

LITTLE TAMARACK FLOWAGE BAKER SPRING LAKE DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER

Dear Property Owners:

WOW: Summer has gone but what a wonderful summer it was on our Flowage. The Dam repair was completed in June by Pember Construction with the oversight of Ayres Engineers. In the months that have followed, the Lake District Board and several volunteers have kept a close eye on the functioning of the Dam's new outlet structure. Rich Ruffalo has taken the lead as the Board's representative in monitoring outlet flow and water level height. So far, the Dam appears to be operating as intended.

DAM GRANT REIMBURSEMENT: The DNR was helpful in answering questions so that our grant reimbursement paperwork could be completed accurately and as quickly as possible. The grant reimbursement paperwork was sent to the DNR in late August. Upon their review and approval, we received from the DNR on September 30, 2016 our grant reimbursement check in the amount of \$108,012.58. This amount was exactly one half of expenses incurred in completing this project. A copy of the check has been attached to this newsletter

for all to see.

Our treasurer, George Holloway deposited the DNR check in the Lake District bank account on October 1, 2016. The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands requires written notice thirty days in advance of any repayment of our loan and repayment is permitted only between January 1 and August 31. As approved by our members at our July Annual meeting, a prepayment of \$100,000.00 will be made to the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands by the Lake District on January 2, 2017 and a second prepayment of \$27,109.22 will be sent on March 15, 2017. This will leave a balance owed on our loan of \$30,087.33. As was decided by unanimous vote of property owners present at this year's annual meeting, our loan balance will be repaid over the course of the next five years.

WATER LEVEL: There has been some concern about the water levels for the Flowage since the repair of the dam and the removal of the culvert. Rich Ruffalo has been monitoring the situation and walked the Board through the history of water levels for the Flowage. Once the new dam was in place and the culvert removed our water level dropped below typical summer water levels. On July 8th a full log was added to the vertical pipe in the outlet structure which raised the water level but still did not achieve normal summer levels. On July 26th a partial log was added which raised the lake level to an acceptable height. Our water level held until August 11th at which time there was a 2 ½ inch rainfall. Since that time we have had several more significant rains which has the water level approximately 5 inches higher than normal. The DNR and Ayres Engineering have recommended waiting it out to see if the water level drops naturally over the fall. Both the DNR and Ayres have cautioned against adjusting the log height in response to natural recurring changes in water level caused by rain/snow or lack thereof. The Board agrees with this suggestion but will continue to monitor water levels.

BAKER LAKE WATER CLARITY: Another issue that was of concern to property owners and the Board was the clarity of the water in Baker Lake which became significantly clouded in the latter part of July/early August. Rich reported that the DNR was consulted on this issue and its opinion was that the water clarity issue was not related to the Dam reconstruction on the Flowage. Flowage water clarity remains at normal levels. George Holloway reported that water clarity of Baker Lake was improving and as of the week of October 8th was 5 feet. This is better than it was several weeks earlier, but not yet back to its normal level of

approximately 8 from previous years. We will continue to monitor both Baker Lake and the Flowage as weather conditions allow.

SAFETY MARKERS: New Buoys and signs were installed this summer and will be in place during most of the open water season. Thanks to George and Sue Holloway for their work on that effort. The buoys have recently been removed and stored for the winter. The grate on the output side of the dam was removed due to snapping turtles becoming ensnared. This grate will be stored should it be needed at some time in the future.

LONG TERM PLANNING: Several property owners have asked the Board if the Lake District Board could take up non-dam issues in the future. The Board decided that a long term planning session should be held where all property owners would be invited to discuss goals for the Lake District going forward. Bob and Clancy Senechalle will be putting together a survey that will be sent to all property owners this winter asking for suggestions and feedback on issues that owners feel are relevant to our lake. The Board intends to hold a property owners meeting in early spring 2017 for the exclusive purpose of discussing a long-term plan for the Lake District in the years ahead. We are hopeful that all property owners will participate.

The Board will hold its next regular meeting on Saturday, January 2, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Congratulations again to us all on achieving the long sought after goal of taking ownership of our dam, performing required repair and being issued a dam owners permit from the DNR.

Regards,

Clancy Senechalle

Secretary LTFBSLD



**Little Tamarack Flowage
Baker Spring Lake District
P.O. Box 112 Conover WI 54519**