



Volume 31, Number 2, August 2017  
[www.wlmd.org](http://www.wlmd.org)

## THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING

Will be held Thursday September 7 at the Norway Town Hall. The meeting will begin promptly at 7 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 for the year, the agenda and the minutes from the 2016 meeting are included in this newsletter.

**Aquatic Plants (Weeds):** Milfoil has continued to be a big problem in the North and Northwest part of the lake. Curly-leaf pondweed, which dies off in mid-summer, was significantly down from last year. Native plants are abundant, covering much of the lakebed. Some of the native plants, like Chara, continue to be abundant and can cause a problem for boaters near shore.

**Invasive Species:** We continue to face a threat from a new, highly invasive aquatic plant called Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*). Starry stonewort (SSW) has been found in five lakes in Wisconsin: Big Muskego and Little Muskego in Waukesha County, Long Lake (Ke-Nong-Go-Mong Lake) in Racine County, and Silver Lake and Pike Lake in Washington County. The invasive is also in at least two lakes in Minnesota. The Long Lake Protection District is leading the work to determine effective controls, and have developed leading-edge methods. WLMD is doing everything possible to prevent getting this invasive. Property owners and lake users can do their part by being sure only clean boats and equipment enters Wind Lake.

**Algae:** Filamentous algae is a slimy mat-type algae that accumulates along the shorelines. Nitrogen levels in runoff fuels filamentous algae growth early in the season. Filamentous algae was way down from previous years.

**Weed Chemical Treatment:** We have conducted chemical treatments this year, targeting navigational areas. Some areas have been difficult because the water lilies have been growing profusely. All treatments are done under supervision of the DNR. Although landowners may request that all plants be treated, DNR may refuse to allow their treatment. We take every effort to open up areas when allowed. Treatments can only be conducted when either invasive species are present, or when a nuisance condition exists. A nuisance condition is interpreted as plant growth that interferes with lake use.

**Harvesting:** As of this newsletter, the harvester has been on Wind Lake for three weeks. The harvester focused on making sure navigational lanes were open for boaters, and cutting the milfoil and curly-leaf.

**Road-side Weed Pick-up:** The road-side weed pick-up program continued this summer to give landowners a place to go with the raked lake plant debris. Because the amount of invasive weeds continued to be down this year, the amount of roadside weeds picked up was also low early in the summer. Although the board initially decided to discontinue the pickups, heavy floating plants in late August and September led to the program being re-instated. Pickups are done once a month.

**Goose Control:** The goose control program was conducted this year. The USDA was able to roundup 51 geese from one location. Goose control will continue next summer.

**Boat Inspection:** The WLMD partnered with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Wisc. Power Squadron conducted the boat inspections. Extremely bad weather the day of the inspection led to only a couple of boats being inspected at two locations, the DNR boat launch and Sportsman's.

## **FIREWORKS ON WIND LAKE**

Over the past year, a local group of residents has been working to bring a 4th of July fireworks display to Wind Lake. Many lakes in this area have fireworks displays.

Along with conducting other fundraising programs, the committee has asked to be added to the agenda for the 2017 Annual Meeting. They are asking the Annual Meeting to consider approving an additional \$25 per year to be charged to lakefront landowners. The funds would be used to support the 4th of July fireworks display.

This will be discussed and voted on prior to the Budget approval at the meeting.

## **MINUTES - Annual Meeting Sept 8, 2016**

Present: R. Mohr, B. Rosenquist, J. Marks, R. Schopp, K. Aron, J. Bellante, and approx. 75 residents.

J. Bellante called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Introductions of the board were made.

The 2015 Annual Meeting minutes were approved as printed.

An update on the past year's activities was given, including:

- Voting: K. Aron discussed voting eligibility. Anyone who owns property in the District, is listed on the tax roll, or is a legal voter and living in the District is eligible. State law does not allow absentee or proxy votes.
- Lake Level: This has been a hot dry summer. Rainfall is 5" to 6" down. The Wind Lake dam has been closed since May 16th and Big Muskego has not released any water to Wind Lake since July 13. There is a display showing the water levels of the entire system, along with informational materials to read. The Wind Lake dam controls the water level in Wind Lake. The Rochester dam controls the water level in the Fox River up to the Waterford dam, as well as the water level in the Wind Lake canal below the Wind Lake dam. Everyone is encouraged to review the materials.
- Plant Management: Milfoil growth was way down again this summer. Curly-leaf pondweed growth was heavier than usual, especially in the NE end of the lake. No Starry stonewort has been found in Wind Lake.

- Starry Stonewort: This highly invasive species is now in 6 states, including Wisconsin. Big Muskego, Little Muskego in Waukesha County, Long Lake-Racine County, Silver, Pike and Green Lakes in Washington County, and Sturgeon Bay in Door County all have starry stonewort. Please clean your equipment between lakes. This is the best way to prevent the spread of SSW.
- Chemical Treatments: There have been three treatments this summer, primarily to maintain navigational access.
- Harvesting: Lack of milfoil and low water levels later in the summer resulted in one harvesting operation being conducted, for 7 days, for a total of \$10,900.
- Roadside Weed Pickup: Once a month pickups have been done this year. There have been a few issues with the new contractor missing some roads.
- Geese: The roundup was done in 2016. This was the cheapest roundup ever. A total of 48 geese, 13 adults and 35 juveniles were removed for a cost of approx \$1400. Nineteen pounds of meat was given to a food pantry.
- The water quality of Wind Lake is out of the eutrophic (high nutrients) range. This is what the district has been trying to achieve since its inception and the development of the first lake plan. The clarity is now very clear, ranging from 9 to 15 feet in 2015, and 12 to 15 feet in 2016. The alum treatment is continuing to have a very good impact on the quality of the lake.
- Lake Patrol: The patrol issued a number of citations on Wind Lake. Violations included 19 parking, 2 numbers, 2 speeding, 4 gunwales, 6 fire extinguishers, 2 underage operators, 4 batteries, and 4 OWI.

After the update, J. Bellante asked if there were any comments and/or questions. He asked that residents approach the microphone so all could hear.

Jay Warner, Breezy Pt Rd - Indicated that the channel into Breezy Bay was not navigable and there were too many weeds. He asked why nothing was done. K. Aron indicated that the board member, J. Marks, who lives on the channel, has repeatedly told the board that nothing was needed in that area, and the board relied on his statements. No one along the channel called or emailed the District to indicate there was a problem.

Mark Anderson, Breezy Pt Rd - Indicated that the Breezy Bay channel needs to be dredged. He said for 10 years J. Marks has told him that the request is in to

DNR and why is nothing being done. K. Aron indicated that there is no budget for dredging; it is a 4 to 5 year process to get the engineering and permitting done. J. Marks is wrong: there is not, and never has been a request submitted to DNR.

Chuck Wesolowski, Breezy Pt Rd - Indicated that the water has to be going somewhere, that evaporation cannot be the only reason the lake is so low. He stated that none of the other lakes are low. The dam is not being maintained, and the District needs to do something. K. Aron restated her earlier comments on the lake level and reiterated that the information is on the display and the handouts should be read. People in the audience shouted that they don't want to read anything, they want the problem fixed. Chairman J. Bellante pointed out that he met with Julie Anderson at Racine County, head of the Public Works Dept, amount others. NO ONE has called, emailed, texted, or personally gone to the County to complain or ask why the lake was so low.

Elaine Stewart, W Wind Lake Rd - Indicated that the lake should be kept at the highest level possible. K Aron said that it is, but we cannot make it rain. Stewart then complained about the eel grass saying that it creates big mats and should be harvested. K. Aron responded that it has been skimmed in the near shore areas in previous years, but that this year the water level is too low to do that. The loaded equipment cannot get in to shore to offload. Stewart asked about the increase in the budget to do a plant survey and plant management plan. K. Aron responded that DNR requires surveys and plans in order to get a 5-year harvesting permit. DNR also changed the protocol required to be followed. Instead of 110 sample points, the District is now required to sample 900 + points, at considerable price increase. Stewart said she thinks the District needs to get bids because it is over \$10,000.

An outburst from the floor wanted to know why K. Aron is answering all the questions, when the board members are present. J. Bellante explained that K. Aron is the professional hired by the District. He indicated that he is not willing to make stuff up just to sound important. In response to continued outbursts, J. Bellante asked the woman to get in line to speak at the mic and declared her out of order. E. Stewart charged that all the people want is honesty, that K. Aron is running the show and not listening, and the board members are not participating.

Frank Bellante, S Wind Lake Rd - He challenged the notion that the board is not participating. He has been to most of the meetings over the past year plus and has not seen any of those who are now complaining.

Those complaining don't bother to show up except for this meeting to complain.

After more outbursts, J. Bellante again called for order and said the police can be called to maintain order. He said that the meeting was here to get something done, not to have disruptions. Because of continued lack of order, the police were asked to be present.

Frank Bellante concluded that if people want to have something done, they need to show up at the monthly board meetings and express their problems and possible solutions.

J. Orne, Breezy Pt - Concerned about lake level and a lack of dissemination of information. He asked who owned the dam (Racine County), and said he has retained an environmental attorney who is looking at the dam issue. He wants a copy of the County dam engineering report. He asked what the District based the evaporation data on. K. Aron indicated that the US Geological Survey had an evaporation pan on the shore of Wind Lake for two years, recording evaporation rates as part of the \$250,000 study. The rates are based on ACTUAL measurements, not hypothetical rates. R. Schopp said that many lakes are down, including Waubeesee which is down more than one foot. Orne charged that the required information has not been provided to the state, that there are more than a few leaks, that something has to be done.

Jim Bluemel Jr, E Wind Lake Rd - The entire budget should be spent; only a fraction of the weed budget has been spent. He believes there are too many weeds that should have been dealt with. The lake should be cutting weekly. He said the lake lot the District owns should be used to allow harvesting all the time and dredge the shoreline if needed. K. Aron indicated that if the water is low, the harvester can't get in to shore scoop up the weeds, and then can't get back to shore with a load of weeds. He asked why starry stonewort isn't in Wind Lake. K. Aron explained the growth structure of SSW and how it moves. We don't expect it to come downstream, but we do expect it will come in through a boat launch. J. Bluemel asked about the property the District owns on Muskego Dam Rd. K. Aron explained the history with the purchase, and that the initial goals for the land may no longer be valid, and would certainly be cost prohibitive now.

Rene Rehwald, W Loomis Rd - After hearing the complaints, she asked if we could have people from each area come to the monthly meetings with status reports for the board. In response to a question about who lives on the lake, R. Mohr-30 yrs, J. Marks and B. Rosenquist, and J. Bellante lives in the District. R. Schopp lived many years on the lake and now lives on



Waubeesee Lake.

Elaine Stewart, W Wind Lake - She said that her suggestion to have an email list was presented to the board and was shot down by K. Aron. K. Aron stated that for the past 2 years, every newsletter asked for email addresses for those who want to be kept up to date on what is going on in the District. Anyones email address then is part of public record and must be provided when requested. To date, ONE person asked to be put on the email list. Anything that goes to the board, including minutes and agendas, goes to that person. Because she didn't believe K. Aron, the newsletter reference in the Annual Meeting notice was shown to her. Stewart charged that the emails would be controlled by K. Aron. J. Bellante reminded the attendees that the District is a governmental unit that MUST comply with state law on open records and notices. No other units of local government in the area are doing this. Making this a personal attack on K. Aron is not okay. To suggest that the District is somehow restricting access is ridiculous.

Rene Rehwald, W Loomis Rd - I never got an answer to my question about a group to attend the meetings. She is willing to coordinate a group. B. Rosenquist indicated he may be interested in working with such a group.

Lori Stapelton, E Wind Lake Rd - Indicated that she would not pay the lake fee but thinks it should be based on where the house is so she would only pay an off-lake fee. Her request to re-evaluate her charges was rejected by the board in early 2014. She was forced to remove her ice shanty and pier so shouldn't have to pay the lake fee. The District has no responsibility about ice shanties or piers.

Jeff Shook, E Wind Lake Rd - in response to creating a committee/board, Shook indicated that the easy way to deal with all this is to contact the board, call, send an email or attend the meetings. He said he has gotten responses every time, even though he may not like the answer. This board has jobs, a life and yet always responds. He said he attends many meetings, and rarely sees anyone else there. He thanked the board for their service.

(Could not hear name) - She asked how often K. Aron goes out on the lake. K. Aron responded that it varies. She has been out there more because of SSW. All questions about possible SSW is investigated, as well as needs for treatments and harvesting. She asked how many calls does the District have to get to register a concern to check out. K. Aron said ONE. Aron said there are areas that are always a problem, others are a one-time situation that someone has called or emailed about. An example is along the outfall from Harbor Point. One phone call led to a

treatment being done. Fifty calls aren't needed. K. Aron said a specific question is always asked of the board at the meetings for input about what is a problem in their areas. If the board says there is no problem, then she doesn't worry about it. The lake district phone line goes to K. Aron.

R Mohr said that the lake has NEVER looked as good as it does now. K. Aron said no chemical treatments or harvesting has been done in front of R. Mohr's this year.

Michael Stewart, W Wind Lake - Asked if the District has a plan for dealing with SSW if/when it gets to Wind Lake. K. Aron said that DNR holds the key to issuing permits for SSW control, but the District intends to be very aggressive and it is and has been in the District's annual resolution each year.

Ralph Schopp said that Long Lake's annual meeting in October will provide updates about the SSW problem in that lake. That meeting is Oct 13, 2016.

Mike Iannelli, Breezy Pt - said that the other meetings (Board meetings) don't count. Only the annual meeting counts.

Jeremy Sauld, W Loomis Rd - Asked what is being done on Little and Big Muskego to keep it from spreading. Divers and suction harvesting have been used at great expense for little results. Chemicals are now being used to keep the launches open. Clean Boats Clean Water volunteers are also used but only 2 days per week.

Jay Warner, Breezy Pt Rd - asked a question on the process of the budget, who in the City approves the budget, total expenses, etc. R Schopp and K. Aron explained the process and how to read the various columns. The Town has no involvement in the budget.

J. Bellante read the Budget Resolution 1-2016. There was a motion to approve the Resolution, a 2nd and the motion carried, approving the budget as presented.

B. Rosenquist was up for re-election as commissioner. J. Bellante called for nominations from the floor. B. Rosenquist and Brian Raditz were nominated for the position. The two candidates were asked to give a short presentation of themselves and why they are seeking the position. After the vote, B. Rosenquist was re-elected to the board for a three year term.

The 2017 Annual Meeting date will either be the 1st or 2nd Thursday in September, depending on the Green Bay Packers schedule.

J. Bellante asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

## PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

History has shown us that once invasive species are present in a lake, it is pretty much impossible to completely eradicate it. So prevention is the key:

- Don't move your boat and fishing equipment from lake to lake without thoroughly decontaminating it.
- Remove all plant fragments from your boat, trailer, anchor ropes, live wells, etc.
- Dump all your bilge water when leaving a lake.
- Do not transport fish in water. Dump all water and put your fish on ice.
- Flush your motor cooling system between lakes.
- Keeping your boat and equipment dry docked for a week will help prevent spreading invasives.
- Try to avoid launching into a lake with a "dirty" boat launch, one that has lots of weed fragments floating around.
- Check out the Wisconsin DNR website for more information on Clean Boats.

## 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.

## 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 way state law governing lake district's is written, one must be present to vote at a lake district annual meeting.

*Can the annual meeting change our taxes without us knowing in advance:* Yes. Under current state law, residents present at the meeting have the right to modify the tax and budget without prior notice to property owners.

*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 (as long as they own property in the lake district) to vote or hold office.

## NEW DREDGING RULES IN WISCONSIN

DNR is now accepting applications for general permits for small-scale dredging projects. The new general permit streamlines the approval process.

This process allows waterfront property owners to remove small volume amounts of lake bed to improve navigation or recreation. The permit is valid for 5 years and allows up to 25 cubic years to be removed in eligibility criteria and conditions are met.

These permits are not available for areas that have been designated Sensitive Areas or Areas of Special Natural Resource Interest.

Permit applications must be submitted online. Go to [DNR.wi.gov](http://DNR.wi.gov) and search for "dredging permit".

## HOW TO TELL NATIVE CHARA FROM THE INVASIVE STARRY STONEWORT

Chara	Starry Stonewort
When you crush Chara, it has a very musky odor.	No musky odor.
Chara stems don't "crush"	SSW stems "ooze" when split and crushed.
Has a "uniform", tight appearance in the water.	SSW is more shaggy in appearance and has much more branching.
Has a thick, coarse, gritty feel (from the calcium coating)	No gritty feel.
No bulbils.	Has star-shaped bulbils (2 - 5 mm).
Usually grows to 2 to 3 feet tall.	Grows to 6 feet tall or more.
Chara does not react well to herbicide use because of the calcium coating.	SSW responds to Cutrine Ultra, with or without Hydrothol; and Clipper.
Very difficult to harvest because of its coarseness.	Difficult to harvest because of the amount of biomass.
	Spreads extremely easily from fragments and from the bulbils.
	Needs less light to grow so it grows in much deeper water than usually in the lake.
	Likes the same lake bed characteristics as Chara.



**ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING AGENDA - WLMD**  
**Thursday September 7, 2017 at 7 pm Norway Town Hall**

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions - Board Members, Guests

Approve Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting

Project Update - A review of 2017 and plans for 2018

Consideration and action on request from Fireworks Committee asking Lakefront landowners to add \$25 to their annual charge per year to support the 4th of July fireworks.

Budget Hearing and Approval - Resolution 1-2017:

Whereas the Board of Commissioners has proposed the enclosed budget for the WLMD for the year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018;

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 WLMD board shall take swift, and immediate action if / when invasive species such as starry stonewort are found in Wind Lake;**

Be It Further Resolved, that the special charges approved by this Resolution shall be payable from July 1, 2017 to October 1, 2017 at which time unpaid special charges will be placed on the December 2017 tax rolls and will **include a \$20 surcharge.**

Election of Commissioner – Current board member Gretchen Bellante's term is up for re-election. The board nominates her for election to the post. Nominations from the floor are welcome.

Set date for 2018 Annual Meeting - First or Second Thursday of September (Depending on Packer Schedule)

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 26, 2017, at the Norway Town Hall.

## **WIND LAKE WEBSITE/EMAIL**

www.wlmd.org  
info@wlmd.org

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Lake District Line	514-3238
Joe Bellante	895-6694
Ralph Schopp	414-531-6020
Jim Marks	895-7872
Bruce Rosenquist	895-3942
Gretchen Bellante	262-332-9078

Commissioners meetings are usually held the 4th Thursday of every month, with the November and December meeting combined. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Norway Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

If you do, check out our website. The site has:

- Meetings, schedules, agendas, and minutes
- Information about who to contact for various activities.
- 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.

**You can also send an email to [info@wlmd.org](mailto:info@wlmd.org) to be put on a list to receive meeting notices and updates. Note that your email is then considered public information.**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Wind Lake Management District  
30910 Royal Hill Rd.  
Burlington, WI 53105