

WIND LAKE WEBSITE/EMAIL

www.wlmd.org
info@wlmd.org

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Lake District Line	514-3238
Ron Mayer	414-614-5859
Joe Bellante	895-6694
Ralph Schopp	414-531-6020
Bruce Rosenquist	895-3942
Mike Bluemel	895-2502

Commissioners meetings are usually held the 4th Thursday of every month, with the November and December meeting combined. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Norway Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Note that meetings may be rescheduled: check the website for the latest information.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you do, check out our website. The site has:

- Meetings, schedules, agendas, and minutes
- Information about who to contact for various activities.
- Links to other lake-related sites
- Information about who to contact for various activities
- The latest lake depth map of Wind Lake
- Other special notices as needed are also posted on the site.

You can also send an email to info@wlmd.org. You will be put on a list to receive meeting notices and updates. If you do provide your email address to us, please be aware that your address then becomes part of our formal records. Then we have to provide them to someone making a request under the Open Records laws.

• Dedicated to the Revitalization of Wind Lake •

Wind Lake
Management
District



NEWS

Volume 33, Number 2, August 2019
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THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING

Will be held Thursday September 12 at the Norway Town Hall. The meeting will begin promptly at 7 pm. All residents and landowners are encouraged to attend. Annual meetings are always very important, with votes taken on various issues. The proposed budget for the year, the agenda and the minutes from the 2018 meeting are included in this newsletter.

NEW CHANGE PROPOSED

The board is seeking approval to change the budget year to a calendar year basis. We currently use a July to June budget year. No budget changes are proposed, but to make the change, an extra 6-months will be included in the 2020 tax year. See page 2 for more details.

2019 UPDATE

The colder and wetter than normal weather has wreaked havoc on plant growth and plant control this year. Weeds and algae grew at very different rates than normal, and the weather prevented any control options from being conducted until June.

Aquatic Plants (Weeds): Milfoil was a significant problem in the NW end of the lake, but was less than normal in the rest of the lake. Native plants are abundant, covering much of the lakebed. Some of the native plants, like wild celery are thick and help prevent the spread of the Starry stonewort (SSW).

Invasive Species: We are continuing the attack on the highly invasive Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) (SSW). SSW was found in Wind Lake in August 2017. The latest discovery was found this summer in Okauchee Lake. Other lakes with SSW include Big Muskego and Little Muskego in Waukesha County, Long Lake (Ke-Nong-Go-Mong Lake) in Racine County, and Silver Lake and Pike Lake in Washington County, around the entire Door County

peninsula, and Lake Geneva. The invasive is also in a few lakes in Minnesota. We are continuing to use the AIS grant to treat SSW in navigational areas in Wind Lake and to conduct surveys of the plants.

Algae: Filamentous algae is a slimy mat-type algae that accumulates along the shorelines. Nitrogen levels in runoff and cool rainy weather fuels filamentous algae growth. Filamentous algae has been more of a problem this year.

Weed Chemical Treatment: We have conducted a number of chemical treatments this year, targeting navigational areas and SSW. The high water and rainy, windy weather have caused a lot of re-scheduling. All treatments are done under supervision of the DNR. We make every effort to open up areas when allowed. Treatments can only be conducted when either invasive species are present, or when a nuisance condition blocks lake use.

Harvesting: As of this printing, there have been three weeks of harvesting. The harvester focused on making sure navigational lanes were open for boaters, cutting lanes through the milfoil, and removing floaters.

Road-side Weed Pick-up: The road-side weed pick-up program continued this summer to give landowners a place to go with the raked lake plant debris. Pickups are done once a month.

Goose Control: There were a number of changes made to the goose control program, including the permitting process, the expense, and the minimums required. No goose control roundup was conducted this year because only a couple dozen were found when we had to decide. This is below the minimum needed for control measures. Goose control will continue next summer.

Boat Inspection: The WLMD partnered with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Wisc. Power Squadron to conduct the boat inspections. Twenty vessels were inspected and awarded safety decals, four vessels refused the inspection. The program will be done again next year.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Burlington, WI 53105

30910 Royal Hill Rd.

Wind Lake Management District

CHANGE TO A CALENDAR YEAR BUDGET PROPOSED BY BOARD

Why the Proposed Change:

- Changes the District to a Calendar Year budget, Jan 1 thru Dec 31 of each year.
- Makes budget planning easier.
- All major expenses for a year will already be incurred by the time the Annual meeting considers the upcoming years budget.
- Less confusion at Annual Meeting. All major expenses, ie weed treatment and harvesting bills, will be paid in year of treatment.
- Saves over \$1,000 per year in costs (printing, postage, labor, etc) by not sending out bills and bank charges.
- Saves property owners the \$20 additional fee that is charged when its left to go on the taxes.

Current year budget:

- Covers July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019. Was approved at Annual Meeting September 2018.
- Bills mailed mid-June 2019 for year ending June 30, 2019.
- Payable thru Oct 1 2019.
- Unpays will be posted to tax bill December 2019 with \$20 charge added.

Step 1 - 12 Month Proposed Budget:

- Covers July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020.
- To Approve at Annual Meeting Sept 2019.
- No bills mailed, but property owners can pre-pay on their own before Oct 1 2020.
- Charges posted to tax bill Nov 1, 2020 with no added fees.

Step 2 - 6 Month Proposed Budget to Change to a Calendar Year Budget:

- Covers July 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020.
- To Approve at Annual Meeting Sept 2019.
- No bills mailed, but can also be pre-paid thru Oct 1 2020. All charges, 12-month and 6-month, will be posted to 2020 tax roll, with no added fees.

By 2021

- Calendar year budget will be in full effect. Will be approved by voters at Sept 2020 annual meeting.
- No bills mailed.
- All charges posted to Nov 2021 tax roll with no additional fees.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

Annual Meeting to approve both columns of budget sheet, the 12-month budget column and the 6-month budget column.

Board is proposing no changes to annual charges or expenses.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

History has shown us that once invasive species are present in a lake, it is pretty much impossible to completely eradicate it. So prevention is the key:

- Don't move your boat and fishing equipment from lake to lake without thoroughly decontaminating it.
- Remove all plant fragments from your boat, trailer, anchor ropes, live wells, etc.
- Dump all your bilge water when leaving a lake.
- Do not transport fish in water. Dump all water and put your fish on ice.
- Flush your motor cooling system between lakes.
- Keeping your boat and equipment dry docked for a week will help prevent spreading invasives.
- Try to avoid launching into a lake with a "dirty" boat launch, one that has lots of weed fragments floating around.
- Check out the Wisconsin DNR website for more information on Clean Boats.

ADDRESSES ON PIERS

Please consider putting your house numbers on the end of your pier so they are visible from the lake. This will greatly help with the plant management on the lake, making it easier for the contractors to find specific areas.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Who is eligible to vote: Anyone of legal voting age, who owns property, or lives within the boundaries of the Wind Lake Management District.

Can I get an absentee ballot or can I designate a proxy: No. Because of the way state law governing lake district's is written, one must be present to vote at a lake district annual meeting.

Can the annual meeting change our taxes without us knowing in advance: Yes. Under current state law, residents present at the meeting have the right to modify the tax and budget without prior notice to property owners.

My neighbor lives in Illinois-he can't vote: Yes he can. Lake districts are the only form of government in Wisconsin to allow a non-resident (as long as they own property in the lake district and are at the annual meeting) to vote or hold office.

MINUTES - Annual Meeting Sept 13, 2018

Present: M. Bluemel, B. Rosenquist, J. Marks, R. Schopp, J. Bellante, K. Aron, and approx. 80 residents.

J. Marks called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Introductions of the board were made.

The 2017 Annual Meeting minutes were approved as printed.

An update on the past year's activities was given, by J. Marks:

- The state has revised some of the rules, including expanding the dredging projects that can be done.
- There was a dam inspection done by the County engineer, who has a short history on the dam. Anyone with a complaint, can call J. Marks to file a complaint with the state.
- A grant was received for the Starry Stonewort.

Craig Helker, DNR biologist, gave an update on the Starry Stonewort project to date. He explained the data is only just starting to be analyzed. So far, based on the maps, it appears the SSW has spread, and that there has been partial control. Questions from the property owners about the work done to date, and preliminary results, were answered by Craig Helker and K. Aron.

A property owner motioned to have the district investigate the costs to purchase a harvester and to bring the information to the next annual meeting. The motion was seconded, and passed on a voice vote.

J. Marks appointed M. Bluemel and B. Rosenquist to head that committee.

J. Marks read the Budget Resolution 1-2018. There was a motion to approve the Resolution, a 2nd and the motion carried, approving the budget as presented.

J. Marks is up for re-election as commissioner. After a call for nominations, J. Marks and R. Mayer were nominated for the position. The two candidates were asked to give a short presentation of themselves and why they are seeking the position. After the vote, R. Mayer was elected to the board for a three year term. J. Marks was thanked for his service.

The 2019 Annual Meeting date will either be the 1st or 2nd Thursday in September, depending on the Green Bay Packers schedule.

There was no other business to come before the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING AGENDA - WLMD
Thursday September 12, 2019 at 7 pm Norway Town Hall

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions - Board Members, Guests

Approve Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting

Project Update - A review of 2019 and plans for 2020.

Budget Hearing and Approval - Resolution 1-2019:

Whereas the Board of Commissioners has proposed the enclosed budget (**Columns E and F**) for the WLMD for the year **July 1, 2019 through Dec 31, 2020**.

And Whereas, notice of the Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting was provided to residents and landowners;

And Whereas, the Board has proposed the annual special charge be set at \$220 lakefront, \$130 canal and \$90 off lake for the 12-month portion and \$110, \$65 and \$45 respectively, for the 6-month portion;

And Whereas, the Board recommends the projects presented herein;

And Whereas, the 1997 annual meeting gave the Board authority for short term borrowing to cover grant reimbursements not yet received;

And Whereas, the 2010 Annual Meeting approved the levy of irrevocable taxes to repay the State Loans;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the the WLMD shall move to a calendar year budget as recommended by the board;

Be It Further Resolved, that the 2019/2020 Proposed Budget, Columns E and F, are hereby approved;

Be It Further Resolved, that the projects included in the budget, as may be amended by this Annual Meeting, are hereby approved;

Be It Further Resolved, that the charges will be placed on the 2020 tax bill with no penalties;

Be It Further Resolved, that the WLMD board is authorized to apply for available grants;

Be It Further Resolved, that the authorization for short term borrowing to cover grant reimbursements not yet received is continued through this budget year;

Be It Further Resolved, that the special charges approved by this Resolution may be paid prior to October 1, 2020, at which time unpaid special charges will be placed on the December 2020 tax rolls.

Election of Commissioner – Current board member Bruce Rosenquist's term is up for re-election. Nominations from the floor are welcome.

Set date for 2020 Annual Meeting - First or Second Thursday of September (Depending on Packer Schedule)

New Business

Adjourn

A Board of Commissioners meeting will be held immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect officers.

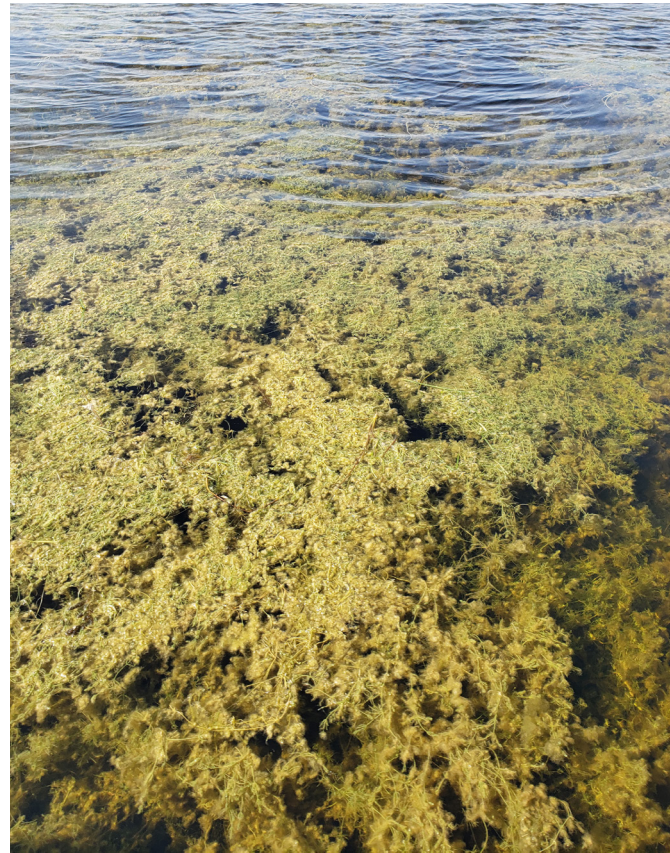
The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2019, at the Norway Town Hall.

2019/2020 PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET				1 YR BUDGET	6 MONTHS BUDGET	
	A	B	C	D	E	F
REVENUE						
		2017/2018 Actual	2018/2019 Approved	2018/2019 Actual	July 1, 2019 to June 30 2020	July 1, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020
1	Special Charges & Assessments	133,994	128,000	129,934	128,000	64,000
2	Grants	0	93,471	56,755	0	0
3	Loan Rcts/Payments - alum	19,107	16,234	16,017	16,000	0
4	Property Transfer Fee	1,520	1,000	480	1,000	1,000
5	Interest	286	200	2,050	2,500	1,200
	Total Revenue	154,906	238,905	205,236	147,500	66,200
EXPENSES						
6	Meetings/seminars	1,412	2,500	25	2,500	0
7	Postal Expenses	1,184	1,500	1,481	1,600	750
8	Office Equip/Maint.	146	150	146	150	0
9	Office	378	300	236	400	0
10	Phone/Faxes	563	575	490	800	400
11	Publications	429	500	485	500	250
12	Insurance	1,354	2,000	1,352	2,000	1,000
13	Print/Publishing	1,402	1,500	1,130	1,600	800
14	Mileage/per diem	4,799	4,800	4,599	4,800	2,400
15	Misc	322	400	35	400	200
16	Website	779	1,200	849	1,200	600
17	Secy, Tech supp., DP	9,604	9,600	9,600	9,600	4,800
18	Attorney	0	1,000	240	1,000	500
19	Accountant	525	1,500	1,050	550	
20	Weed Control		138,603	112,275	80,000	40,000
21	- harvesting & roadside pickup	31,475	10,700	21,925		²
22	- Chem Treatment	14,404	3,275	13,323		²
23	- Starry Stonewort expenses		124,628	77,026		²
24	Aquatic Plant Survey/Plan (Harv Permit)	11,850	0	0		³
25	USGS	0	10,000	9,640	10,410	11,000
26	Goose Control	2,201	3,000	0	3000	0
27	Land Maintenance-Properties	1,946	2,400	47	2,400	1,200
28	Contingency	0	4,000	0	4,000	2,000
29	Emergency Action	0	4,000	0	4,000	2,000
30	Non-lapsing State Fund loan payments					
	26220 S Wind Lk Rd	15,188	15,188	12,357	0	¹
	Alum Treatment	36,350	36,350	36,350	36,350	¹ 0
31	Dam Operation	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	3,000
	Total Expenses	142,312	247,066	198,388	173,260	70,900
Notes:						
¹ Amounts cannot be reduced: irrevocable tax approved at 2010 Ann. Mtg.						
² Provided for informational purposes- see Line 20 for total plant control totals						
³ Must be done every 5 years to get a harvesting permit						
	Checking acct balances June 30, 2019	21,345				
	Money mkt acct balance June 30, 2019	162,953				
	Debt balance- property loan (110,000)	0				
	Debt balance- Alum loan (300,000)	68,799	Last payment will be due March 2021.			
NO PROPOSED INCREASE IN TAXES. CHANGING TO CALENDAR YEAR						



Good: Wild Celery and Pondweeds

Photo taken 7-27-19 on SW shoreline 4 feet deep



Bad: Starry Stonewort and Filamentous Algae

Photo taken 7-27-19 on NW shoreline 4 feet deep

Good VS Bad, Native VS Invasive

Wind Lake has experienced many problems over the years, from water quality problems to Eurasian watermilfoil, from too-high water to too-low water. Each year seems to present a new challenge.

Since August 2017, the newest, and most significant challenge for Wind Lake is the highly invasive, Starry Stonewort (SSW).

SSW complicates everything we now do. But first a little background:

Back in the 1980s the water quality on Wind Lake was so poor that the main problem was pea-soup, smelly algae blooms. There were very few native plants, and most of the plants in the lake were curly-leaf pondweed and milfoil, both invasive species.

As work began to clean up the water quality, clear water led to more aquatic plants (weeds). Milfoil seemed the happiest with the new conditions, growing thick and dense, blocking boat traffic and choking large areas of the lake. A couple of years, over 200 acres were blocked by milfoil growing to the surface on the East and NE side of the lake. To make matters worse, filamentous algae, that slimy surface algae, covered the milfoil on the surface, clogging water intakes on boats.

The District responded by harvesting channels through the milfoil so lake users could access the open water areas. Shoreline areas of milfoil were chemically treated to try to reduce the access problems.

Once the water quality and runoff problems were addressed, the native plants started to rebound. In 2011, 23 different plant species were present in Wind Lake. In 2017, the number increased to 29 species. Milfoil declined in that time period (that's a good thing) going from 63% frequency to 20% frequency.

A survey for this year will be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. It appears that milfoil is still in decline, but it also appears that the wild celery frequency will be up significantly.

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Good weeds, in general, are less dense, have a thinner architecture, and often can be boated through. Native weedbeds are great for the fisheries. Invasive species weed beds are generally very dense, and can quickly block boat traffic. Dense, monotypic stands of invasives negatively affect the fisheries.

WHAT TOOLS CAN BE USED?

Chemical treatment can be used to maintain a navigational lane or to try to control invasives to give natives a fighting chance. Some plants are easily controlled; others not so easily or close to impossible.

Harvesting is used to open up navigational lanes in deep water, often targeting plants like milfoil or coontail. Harvesting cannot be used in shallow water or around piers. It is rarely allowed in native plant beds.

Raking can be done by property owners, clearing an area along 30 feet of their frontage, as far out as they chose. This can be hard work, but can be done in native or invasive plant beds. The District provides roadside pickup for removal of the raked vegetation. Plants placed by the road by noon on Aug 26, Sept 23, Oct 21 will be picked up.

SO WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

- We can't spray areas to keep the weeds from growing - there is no pre-emergent aquatic herbicide.
- We can't harvest areas if the plants are still 2 to 3 feet below the surface.
- We are limited by what our DNR permits allow. The harvesting permit prevents cutting in shallow water (<3 feet deep), and it requires that we leave one foot of plant material in place. We can't cut down into the lakebed.
- Violating the DNR permits can lead to warnings, fines and then the permit is rescinded.
- We need to protect the native plants as much as possible to prevent the SSW from blocking everyone's access. If the native plants are removed, it is much easier for SSW to take hold.



Wild Celery is one of the most dominant plant in Wind Lake. This plant has flat blades that look like grass. The leaves are growing as tall as 6 feet this year. The roots look like white tubers and often, multiple plants are connected by the tubers. It can become a nuisance when the plant becomes bouyant and releases from the sediments, floating around in large mats.

It's thick coverage of the lake bottom is however, very important in preventing the spread of SSW.

More detailed information on the plants and management options can be found in the Wind Lake Plant Management Plan on the Wind Lake website, WLMD.org.