

July 2025



www.beaverdamlake.org

BEAVER DAM LAKE

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

— Preserving and Protecting —

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Barron County Rep.

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Letter from the President

Wow, what an eventful year has come and gone! The major event for the BDLMD during the 2024/25 fiscal year was the dredging of Library Lake. On Feb. 5, 2024, we received the WDNR Permit for dredging the lake along the north shoreline, and the Library Lake Restoration Fund Raising team was formed. The Campaign raised over \$515,000. I want to thank the team members Ellen Sendelbach, Linda Hunt, Jennifer Hyatt, Mary Liepold, Tim Defoe, Ian Haugen, Robert Ruppel and Don Place for their enthusiasm, input, and superior performance. Also, a big “Thank You” to those that donated to the Library Lake Restoration “dredging” fund. Haas Inc. from Thorp, WI. began the dredging project in mid Sept, 2024 by installing sheet piling to block off of the channel under the Grove Street bridge between Library Lake and Rabbit Bay. Following the installation of the sheet piling, a pump started the process of lowering the Lake by 4 to 5 feet by Oct. 1st per the WDNR permit requirements. Haas spent a few weeks in late December prepping the areas to be dredged for more efficient use of the equipment once the removal process commenced. Finally, after over 15 years of many hours of volunteer time and effort toward making the Restoration of Library Lake a reality, on Wed. Jan. 8, 2025 the removal/dredging of sediment from Library Lake commenced. By Wed. Jan. 22, 2025 Haas Inc. completed the dredging of the permitted areas of Library Lake. Some floating cattails and other dredging spoils along with cleaning out under the Grove Street Bridge should hopefully be completed by the time this letter is published. There is a great deal of information including “A View from the Lake” articles about the Restoration of Library Lake at beaverdamlake.org. Once at the website go to Lake News.

Work on the SE Storm water pond project continued with the rerouting of the final storm water pipes by the Utility and alleyway from the Library Lake to the east storm water pond. The Utility Parking area south to the relay Building was repaved, gravel pathways were completed, additional trees were planted and the disturbed areas were reseeded with Wisconsin CRP 25 Mixes: Wet Mesic Prairie and Dry Mesic Prairie. This mix was used as a demonstration of what alternative vegetative ground covers are available rather than lawn type grass. The current plan is to extend the compacted gravel walking path from the west “rain garden” pond to 5th Ave. which will intersect

with the newly paved sidewalk associated with the pedestrian crossing across highway 48/63. A dock and attached kayak/canoe launch pad has been ordered to be placed at the end of the walking path going to Library Lake. Additional vegetative restoration will be completed by fall.

As reported in the June 11, 2025 “A View from the Lake” article, the Lake District commissioners reviewed and approved the 2025 Eurasian Water Milfoil-EWM Plan. Two permit applications were submitted to the WDNR, one for addressing the EWM and the second dealing with the potential excessive aquatic plant growth hindering watercraft navigation in City and Norwegian Bays. The WDNR partially denied the EWM application except for one of 26 locations where EWM was recorded during the Oct. 2024 aquatic plant survey and totally denied the Navigation permit application. The BDLMD commissioners voted to challenge the WDNR denial of both permit applications by hiring legal counsel and filing for a Contested Case review. The WDNR offered a compromise 2025 EWM treatment plan which allowed treatment of 8 of the 26 EWM locations. After a great deal of debate the BDLMD commissioners accepted the compromise proposal. Besides the additional legal costs of going to the Contested Case Review, had we been successful in the challenge it may have been too late into the summer to treat. Go to the BDLMD website for additional information about this subject.

WDOT engineers continue to design the replacement of the Highway 63 box culvert going between the east and west sections of the lake. The current design envisions a “bridge-like” structure. During the construction, the current plan allows for continuous traffic flow around the site, which should result in a shortened construction schedule. The replacement of the box culvert with the “bridge” is still scheduled for 2026.

At the 2024 Annual meeting, funding was approved for the development of a Beaver Dam Lake Management Plan for all of Beaver Dam Lake. The Draft plan has been approved by the BDLMD commissioners and has been sent to the WDNR for their input. Once the WDNR responds, a 30-day public comment period will be announced. At the end of the public comment period the plan will be finalized, and approved by the BDLMD Commissioners and the WDNR. Having a Beaver Dam Lake Management plan creates the opportunity for obtaining grants and other funding to address existing and new issues affecting the Lake.

Operation of watercraft that create large waves continues to be a hot subject in Wisconsin as well as throughout the nation. Many Lake Districts, Counties and States are passing ordinances and regulations limiting the use of various watercraft on lakes and rivers. Some of the proposed limitations are no “wake boat” use when creating waves for surfing on lakes smaller than 1500 acres, a requirement that the boats stay 500 to 700 feet from shorelines, and that “wake surfing” is done in at least 20 feet of water. I continue to be encouraged by the wake boat use on Beaver Dam Lake. Using common sense and staying away from the shoreline and in deeper water may prevent the need for any regulations. As I mentioned last year, as a safety precaution, I urge watercraft operators pulling skiers, knee boarders, tubers and wake boarders to refrain from making turns in the area north of the “No Wake” buoys on the east end of the lake near the beach area. I also recommend that skiers and wake boarders that have fallen and tubers that left the tube(s), etc. raise their arm(s) when in the water to assure the driver that they are okay and to make themselves more noticeable to other watercraft operators.

Besides the LL Restoration Fund Raising Team members, I want to thank the BDLMD commissioners for their time and continued support, Joe'l Brenny (website Admin.) for her continual management of the website, Nancy Bentz – Annual Letter Editor, and Chris Kemper and Tom Goldsmith – managing the various buoys on the Lake. Also thank you, Lake Monitors – Chip Niebuhr, Jim Tempesta and Phil DuNucci, who take Sechi disk and oxygen readings during the summer months and report their data to the WDNR. Thanks to the City of Cumberland Mayor – Dan Shoemaker, City Administrator – Randy Reeg and office staff, the Utility Manager – Jordan Peichel and employees, plus all the various contractors that helped make many of this year's Lake District goals a reality. I know that I have missed mentioning some individuals so thank you to those that I haven't specifically mentioned for your opinions, financial support and encouragement over the past year.

Please visit the BDLMD website at beaverdamlake.org. Don't forget this year's Annual Meeting will be held at the Cumberland Middle School Commons on Sat. August 2nd starting at 9:30 AM. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!

Tom Schroeder, President

Swimmer's Itch Getting Under Your Skin?

Swimmer's itch is an itchy rash that can occur after you go swimming or wading in lakes or rivers. Also known as cercarial dermatitis, swimmer's itch is usually caused by an allergic reaction to larvae that burrow into your skin after you come out of the water. Because the larvae are looking to stay moist, as your skin dries they burrow into the skin. The larvae soon die while still in your skin. This is what causes the itch and red spots. What starts the cycle is when an adult parasite lives in the blood of infected animals such as ducks, geese, gulls, swans, and certain mammals such as muskrats and raccoons. The parasites produce eggs that are passed in the feces of infected birds or mammals. If the eggs land in or are washed into the water, the eggs hatch, releasing small, free-swimming microscopic larvae. These larvae swim in the water in search of a certain species of aquatic snail. When the larvae find a snail, they infect the snail, multiply and undergo further development. Infected snails release the developed larvae (or cercariae, hence the name cercarial dermatitis) into the water. Swimmer's itch is uncomfortable, but it usually clears up on its own in a few days. One way you can avoid swimmer itch by applying oil-based lotions on your arms and legs prior to entering the water and/or drying off immediately after leaving the water.

There is no reliable method to control the snails or waterfowl, so the best approach is to reduce your chances of being impacted:

- Wear a tight-fitting, full-body rash guard—you can find these online! Ocean bathers wear these to prevent jellyfish stings. Larvae typically do not penetrate the fabric. Bonus: less sunscreen is necessary!
- Swim later in the day! Larvae usually exit snails each morning and will die or be eaten during the day.
- Avoid lounging in surface waters. Larvae migrate to the surface and can accumulate in shallow water.
- Avoid onshore winds. Larvae move with the wind and can congregate near windward shores.
- Towel off after swimming. Some larvae are sticky and can cling to the skin when you exit the water.
- Swim in deeper water if you are able. Larvae are released from shallow-water snails, so fewer are found in deeper water.

You can use anti-itch and corticosteroid creams, cool compresses, and Epsom salts and Benadryl or an antihistamine can help soothe the symptoms.

Around The Home

Many sources of our water pollution originate right at our homes. For example, fertilizer and pesticides applied to lawns can wash into ditches and storm sewers and then directly to the lake. Remember, if it helps your lawn grow, it will also promote growth in the lake!

Similarly, leaves and grass clippings naturally contain nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. If grass and leaves are raked to the curb, or into the lake, the nutrients they contain go into the water and promote algae and weed production. Leaving a buffer zone of plants or natural cover instead of mowing right down to the waters

edge can help filter out these nutrients

The practice of burning these yard wastes not only releases air pollutants, but the ashes can pollute the lake, as well, if carried away by runoff waters.

The connection between auto maintenance and water quality can be very serious and direct. Anything that drips from a motor vehicle onto pavement - oil, gasoline, brake fluid, antifreeze - can quickly be flushed into the lake with a rainstorm. These chemicals are toxic to aquatic life.

Keeping our lake healthy and reducing algae blooms is every body's responsibility!

Reminder

Also, a reminder to all boaters, please observe the "No Wake" zone areas, the speed restrictions close to shore, and required distances from other boats while under power. We would ask that you observe "slow, no wake" close to shore, especially during the high water conditions.

Have a safe, and enjoyable boating season.

Beaver Dam Lake
Management District
P.O. Box 232
Cumberland, WI 54829

Upcoming Events:
August 2 9:00 AM
Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing of
Beaver Dam Lake Management District
See agenda inside.
CUMBERLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Or Current Resident

Beaver Dam Lake Management District 34th Annual Meeting

Saturday August 2, 2025

Cumberland Middle School

Cumberland, Wisconsin 54829

Doors open at 9:00 AM, Meeting begins at 9:30 AM

- 1. Welcome and Introductions – Tom Schroeder**
- 2. Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes – Tom Schroeder**
- 3. Annual Treasurer's Report – Dr. Alan Carlson**
- 4. Audit Report – submitted by Mary Biros Rogers, presented by Dr. Carlson**
- 5. Jay Michels – EOR, update on SE Storm Water Pond, 4 Beaver Dam Lake Management Plan goals**
- 6. Present Budget for 2025-2026, discussion, approval – Dr. Alan Carlson**
- 7. Election of Commissioners – Tom Schroeder**
- 8. Review of District Activities – Tom Schroeder**
- 9. Other discussion as needed**
- 10. Adjourn**

(proposed budget over)

BDLMD Board Meeting

August 2, 2025

Cumberland Middle School

Approximately 15 minutes following the adjournment of the 2025 Annual Meeting the BDLMD will hold a brief Board meeting with the following agenda.

1. Approve minutes.
2. Treasurer's Report – Dr. Alan Carlson
3. Election of officers
4. Discuss and approve funding for projects approved at the Annual Meeting
5. Set next meeting date
6. Adjourn

Note: additional agenda items may be added up to 24 hours in advance of the meeting. The new agenda will be posted on the BDLMD Website, City Hall, Nielsen's and the City Library.

Proposed Budget 2025-2026

Revenues		Expenses	
Tax Levy	\$260,723	Mailings, Notices, Mtgs.	\$4,500
<u>Grants Remaining</u>		<u>Grant Matches</u>	
LPT 84424 Lib Lk Storm Constr 3 (40)	126,188	LPT 84424 Lib LK Storm Constr 3 (40)	33,223
LPT 73422 Lib Lk Prot/Reveg (30)	50,000	Milfoil/CLP Control with Plant Surveys	195,000
Cash Savings	6,012	Aquatic Plant Mgmt. Plan-ongoing	5,000
Total Revenues	\$442,923	Insurance	9,800
		Boat Monitors	5,000
		Fireworks	1,500
		Water Safety	1,500
		Website Updates	300
		Shoreline Restoration Site	2,500
		Wickre Harbor	12,000
		Storm Water Pond Maintenance	20,000
		Hwy 63 Bridge Stonework (Non lapsable)	15,000
		BDLMD Lake Planning Project. (38).	18,100
		Library Lake Completion Plan/Engr. Review	70,000
		Golf course runoff.	15,000
		Brigadoon runoff Engr. Review	32,000
		Education/Conference.	2,500
		Total Expenses	\$ 442,923

Tom Schroeder – President; Alan Carlson MD – Treasurer; John Bavier – Secretary; Tim Defoe, John Peterson – Commissioners; Doris Laursen – City of Cumberland Rep.; Craig Turcott - Barron County Rep.

(meeting agenda over)