



Big School Section Lake

PARK ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Dousman, Wis.

Incorporated 1955

June 2017 Newsletter – School Section Lake Management District

www.schoolsectionlake.org

Chairman's Column

Happy Summer time 2017 to all Lake Management District Members.

It's been a spring of ups and downs, starts and stops, wars and colds, and lots of rain! But hopefully now we're ready to settle into an enjoyable summer on our beautiful Lake.

In this column I'd like to briefly discuss a few items that have transpired in the past six months and their impact on all of us as School Section Lake Management District Members (henceforth to be known as "SSLMD" to shorten typing.!!)

Purchase of Smukowski Property.

As of April 28, 2017 we officially closed on and took title of the nearly six acre parcel on the SW corner of the lake formerly owned by Jerry and Jaclyn Smukowski. This property has been used for many years as the site for dumping weeds harvested over the summer from the lake, in addition to a docking space for the harvester and associated equipment. The land was purchased with a loan from The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands in Madison, WI. This is an organization that makes loans available to municipalities and municipal organizations (like ours) to purchase properties for public projects (like ours). The assessment to repay this loan has been spread out over a 10 year period and when complete we will have title to this property free and clear. The

importance of our owning this property cannot be overemphasized; without it we'd have no convenient location for weed disposal and it would have a significant impact on our annual harvesting operations.

Management of our new property.

With SSLMD now being the owner of the above-mentioned property comes the responsibility to properly manage the site. There are many questions being asked;

How will we maintain the property?

What other uses can be allowed on the property?

Who will have access to the property?

These are all legitimate questions.

Unfortunately at this time we don't have all the answers. Additionally, since SSLMD is a government entity, we're governed by specific regulations pertaining to use of such property. We are in the process of applying for rezoning and that may have an impact on what we can all do with the property. We're also in the process of putting together a committee of volunteer lake residents who would have the responsibility of managing our property within the guidelines of these ordinances. More to come on this as we move forward with discussions between us, Town of Ottawa and Waukesha County.

Weed Harvester Maintenance.

Over the years Dan Poppy has been our “go-to guy” in regards to our weed harvesting program. He's done a remarkable job of repairing/maintaining the harvester in addition to being out on the lake and harvesting during the summer months. As I am sure you can tell the harvester has not been on the lake yet this year. We are replacing the old tired diesel engine powering the machine with a rebuilt unit. The goal is to make the machine more productive for the time spent out on the lake. We purchased a rebuilt Kubota diesel and we found that we needed special mounting equipment to mount the hydraulic pump to the new motor. As we are writing the newsletter, all of the equipment is here and the work is well under way to get the Kubota engine installed in the harvester.

Photos of the crew at work on the new engine are posted on our web site
<http://www.schoolsectionlake.org/photos.html>

As of Friday, June 23rd, the new motor has been installed in the weed harvester and it is up and running! There are still some loose ends that need to be addressed, but the harvester should be in the lake very soon. With the improved performance, we hope to be able to quickly get caught up with the weed harvesting.

We are looking for a few additional part-time operators of the weed harvester. If you would be interested in some part-time work and helping improve the quality of the lake, please contact Frank Arndorfer.

As always, your Board of Directors is interested in any input or feedback you may have regarding lake issues. Please feel free to contact

any one of us at the number(s) or email address(s) below:

Frank Arndorfer
Cell: 414-254-1668
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I Hope we all have a pleasant summer on our little gem of a lake.

Frank Arndorfer – Chairman SSLMD

The Second Annual Lake District Picnic!

August 26th, 2017
3PM
Elsa Dr. Lake Access

Sunday will be a rain date, if Saturday gets rained out.

Grills, plates, napkins, utensils provided.
Bring a "dish to pass" and if you wish to grill, your choice.

Bring your own beverages.

If you wish to sit, bring a chair!

As a lake district, we used to have a yearly picnic. Last year we decided to bring it back and the response was good so here we go! It is a great to meet new neighbors and to catch up with each other. Part of the charm of living out here is the sense of community. We all share

this amazing resource, School Section Lake and that has been made possible only by devoted community members sharing their time and talents to keep it going. Come meet them and hear some of the stories. Looking forward to seeing you there! The beach is good for kids. Nina Solberg 262-965-3545. (The porta potty has been ordered!)

Lake Draw-Down

As most of you know our lake is a flowage, with a concrete dam and an earthen dike, which is owned and maintained by Waukesha County. The dam was built in the late 1930's and does require maintenance over time. There are wooden boards that set the lake level and these boards are showing signs of wear and will need to be replaced. This will require drawing the level of the lake down so that all of the boards can be replaced. We have been in meetings with the County and the DNR to start the planning for this draw down. The County is considering this has a once every 20 years repair and it has to be done or we could risk having a dam failure. The County also is going to take advantage of the lowered lake level to replace the existing boat landing. The new landing will be pre-cast concrete. The DNR also feels that keeping the lake level down from around Labor Day in 2018 until the spring of 2019, will eradicate the Eurasian Milfoil that gets exposed to frost. This is not a permanent elimination of this weed, but it will help minimize our weed cutting for a few years.

The other potential benefit to the lake property owners is that it provides an opportunity for shoreline repair or improvement.

We did a similar draw-down in 1999 so that we could do mechanical lake dredging off of Dolmar Park. Photos of that draw down are

available on our web site

<http://www.schoolsectionlake.org/photos.html>

We have had a couple of meetings with the DNR, with another scheduled in July. The DNR will be our next annual meeting to explain the draw-down and educate us on the permit process that is required for any land owner who wants to work on their shoreline. Because of that, we will be starting our annual meeting at 6 PM instead of the normal 7 PM start time.

Annual District Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on Wednesday October 25, 6:00 PM, at the Ottawa Town Hall. This will be an important meeting to present information from the DNR regarding the draw-down and the permit process for shoreline work, and to approve the 2018 budget. We hope to see many of you there. Please come out and support your Lake District

Don Solberg, Secretary, School Section Lake Management District