

Flowage Preservation Alliance

Spring Newsletter May 1, 2017

Spring arrived early! The last of the ice on the Flowage melted the second week of April. Not even the surprise storm with eight inches of snow stopped the migrating waterfowl from enjoying their stop-over.

The pair of trumpeter swans is here again, and hopefully will nest on the Flowage. The loons are back, and the shaggy deer are looking fatter than usual after a reasonably easy winter.



On North Flowage Road, the Holloway trail-cam recorded two new “bob-kittens” during the winter, and a gray wolf stopped in front of the camera occasionally.

At the Flowage Preservation Alliance’s Board Meeting on April 1:

The future of the Alliance was discussed. Membership is dropping and many are asking why the Alliance is needed now that the Lake District has been formed.

The original purpose of the Alliance was to “educate, gather information and raise funds” to facilitate the saving of the Flowage. The Board of the Alliance agrees that all of the above goals have been met, the Lake District has been formed, and therefore the Board suggests the possibility of officially dissolving the Alliance. The Board would like to hear members’ opinions, prior to the Annual Meeting on July 1, 2017.

Members of the Flowage Preservation Alliance include children and grand-children of Flowage property owners, even though they are not actually owners with voting rights. Members of the Flowage Preservation Alliance also include people who fish on the Flowage regularly, guides, kayakers and canoists, and other fans of the Flowage who are not actually owners. However, members of the Lake District can only be actual legal owners of property on the Flowage.

If the majority of members decide the Alliance should disband, a discussion should be had about including all former members in communications about the Flowage, (not just lake property owners), so that their past efforts, interest, and donations continue to be recognized.

This will be discussed at the Flowage Preservation Alliance’s Annual Meeting, the same day as the Lake District Annual Meeting, on July 1.

Highlights of the Lake District Board Meeting on April 1:

- Approximately \$120,000 of the dam loan of \$150,000 has been repaid (plus interest), leaving approximately \$30,000 (plus interest) to be retired over the next five years.
- The Town of Conover will store the dam outlet grate, in case it is needed. Rich and George will further explore the pros and cons of installing a debris trapping device on the Flowage side of the outlet pipe.
- The Town of Conover has repaid its \$8,000 share of the cost of the culvert removal, and has signed a perpetual maintenance agreement with the Lake District providing occasional manpower or equipment as needed for regular inspection and maintenance of the dam.
- Results of the Lake District survey were discussed. The issue most important to the majority was dam maintenance, followed by invasive species and weed control, fishing-related protections, and keeping Baker Lake a “no-wake lake”. Committees will be formed to look into each of these issues.
- The next Lake District Board meeting will be held at the Conover Center May 6th at 9:00 am.

Buoys at the Dam

The culvert Danger Buoys have been put in place for the season!

They were removed in the fall to prevent ice damage. The anchor chains were connected to a cable for easy retrieval in the spring.

The outer buoy is only a warning!

The inner buoy is **RIGHT ON TOP** of the culvert, where suction is dangerous. Please do not let your children or pets swim in this area.



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