. Bellante, and approx. 60 residents.

J. Marks called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Introductions of the board were made. The minutes were approved as printed.

J. Marks gave an update on the past year:

Lake level – The lake is more than a foot down because of the drought. This complicates everything from boating to weed control. Harvesting – The very early hot weather produced lots of weeds in March. Our contractors were very helpful. We were able to shift our schedule to a month earlier than planned. *Continued on Pg 4*

# ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING AGENDA - WLMD

Thursday September 5, 2013 7:00 pm Norway Town Hall

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions - Board Members, Guests

Approve Minutes of 2012 Annual Meeting

Project Update - A review of 2013 and plans for 2014

## Budget Hearing and Approval - Resolution 1-2013

Whereas the Board of Commissioners has proposed the enclosed budget for the WLMD for the year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014;

And Whereas, notice of the Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting was provided to residents and landowners;

And Whereas, the Board has proposed the annual special charge be assessed at \$220 lakefront, \$130 canal and \$90 off lake;

And Whereas, the Board recommends the projects presented herein;

And Whereas, the 1997 annual meeting gave the Board authority for short term borrowing to cover grant reimbursements not yet received;

And Whereas, the 2010 Annual Meeting approved the levy of irrevocable taxes to repay the State Loans;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the projects included in the budget as may be amended by the Annual Meeting are hereby approved;

Be It Further Resolved, that the WLMD is authorized to bill property owners as directed by the Annual Meeting;

Be It Further Resolved, that the WLMD board is authorized to apply for available grants;

Be It Further Resolved, that the authorization for short term borrowing to cover grant reimbursements not yet received is continued through this budget year;

Be It Further Resolved, that the special charges approved by this Resolution shall be payable from July 1, 2014 to October 1, 2014 at which time unpaid special charges will be placed on the December 2014 tax rolls and will include a \$7 surcharge.

Election of Commissioner – Current board member Gary Kotsiris is nominated by the Board for a 3-year term. Bruce Rosenquist has also indicated that he would like to be considered for the position. Nominations from the floor are welcome.

Set date for 2014 Annual Meeting - Sept 4, 2014

New Business

Adjourn

**A Board of Commissioners meeting will be held immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect officers.**

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2013, at the Norway Town Hall.

## ADDRESSES ON PIERS

Please consider putting your house numbers on the end of your pier so they are visible from the lake. This will greatly help with the plant management on the lake, making it easier for the contractors to find specific areas.

## NEED MORE INFO?

If you do, check out our website - [www.wlmd.org](http://www.wlmd.org). The site has:

- Meetings, schedules, agendas and minutes
- Links to other lake-related sites
- Information about who to contact for various activities
- The latest lake depth map of Wind Lake
- Other special notices as needed are also posted on the site.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

**Who is eligible to vote:** Anyone of legal voting age, who owns property, or lives within the boundaries of the Wind Lake Management District.

**Can I get an absentee ballot or can I designate a proxy:** No. Because of the state law, one must be present to vote at a lake district annual meeting.

**The tax was raised by vote at last year's annual meeting. I didn't know that was going to be done - that's not right:** Under current state law, residents present at the meeting have the right to modify the tax without prior notice.

**My neighbor lives in Illinois-he can't vote:** Yes he can. Lake districts are the only form of government in Wisconsin to allow a non-resident to vote, or hold office.



*Minutes Continued from Pg 1*

We are using two different harvesters. One can get into shallower water.

Chemical treatment – We conducted one very large treatment this year.

Harvesting equipment acquisition – The board continues to investigate this but the costs are very high, and other issues such as equipment maintenance, storage, and disposal sites are still road-blocks .

Goose removal – There were 28 geese removed this year by USDA. This is half of the numbers removed in 2011. This program has been very successful at reducing the nutrients and damage from the birds.

Carp removal – There were no carp removed at the Muskego dam this year.

J. Marks opened the Budget Hearing. The residents asked questions about the various categories. Discussions included weeds and what can be treated, sediment and the high cost of dredging, the inability to use the lake, boat launch and

lake levels, A motion was made to approve the budget resolution 1-2012, it was seconded and approved. The budget hearing was closed.

J. Marks is up for re-election to the board for a 3-year term. The meeting was turned over to R. Mohr to handle the election. A motion was made to re-elect J. Marks for the position and to cast a unanimous ballot. The motion was seconded, motion carried.

A resident brought up the boat patrol. J. Marks stated that the patrol is run by the Town and complaints should go to the police commission. The WLMD has tried to improve the patrol by holding training sessions and meetings. Residents complained that they do not assist disabled boaters, they do not abide by slow-no-wake rules, and they do not provide any storm warnings, even when they are on the lake when a storm is imminent.

The 2013 annual meeting will be held on Sept 5, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Lake District Line | 514-3238     |
| Jim Marks          | 895-7872     |
| Gary Kotsiris      | 514-3238     |
| Richard Mohr       | 895-7927     |
| Ralph Schopp       | 414-531-6020 |
| Joe Bellante       | 895-6694     |

Commissioners meetings are usually held the 4th Thursday of every month. The November and December meetings are combined and is held the Thursday after Thanksgiving. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm at the Norway Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

[www.wlmd.org](http://www.wlmd.org)  
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[info@wlmd.org](mailto:info@wlmd.org)

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