



Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake District

May 15, 2015 Newsletter

The Lake District Board members have been working hard on solving our dam issues. A summary of what has been accomplished this winter is listed below. Newsletters will be sent every quarter, and also as needed for any urgent matter. Please feel free to email any questions or concerns to: littleamaracklakedistrict@gmail.com.

Board Composition:

Officers were elected in September and are as follows: Karl Jennrich, Chairman; Clancy Senechalle, Vice-chair and Secretary; George Holloway, Treasurer; Rich Ruffalo, Election Committee Chair; and Art Kunde, the Vilas County representative. A non-elected and non-voting position of recording secretary was created by the Board. Bob Senechalle was appointed.

We also heard from Pat Goggin, a member of the University of Wisconsin Extension who has expertise in Lake Districts and will serve as a resource for the Board.

Finances:

George Holloway set up our Lake District bank account at the Headwaters State Bank in Land O' Lakes. He reported that we received \$3,000 from the Flowage Preservation Alliance and over \$16,000 thus far from the first installment of the 2014 tax levy. We expect the remaining funds from the tax levy to come in sometime in August. Expenses for the District were \$1,100 for general liability insurance and public official liability to the Horton Group and \$445 to an Eagle River attorney for easement documents. The Board also created a budget committee of Karl, George and Bob. They will plan the proposed budget for the annual meeting.

DNR

Karl Jennrich, Bob Senechalle and Martha Milanowski, the Corporation Counsel from Vilas County met in November in Madison with Bill Sturtevant, the DNR Dam Safety Engineer and Bart Chapman, the DNR engineer assigned to the Rhinelander office. They discussed the county taking the necessary steps to transfer their flowage easements to the Lake District. They also established a good working relationship with the DNR (Mr. Sturtevant) who is committed to working cooperatively with the Lake District to achieve the transfer of ownership of the dam and the issuance of the dam repair permit to the Lake District. The DNR at that meeting stated that the Little Tamarack Flowage dam fill is a permitted dam, and Mr. Chapman had copies of the actual 1942 dam permit. Ownership still needs to be obtained by the Lake District and a repair permit needs to be issued. The Board at its December meeting determined that we should move ahead quickly to obtain ownership of the dam fill and of the flowage easements and also complete all the steps necessary to get the repair permit and the dam repair work completed.

Hiring Engineering Firm and Sending RFP:

The DNR supplied Bob, Clancy and Karl a list of firms that may be qualified to work on our dam repair projects. The Senechalles and Karl researched and contacted over 30 firms. The list was narrowed to 12 firms who have done business in Wisconsin. A cover letter was written to each explaining our history, information on the lake, the number of properties involved in the Lake District and cost constraints. The letter also asked each firm to include whatever work would be necessary to prepare plans and specs that met NR 333 requirements and would satisfy the DNR. Also included was the request for bids which gave the detailed location of the dam, what needs we were requesting of the firm and the following exhibits: The revised dam failure analysis prepared by Stantec in 2013; the survey of the dam fill site and related culvert/spillway and a copy of the original dam permit.

Five firms responded with bids to draft plans and specs by our March 15th deadline. They were Terracon at \$99,859; Cooper at \$70,900; Stantec at \$69,916; Ayres at \$24,200 and Flambeau at \$20,800. The Board determined at our March meeting that Terracon, Cooper and Stantec's bids covered more work than was needed and the costs far exceeded the other bids.

Ayres Engineering was selected by the Board at its March 28, 2015 Board meeting. Ayres was chosen because it is a relatively large firm and has nearly every specialty of engineers on its staff. We likely will need not only geotechnical and structural engineering assistance but also hydraulic engineering as well. This was a distinct advantage that Ayres offered over the Flambeau firm, which is a one-engineer shop. Flambeau also would have charged additional fees for services that we likely will need that were included in the Ayres bid.

Once Ayres was selected, Karl provided electronic copies of the topographic survey used for the dam failure analysis and an electronic copy of the hydraulic model to Ayres.

April 16th Karl Jennrich met with two engineers from Ayres who took a look at the dam site and collected additional data.

Bob Senechalle made another trip to Madison to meet with Mr. Sturtevant, the DNR Dam Safety Engineer. Karl was ill and unable to travel to Madison for the meeting on March 23rd. At this meeting Mr. Sturtevant informed Bob that Sturtevant would have responsibility for the oversight of our dam repair and the permitting process. This is seen as a big plus for our project. Mr. Sturtevant is the author of recently approved DNR guidelines that encourage DNR engineers to use flexibility and provide some discretion in dealing with long standing Dams such as ours which have ownership and/or permitting issues.

Mr. Sturtevant requested an opportunity to visit the Flowage so he could personally inspect both the dam and spillway. Karl, Rich Ruffalo, and Bob joined Bill Sturtevant for his visit to the Flowage.

The Board is happy to report that so far, the 2015-17 proposed state budget has \$4 million dollars in grant funds for dam repair and removal. The good news is that an engineering firm chosen for the project will be able to estimate construction costs once plans are finalized and accepted by the DNR. The estimated cost figure can be used by the Lake District for the purpose of applying for matching (50/50) grant reimbursement money from the DNR.

Easement Agreements:

Easement agreements between the Lake District and the owners of the properties adjacent to the dam embankment have been drafted by an Eagle River attorney. These agreements have been given to the respective property owners. They will need to be signed and recorded before any work can be done and before permitting or grant applications can be submitted.

Martha Milanowski, the Vilas County corporation counsel, is also preparing quit claim deeds that will convey the County's interest in previously granted Flowage easements to the Lake District. The County will also transfer any ownership it has in the existing Dam fill and in the 1942 permit to the Lake District.

Annual Meeting:

The Annual meeting for 2015 will be held at the Conover Town Center on Saturday, July 4th at 9:30. The 1year term of George Holloway will expire and will be filled by a nominee who will serve for 3 years. George has been slated by the Board to run for this seat. Information about the upcoming election and the nominating process was sent in April to all property owners by Rich Ruffalo, the Election Committee Chairman. For further information about the election contact Rich at Richruffhouse@yahoo.com by May 20th.

Lake District By-Laws were prepared by Clancy Senechalle based on requirements found in the Wisconsin statutes. Each property owner will receive a copy of these in the notice of the Annual Meeting. These by-laws must be approved by a majority of lake owners. The Annual Meeting Notice will also include a meeting agenda and a proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. The Annual Meeting Notice will be sent to all property owners by the 20th of June.

Great Progress is being made. Thank you for your confidence and participation. See you over the 4th.

Kind regards,

LTFBSLD Board