

Flowage Preservation Alliance

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May, 2015 Newsletter

Happy Spring on the Little Tamarack Flowage. The Loons have returned, and the Trumpeter Swans have arrived. There are hundreds - if not thousands - of all different species of ducks on the Spring Lake side. It has been quite dry, so keep your fingers crossed for some rainy days to keep the fire danger low. Thanks to Joanie and Bill Green for reminding us it's time to bring everyone up to date.

Dam Project: The Lake District Board began the early steps in this undertaking over the winter, requesting and reviewing bids for the engineering phase of our dam repair/rehabilitation project. It was a complicated, time consuming process, requiring the preparation of a formal request for bid which took much research, writing, meetings, and coordination. Thirty engineering firms were researched, twelve firms were selected to receive bid requests. Telephone calls and questions were answered from many of the firms and as a result, five bids were received.

Bob Senechalle (unfortunately Karl Jennrich was ill) met in Madison on March 23 with Bill Sturtevant, DNR State Dam Safety Engineer, who has responsibility for the oversight of our dam repair/restoration and permitting project. Mr. Sturtevant reported that so far, four million dollars in grant funds for dam projects remain in the 2015-17 proposed state budget. The Lake District will be able to apply for a matching (50/50) grant from the DNR, once an estimate of cost is obtained.

At its March 28th meeting, the Lake District Board reviewed the five bids which were received for engineering/design work for our dam: Terracon \$99,859; Cooper \$70,900; Stantec \$69,916; Ayres \$24,200; Flambeau \$20,800. After discussion, the Board accepted the Ayres Associates proposal. Ayres offers nearly every specialty of engineering work needed by our project, and the cost is reasonable. Ayres was then informed of the decision.

On April 6th, Bill Sturtevant (DNR State Dam Safety Engineer) visited the dam with Karl Jennrich, Bob Senechalle, and Rich Ruffalo, to inspect the dam, and become familiar with the project.

On April 16th, Karl Jennrich met with Ayres Associates engineers Gareth Shambeau and Ryan Pichler who wanted to take a personal look at the dam site and collect some additional data. Ayres Associates has the prior engineering/survey data and map from Stantec (the firm which performed the original dam safety analysis for the Town of Conover) so Ayres will have a head start. If you wish to visit the Ayres website for a closer look at the company and its personnel, go to <http://www.ayresassociates.com/>. Updates on the progress of the project will appear in future newsletters.

Lake District Board Meeting Minutes: (The full recorded minutes are always available on the Conover website: <http://www.townofconover.com/> click on "Agendas and Minutes", Choose Category (scroll down) "Tamarack Lake District".) Below is a **synopsis** of items other than the dam project reported above:

- Rich Ruffalo reported that the Flowage Preservation Alliance has donated \$3000.00 to the Lake District and has a balance of \$10,000 available for future donations
- Karl Jennrich reported that the Lake District has received two payments on its 2014 tax levy, \$8545.10 and \$7870.85. The balance on hand in the Lake District bank account is \$17,023.11
- Clancy Senechalle has prepared a set of By-Laws for the Lake District, using Wisconsin State Law as a guideline. The proposed By-Laws were approved by the Board, and will be presented to Lake District Property Owners at the July 4th Annual Meeting for approval
- Rich Ruffalo, Election Committee Chairman, recommended that the Board nominate George Holloway - whose term is up this year - as a candidate at this year's annual meeting for a three year term as Commissioner. The Election Committee invites the submission of any other nominations in writing or email at least 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting on July 4th (i.e. by May 20th).
- The proposed easement agreement between the Lake District and the owners of the affected properties adjacent to the dam embankment has been drafted. They will be presented to the property owners for their consideration.
- The **next Lake District Board Meeting** will be held on June 6, 2015 at 9:00 am at the Conover Center, and is open to the public.

Lake District Commissioner Training: On April 23rd, George Holloway, Board Treasurer, attended a Wisconsin Lakes Partnership (University/DNR) conference in Stevens Point. The morning session covered training for new Lake District Commissioners, and the afternoon session covered training for Lake District Treasurers. George reported that the training was very valuable, and the material presented should prove to be quite helpful as we move forward.

REMINDER: Sat. July 4th - Annual Meetings for Lake District and FPA- time to be announced

Important points from the Flowage Preservation Alliance Board Meeting May 2nd:

- The treasurer Ken Gurski reported a balance on hand of \$13,991.42.
- The Board unanimously approved the nominations of Ken Gurski and Ron Schultz to stand for re-election for a three-year term. Additional nominations will also be accepted in writing. A third nomination is needed to fill the vacated seat of Clancy Senechalle
- Rich Ruffalo drafted a letter that will be sent out to local businesses for contributions. This will be designed to also serve as an updated brochure available at the two boat landings, replacing the brochure from two years ago
- It was decided that newsletters will go out at least monthly, making sure that everyone is aware of the progress of the dam project at every step.

MEET YOUR FLOWAGE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE BOARD:



Sitting (from left):

Ken Gurski (Treasurer, Baker Lake)
 George Holloway (V. Chairman, N Flowage Rd)
 Rich Ruffalo (Chairman, East Flowage Road)

Standing (from left):

Bill Green (Myrtle Lake and the Flowage)
 Jay Richman (Manitou Lane)
 Ron (Butch) Schultz (Secretary, Baker Lake)
 Roger Kerstner (Marshall Lake)
 Tom Christofferson (East Flowage Road)