

July 2026



www.beaverdamlake.org

BEAVER DAM LAKE

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

— Preserving and Protecting —

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Letter from the President

This annual letter summarizes the Lake District's recent project work, major planning priorities, and upcoming annual meeting information for BDLMD members.

On July 19, 1991, the Beaver Dam Lake Management District (BDLMD) was officially recognized as the governing body for Beaver Dam Lake in Barron County, Wisconsin. The Lake District included the City of Cumberland as it existed in 1991, along with portions of Maple Plain, Lakeland, Cumberland, and Crystal Townships. Forming the Lake District required agreement from a municipality, four townships, and approval from 51% of residents within the proposed district—an accomplishment that would be difficult to repeat in today's political climate. Without the BDLMD, managing invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) would have been far more difficult, and major stormwater management projects—including the restoration of Library Lake, the creation of four stormwater ponds, and sediment dredging—might still be only ideas.

Work on the SE stormwater pond project continued with the extension of the gravel walking path from the west “rain garden” pond to 5th Avenue. A pedestrian crossing signal across Highway 48/63 completed the connection between the crossing and the gravel pathway. Thank you to the Cumberland Area Trails Alliance (CATA) and the City of Cumberland for fundraising and installing this important safety feature. A dock with an attached kayak and canoe launch was also installed within the SE stormwater pond at the end of the walking path to Library Lake. In addition, the dock near the small “pepper eating” stage was moved to the south edge of the NE stormwater pond across from Nezy's, and a new dock was installed in its place. Cumberland Dock and Storage provided the labor for installing and moving the docks.

In 2014, then Mayor Tom Maysicka and I discussed the question, “What if the Highway 63 box culvert failed?” Because we did not know the answer, we contacted the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT). WDOT indicated that steel culverts could be installed to address water flow from the west side to the east side of Highway 63; however, that approach would have prevented watercraft from traveling from one side of the highway to the other.

The bridge project has required continued coordination among the Lake District, the City of Cumberland, and WDOT because each design decision affects access, cost, timing, and long-term lake use.

At the 2016 BDLMD Annual Meeting, members approved \$40,000 to match WDOT funding for a conceptual study of a bridge structure to replace the box culvert. Over the next four years, WDOT developed conceptual bridge plans, ultimately costing the Lake District only \$20,000 of the approved \$40,000 match. The bridge was originally planned in conjunction with the Highway 63/48 resurfacing project. After the Cumberland City Council officially approved construction of a 50-foot bridge span rather than the original 38-foot span, additional design and engineering details were added.

Unfortunately, the effects of the COVID epidemic and several engineering challenges caused further delays, postponing construction until 2026. Additional design changes were absorbed within the City's annual budgets until Christmas Eve 2025, when WDOT announced that the updated cost estimate for the bridge included an additional \$1,000,000. Through careful financial management and planning, the City Administration has kept the project on track. However, this has affected the ongoing street improvement and maintenance plan, as well as planned improvements to Eagle Point Campground and Tourist Park.

Articles from the City Administration and "View from the Lake" updates have covered the bridge's progress as information became available. The new bridge will benefit all BDLMD members, both within and outside the City of Cumberland, by providing unimpeded access to all of Beaver Dam Lake. Therefore, the Board of Directors has agreed to budget \$250,000 to fund a portion of the additional unexpected bridge costs. This contribution will remove a portion of the total cost from City taxpayers and will have a negligible impact on the Lake residents' levy. Additional information explaining the relationship between equalized valuation and the tax levy will be provided in future correspondence.

At the 2024 Annual Meeting, funding was approved to develop a Beaver Dam Lake Management Plan for all of Beaver Dam Lake. The plan was approved by the BDLMD commissioners in October 2024. Several targeted goals were budgeted and approved at the 2025 Annual Meeting, including work on the Maple Plain Ravine, permitting Wickre Harbor for sediment removal, removing navigation impairments in the channel east of Highway 63, and addressing concerns about golf course runoff. Having a lake management plan creates opportunities to

obtain grants and other funding to address both existing and emerging issues affecting the lake.

Operation of watercraft that create large waves continues to be a significant topic in Wisconsin and across the nation. Many lake districts, counties, and states are passing ordinances and regulations limiting the use of certain watercraft on lakes and rivers. Proposed limitations include prohibiting wake boat use for surfing on lakes smaller than 1,500 acres, requiring boats to remain 500 to 700 feet from shorelines, and allowing wake surfing only in water at least 20 feet deep. It is unlikely that statewide legislation will be passed, so lake districts and townships throughout Wisconsin are adopting local ordinances to regulate enhanced waves. I continue to be encouraged by wake boat use on Beaver Dam Lake. Using common sense, staying away from shorelines, and operating in deeper water may help prevent the need for future regulation.

The BDLMD has functioned for 35 years because many individuals have volunteered their time, expertise, and resources to support the responsibilities that make it one of Wisconsin's strongest lake districts. At the 2019 Wisconsin Lake Conference, the BDLMD received the Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship Award given annually to a Lake District or Association. Over the past 13 years as president, I have had the privilege of building lasting relationships with BDLMD commissioners, City of Cumberland administration and employees, Cumberland Utility personnel, Barron County representatives, contractors, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and residents and members of the BDLMD. I have truly appreciated your association and friendship. "Thank you" does not come close to acknowledging what that has meant to me.

Please visit the BDLMD website at beaverdamlake.org. This year's Annual Meeting will be held at the Cumberland Middle School Commons on Saturday, August 8, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. Please read the article on the sign-in and voting registration process. I hope to see you there!

Tom Schroeder, President

New sign-in and voting regulations

Referencing the Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 33 governing Lake Districts, the sign in process at this year's Annual Meeting will be changed slightly. Please arrive early to register in order to participate in voting. If not a permanent resident within the BDLMD, please ascertain the Legal Name, Trust or LLC associated with your lake district property for verification with the tax roll at sign in. If your name does not appear on the tax roll, please bring documentation of your ownership or residency." We still encourage and welcome the visiting public and non voting guests to attend. There will be a separate sign in sheet for public and non-voting attendees. Eligible Lake District voters will receive a colored card to be used if necessary, during the voting process for budget items over \$10,000 and the final budget as a whole. Voting for filling any vacant Commissioner(s) position requires a secret ballot. However, during the 13 years I have been President, there has been only one nominee for the vacant commissioner position(s). Therefore, as provided in the BDLMD By-laws, there hasn't been a need for a secret ballot, and the nominee(s) have been approved by unanimous vote.

Voter Eligibility and Required Documentation

To vote at the Annual Meeting, a person must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older, and meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:

- (1) Property owner on the tax roll — no documentation required.
- (2) Spouse of a listed property owner — no documentation required.
- (3) Property owner not on the tax roll (e.g., purchased this year, co-owner not listed)
- (4) District resident not on the tax roll (Renter)
- (5) Sole authorized representative of an organization owning District property

All voters are required to sign the Official Voter Sign-In Sheet at check-in. By signing, each voter certifies they are the person named, are a U.S. citizen, are 18 or older, and are eligible to vote. If your name does not appear on the tax roll, please bring documentation of your ownership or residency. No absentee ballots or proxies are permitted. Voters must be physically present. One vote per person regardless of parcels owned.

2026 Eurasian Water Milfoil

EWM and Navigation Weed Control

There seems to be a lot of interest in this year's treatment for EWM and weed control affecting navigation on the East side of Beaver Dam Lake. On Jan.13, 2026, Dr. Alan Carlson and I attended a meeting with representatives from the WDNR to discuss the 2026 Eurasian Water Milfoil – EWM treatment plan prior to our submittal of the permit application. At the meeting all the proposed treatment areas were discussed as to the potential impact if not treated and expected results based on supporting data. We also discussed treating areas of dense weeds that impede navigation, which the WDNR advocated for a wait and see approach. The 2026 EWM treatment plan was submitted on Feb. 24, 2026. In early March, I spent the better part of an hour discussing the WDNR preliminary approval of the 40 of the proposed 52 treatment locations. Agreement was reached that 2 locations would be added to the list so a total of 42 locations would be treated. The EWM treatment occurred on June 16, 2026. The annual July Aquatic Plant survey showed

that the areas treated for EWM were eradicated especially Library Lake. Overall, the survey was encouraging for the absence of EWM in all of Beaver Dam Lake. These areas will be monitored during the remaining summer and again surveyed as part of the Oct. Plant survey. The survey data provides the basis for next year's EWM treatment permit application. At the July 8th BDLMD Board meeting the commissioners approved funding and applying for a permit to mechanically harvest weeds from City Bay and Norwegian Bay. By the time you read this article, hopefully the permit will have been approved and the harvesting is completed for this year. The results of this “test” will help determine the best method for addressing the weed issue affecting navigation on Beaver Dam Lake.



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

Upcoming Events:
August 8 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 35th Annual Meeting

Saturday August 8, 2026

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 2025 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. Anna DeMers – Tamarack Wetland Services, presentation Native Plantings & Rain Gardens
6. Jay Michels – EOR, update on 2026-2027 projects
7. Present Budget for 2026-2027, discussion, approval – Dr. Alan Carlson
8. Motion to “Approve Commissioners transferring funds within the Approved Budget”
9. Election of Commissioner – Tom Schroeder
10. Review of District Activities – Tom Schroeder
11. Other discussion as needed
12. Adjourn

Note; the 2026 Annual Letter with the agenda and Draft 2026/2027 budget plus the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes can be found at ***beaverdamlake.org***

BDLMD Board Meeting

August 8, 2026

Cumberland Middle School

Approximately 15 minutes following the adjournment of the 2026 Annual Meeting the BDLMD will hold a brief Board meeting with the following agenda.

1. Approve minutes from last meeting.
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, Cumberland City Hall, Nilssen's Grocery, and the City Library.

(proposed budget over)