

Flowage Preservation Alliance

August 2015 Newsletter

Highlights of Lake District Board of Commissioners meeting August 22, 2015:

Treasurer's Report - George Holloway

- The last property tax disbursement to the District for the 2014 tax year has been received. The Lake District's current bank balance totals \$25,944.22
- The application for the \$150,000 loan to the Lake District from the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners for Public Lands has been approved. These funds are to be used only for dam reconstruction and rehabilitation. That means that the Lake District should have sufficient funds to complete the project at its current estimated cost of \$150,000 to \$175,000.

Status on Easements - Bob Senechalle & Greg Maines (surveyor) - the Lake District Board accepted a proposal from Maines & Associates - at a cost of \$2,200 - to survey the property lines of the three property owners who are affected by the dam reconstruction (Pokorny, Green, Lenz). The surveys will be done in the next two weeks. They will show the following, and the surveyors will place flags to show the locations:

- the three property owners' lot lines
- the position of the "whistle tube" culvert and manhole
- the exact easement lines for each property owner (only that section of property required to obtain State approval)

The final papers, with exact descriptions of easements, should be ready within three weeks, for the three property owners' review and signature.

Ayres Associates Update - Karl Jennrich reported that Ayres Associates is ready to obtain DNR permits and plan approval on behalf of the Lake District, as soon as the required easements have been signed. They hope to begin the bidding process this winter, for construction to begin in the spring of 2016

Act 25 Effects on our Lake District - On July 1, the State of Wisconsin enacted a statute that changes how the Town appointee to our Lake District Board (in our case, Karl Jennrich) is selected. In the meantime, our Board agreed that the contributions of Karl Jennrich to the Lake District - experience with municipal government, and especially his expertise in handling the engineering planning for the dam reconstruction - makes it vital that he continue to serve on the Lake District Board. However, the new law might make it impossible for him to serve after next year's Annual Meeting. To be continued!

Wisconsin Lakes Association (represents lake districts, lake associations, and interested individuals at the State level) - Should we become members? Membership will be about \$110 per year. In spite of Wisconsin Lakes' cut in state funding, the Board felt that Wisconsin Lakes could be a powerful voice and we should join.

Grants – Rich Ruffalo & Bob Senechalle (recording secretary) - The application period for the DNR Dam Safety Grant (every two years) is coming up. Winning a grant is not a sure thing. Our chance of success was estimated by Ayres Assoc. engineer Chris Goodwin at only 50/50. There are lots of applicants, and a limited amount of dollars available in the State program. But we need to do our very best, because it can result in paying up to 50% of our reconstruction costs. Without the dam safety grant, our present tax levy on property owners would continue until we pay off the dam ourselves. (Our budgeting and planning assumes "no grant", and is well within the capability of the Lake District. Our approved loan was also based on "no grant". But the grant would take a large load off our tax bills.)

Our Lake District needs the following to apply for the grant:

- **Signed easements** from the three land owners (Pokorny, Green, Lenz): We must bear in mind that these three property owners have had valid concerns about the easement process. It is very important that the Lake District provide these landowners with as clear and protective an easement as possible. Hopefully that will be accomplished very soon.
- **Dam permit renewal:** Once the easements are in hand, DNR approval will take up to 90 days to renew the dam permit
- **Completed application for dam safety grant:** The application deadline is January 21, 2016. It must include the renewed dam permit from the DNR, and the signed easements.

Other News: Improving Internet Access - There is an online survey about the need for improved internet access in Conover. The survey is being mailed to several towns in the area, but not Conover. Conover residents can still take the survey online. Just click "other" when asked for your town. When you fill out the address portion, they can find hot spots in Vilas County where internet service is spotty. It is a chance to make a difference! Here is the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GrowNorthBroadbandSurvey2015> You can also contact Sonic Net to ask about service in our area <http://sonicnet.us/>.

Next Lake District Board Meeting is tentative: **SEPTEMBER 26TH - CONOVER CENTER - 9 AM.** Their meetings are open to the public, and a good way to find out exactly what's going on. We will send out an update when the schedule is finalized.

Just for everyone's information, the Lake District is a municipality. Under the Open Meeting Laws, notice is posted 24 hours before their meetings at three locations: the Conover Center, the Energy Mart, and the Conover Chamber Office. The Meeting Notice/Agenda also appears on the Conover website <http://www.townofconover.com/> where you can also find Lake District Minutes of every meeting.

Questions? email flowagepreservation@gmail.com or write to P.O. Box 221, Conover WI 54519. We will reply.

Rich Ruffalo - President 715-547-6869
George Holloway - Vice Pres. 715-547-6048

Wildlife Update



The Flowage loon family is happy and healthy



Why didn't the trail cam shoot just one second earlier?



King of the hill



Coyote? Wolf?



Not many fawns in our neighborhood this year



Beaver family heading out for a night's work - looks like they start them young