

Volume 38, Number 2, August 2023

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING

The annual meeting will start at 7:00pm on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at Norway Town Hall. State law is specific as it involves lake districts and does not allow virtual annual meetings. In addition, state law does not allow the use of proxy, absentee, or mail-in voting.

### Eligible voters are:

Anyone **in attendance** of legal voting age, who owns property or lives within the boundaries of the Wind Lake Management District.

- *Absentee, proxy, or mail-in voting is prohibited*
- *All landowners regardless of their primary residence can vote*
- *Anyone over the age of 18 living in the district is eligible- including renters*
- *One must be present to vote*
- *Once voting begins, no additional ballots can be given out*
- *Each eligible voter gets a single vote, even if a voter owns multiple properties*

**Please bring an ID with your address in the district or if your ID does not show the correct address then also bring a tax or utility bill in your name to show your eligibility for voting.**

## WEED HARVESTING UPDATE- HOTLINE# 262-332-3670

The third year of the Wind Lake harvesting operations is underway and will continue through Labor Day under the direction of harvesting Program Manager Pat Fitzgerald. Board also renewed the contract with Jerry Kotarek for trucking services. The district is very lucky to have this crew working to make Wind Lake better, as they are all doing it for the right reason.

Harvesting operations started June 5<sup>th</sup>, and as of the beginning of August, the crew had logged 289.5 hours of harvesting, training, and maintenance. The weed growth has been aggressive this year as we have already removed over 24,000 cubic feet of weeds. Weed growth will continue to be monitored and harvesting will continue as needed. One huge advantage of owning a harvester is that operations can be ramped up quickly if needed, but also to be fiscally responsible and limit hours if harvesting is not needed. Harvesting operations must also be coordinated with chemical treatments and follow the approved harvesting plan in accordance with DNR regulations.

As harvesting operations wrap up for this year, the board and harvesting crew are already preparing for next year. Your patience and continued input is appreciated. Together we can work to make Wind Lake the best it can be.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As I write this in early August, our Wisconsin summer is going by too fast. I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the lake during this beautiful stretch of weather, but as in the past couple years; we are again struggling with low lake levels because of the lack of rain. The Wind Lake dam has been closed since early May when there was still water going over the spillway. Without rain, lake levels can drop  $\frac{1}{4}$ : to  $\frac{1}{2}$ : per day from evaporation. Extended periods without rain can lead to low lake levels and as we all know, low lake levels limit boat access and bring newly found rocks closer to the surface. Bottom line is that we need more rain.

In mid-June, the District worked with the United States Department of Agriculture in collecting and removing over 100 geese from Wind Lake. While the geese may look majestic, they present an ecological hazard to lake water and parasite hazards to children and pets when they gather on shorelines. The Board will continue to monitor geese levels every spring and will request goose removals as needed.

As was discussed at the annual meeting last year, we have added a **Harvesting Hotline (262-332-3670)** to help expedite lake weed issues and it has worked very well. Complaints were addressed quicker, and callers received a response back directly from the Harvesting Program Manager. We will continue the hotline and encourage more property owners to use it as needed.



We determined early in the season that it was going to be a heavy weed year and started harvesting operations the first week of June. By the end of June, we had harvested as many cubic feet of weeds as we did in the whole summer of 2022. I want to thank our Harvesting Program Manager Patrick Fitzgerald, who did a great job this summer maintaining the harvester and scheduling the operators. I also want to thank Jerry Kotarek and his trucking company that hauls the harvester weeds away. Jerry saves the District thousands of dollars every year with his flexible billing. He truly wants Wind Lake to be the best it can be and he has stepped up in a big way.

Lastly, the Board is working on a 10-year plan that includes such items as an Alum treatment and the possible purchase of a second harvester. Please read the *Moving Forward* article and consider attending the Annual Meeting on Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup>. The WLMD Board understands that we get our direction from District members and the Annual Meeting is the best place to provide input.

Proud to be the WLMD Chair,

Ron Mayer

## MOVING FORWARD

The WLMD Board is planning for the future and one of the major items is an Alum treatment. When a lake has excess levels of phosphorus and nitrogen, it may exhibit symptoms such as poor water clarity, nuisance algae / vegetation, and shoreline odors. Through a process called nutrient remediation, Alum (Aluminum Sulfate) will bind with excess nutrients and help improve water quality conditions. When water is more balanced, nuisance aquatic weeds and algae are less likely to thrive.

Wind Lake had Alum treatments in 1997 and 2011 and will need another treatment in-the-near future. The 2011 treatment cost in-excess of \$315,000 and a future treatment could cost in-excess of \$450,000. The Board is requesting permission to apply for a grant to offset the cost of the Alum treatment, which could provide up to \$200,000 in relief. The Board is also requesting to increase lake fees to cover the cost of the balance of the treatment, setting aside \$25,000 each year earmarked for the Alum treatment. The proposed increase would be as follows: Lake from \$220 to \$280, Canal from \$130 to \$160, and off-lake from \$90 to \$100. The last lake dues increase was 2014 and this one would not be needed if not for the cost of the Alum treatment.

The Board is also requesting permission to apply for a grant to acquire a second harvester. The proposed purchase would be a smaller harvester that could work the shallow areas but yet offload weeds onto the same trailer as the larger harvester. Running both harvesters jointly will save on trucking fees and the smaller harvester may also allow for a reduction in chemical treatment in areas where it can be addressed mechanically. The grant would cover approximately 50% of the projected cost of \$120,000. The district would then owe the balance of \$60,000 which would be paid from existing reserves.

The Alum treatment and the second harvester are needed for the long-term health of Wind Lake. The proposed increase in lake dues would still leave Wind Lake as one of the lowest lake dues for comparable lakes. These items will be discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

## WEED HARVESTING STRATEGY

We take many factors into consideration when crafting our weed control strategy:

- There is no pre-emergent aquatic herbicide so we cannot spray areas to prevent the growth of plants.
- We cannot harvest areas if the plants are 2-3 feet below the surface, so harvesting can only happen when the weeds reach the surface.
- We are limited by what the DNR permit allows. Water depth must be over 3' and we must leave 1' of plant growth on the lakebed. No cutting into the lakebed is allowed.
- Native plants need to protect the lakebed from the expansion of invasive species.
- Violation of the permit rules can lead to warnings, fines, and the rescinding of our harvesting permit.

## HOMEOWNER ACTION

The DNR allows all homeowners the ability to clear an area 30' wide in their lake frontage as far out as they chose to a depth of 4'. This can be done by the manual method of raking to provide plant removal and the owner can remove both invasive and native plants in the 30' area. The raked vegetation can be placed by the roadside for pickup.



# CHEMICAL TREATMENT REPORT

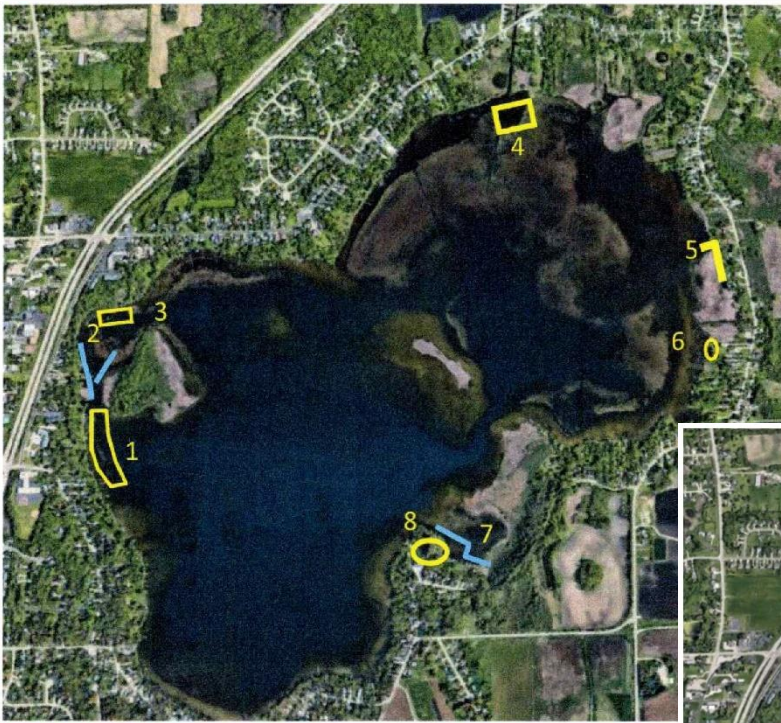
WLMD receives a permit annually from the DNR to chemically treat weeds in Wind Lake. Most of the areas treated are shallow, weed-choked and restrict lake access for property owners. The plan is to treat when the conditions warrant, usually in early May and early June, weather permitting. Treatments to control the Starry Stonewort (SSW) are also planned.

The DNR permit for the chemical treatment is available on the WLMD website. Go to [wlmd.org](http://wlmd.org). The link to the permit is on the home page and on the aquatic plant page.

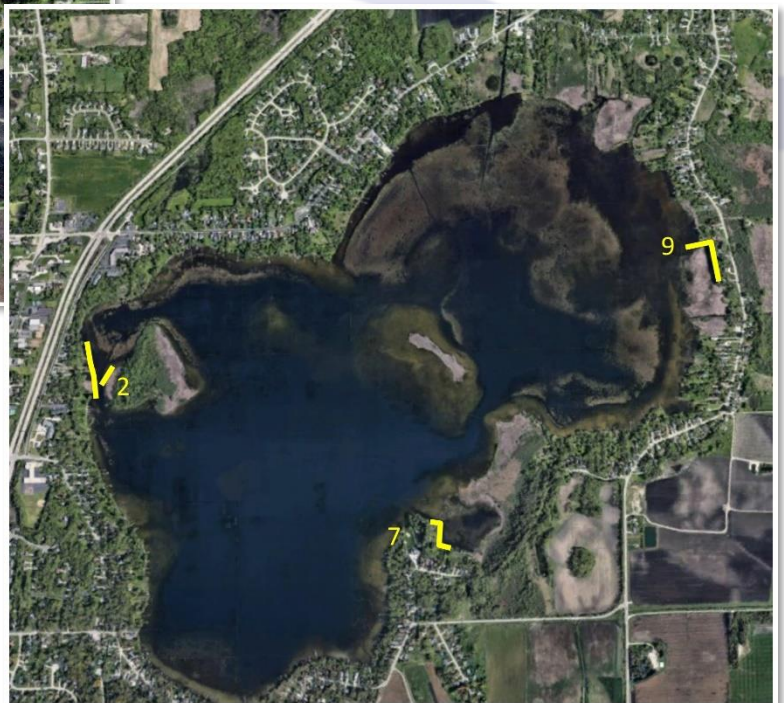
The lake is considered "waters of the State". Treatments will be conducted to try to maintain access for property owners and lake users.

We have applied Starry Stonewort treatments in the navigational channel and applied larger chemical treatments in other parts of the lake for invasive growth. All treatments are done under the supervision of the DNR. We concentrate most of our treatments on navigational areas. Treatments can only be conducted when either invasive species are present or when nuisance conditions block lake use. Treatments have been made on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup>. The map below shows the areas that have been treated:

## 6/6/2023 Treatment



## 7/19/2023 SSW Treatment



## VESSEL SAFETY CHECK REPORT

On Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> Marlys Williams and Dan Jahn of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA) performed the Vessel safety Checks (VSC) with the assistance of John Landry, Jim Marks, Jeremy Sauld and Bruce Rosenquist of the Wind Lake Management District. The VSC were conducted at the DNR Launch Ramp. 10 passed the VSC, 4 had insufficient time for the VSC. We look forward to offering this service again next year on **Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

If you wish to have your boat inspected, you may call Dan Jahn of the USCGA at **(414) 614-3164** and he will come to your dock.

## ROADSIDE LAKE WEED PICKUP

The WLMD will continue the roadside weed pickup program this summer. Only lake weeds can be placed on the roadside for pickup. Please make sure the pile is close to the side of the road and not setting back up against a building or tree line. We will not be picking up "ice-off" debris. Do not put lake sediment, dirt, rocks, branches, garbage, or other debris in the pile. The pile will not be picked up if anything other than lake weeds are on the pile. Piles must be out by noon on Mondays to be picked up between Monday and Wednesday evening.

Here are the remaining pickup dates for 2023:

**August 28<sup>th</sup>; September 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>; and October 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

## ANNUAL FIREWORKS SHOW

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Wind Lake Fireworks Show took place on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

A big THANK YOU to our sponsors, volunteers, committee members, local businesses, and the community for helping make this event possible. We could not have done it without your support, and we look forward to continuing this beloved tradition.

For the latest updates on upcoming fundraisers, events, and show dates, please follow us on the Wind Lake Fireworks Facebook Page and/or [www.windlakefireworks.com](http://www.windlakefireworks.com).

The committee continues to engage and collaborate with local businesses to get creative in raising funds for the fireworks while also generating revenue for local businesses. Please email us at [WindLakeFireworksAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:WindLakeFireworksAssociation@gmail.com) or call (414) 870-6631 if you have ideas or would like to volunteer at an event.

Mark your calendars! The 2024 Wind Lake Fireworks Ice Fishing Jamboree is scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Sportsman's Pub. Be on the lookout for committee members selling Jamboree Tickets at local businesses and plan to check out the amazing basket raffles at the event.





# 2023 ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

**Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 7:00pm at Norway Town Hall**

**Call to Order** - Pledge of Allegiance

**Introductions** - Board Members & Guests

**Approve Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting**

**Annual Meeting Project Update** – Review of 2023 & Plans for 2024

**Budget Hearing and Approval** - Resolution 1-2023:

Whereas the Board of Commissioners proposed the enclosed budget for WLMD for the year Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024:

- And whereas notice of Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting was provided to residents and Landowners:
- And whereas the Board recommends the projects presented herein:
- And whereas the 1997 annual meeting gave the Board authority for short-term borrowing only to cover grant reimbursements not yet received:
- And whereas the 2010 Annual Meeting approved the levy of irrepealably taxes to repay state loans:
- And whereas the Board has proposed the annual charge be set; \$280 lakefront, \$160 canal and \$100 off lake properties:
- And whereas the 2021 Annual Meeting gave the Board the authority to charge all taxable properties in the district according to those categories, including situations where one owner has multiple properties:
- Be it further resolved that the annual WLMD charges will be placed on the 2023 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 WLMD Board is authorized to apply for a grant for a future Alum treatment:
- Be it further resolved that the WLMD Board is authorized to apply for a grant for a second weed harvester:
- Be it further resolved that the WLMD Board is authorized to purchase a second weed harvester if the grant is approved:
- 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 projects included in the budget, as may be amended by this annual meeting are hereby approved:
- Be it further resolved that the WLMD is approved to apply for loans for purchases and projects approved at this meeting:
- Be it further resolved that the 2024 Proposed Budget is hereby approved:
- Be it further resolved that the 2024 Annual Meeting can be scheduled after September 8<sup>th</sup>:

**Approval of Resolution 1-2023**

**Election of Commissioner** – The terms of current commissioners Mike Bluemel and Jeremy Sauld are up for re-election. Nominations from the floor for a 3-year term are welcome.

**New Business** – Any other business that may properly come before this board.

**Adjourn**

**Note:** A Board of Commissioners meeting will be held immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect officers. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7pm, at Norway Town Hall.

**Wind Lake Management District  
2024 Proposed Budget**

<b>Annual Revenue</b>	
Lake Dues	\$166,680
Property Transfer Fees	450
Interest	14,625
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$181,755</b>

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Jan 1, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023 Approved</b>	<b>January 1, 2023 to Current(7/24/2023) Actual</b>	<b>Jan 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024 Proposed</b>
Meetings/Seminars	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
Postal Expenses	1,600	394	1,000
Office Supplies/Equipment	500	-	500
Publications	500	-	500
Insurance	7,000	251	7,500
Print/Publishing	1,600	846	1,750
Mileage/Per Diem	6,400	3,100	6,400
Misc	400	232	250
Website	1,800	687	1,500
Attorney	4,000	-	4,000
Accountant	2,200	-	750
Weed Control/Harvest/Pickup	92,950	25,542	95,858
USGS	12,000	12,055	12,750
Geese Control	4,000	3,500	4,000
Property Maintenance	2,400	319	1,080
Contingency	1,000	-	1,000
Emergency Action	4,000	-	4,000
Dam Operation	6,000	-	6,500
Aquatic Plant Survey/Plan (Harvesting Permit)	13,000	-	10,000
Alum Treatment Fund	-	-	25,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$162,850</b>	<b>\$46,926</b>	<b>\$185,838</b>

# 2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday September 8th, 2022, at 7:00pm Norway Town Hall

## Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Bluemel called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

## Introductions - Board Members

Board members introduced themselves to the attendees.

## Approve Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting

The 2021 minutes were provided in the fall newsletter. Bluemel opened the floor for a motion on the minutes. There was a motion from floor to approve as presented, seconded from the floor. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

## Annual Meeting Project Update - A review of 2022 and plans for 2023.

Chairman Bluemel provided an update on harvesting and the low water issues. HPM Landry provided additional information and spoke on the added challenge of low water levels.

Bluemel also commented on the 5-year APMP. Rosenquist provided information on the VSC. Sauld mentioned a possible hotline for harvesting issues for 2023.

## Budget Hearing

Sauld provided an update on the proposed budget for 2023, including a line-by-line analysis. Citizen questions from the floor regarding the budget were answered.

## Approval of- Resolution 1-2022

Bluemel read the following resolution into the record:

### Resolution 1- 2022

- *Whereas the Board of Commissioners proposed the enclosed budget for WLMD for the year Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023:*
- *And whereas notice of Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting was provided to residents and Landowners:*
- *And whereas the Board recommends the projects presented herein:*
- *And whereas the 1997 annual meeting gave the Board authority for short-term borrowing only to cover grant reimbursements not yet received:*
- *And whereas the 2010 Annual Meeting approved the levy of irrevocable taxes to repay state loans:*
- *And whereas the Board has proposed the annual charge be set; \$220 lakefront, \$130 canal and \$90 off lake properties:*
- *And whereas the 2021 Annual Meeting gave the Board the authority to charge all taxable properties in the district according to those categories, including situations where one owner has multiple properties:*
- *Be it further resolved that the annual WLMD charges will be placed on the 2022 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 projects included in the budget, as may be amended by this annual meeting are hereby approved:*
- *Be it further resolved that the WLMD is approved to apply for loans for purchases and projects approved at this meeting:*
- *Be it further resolved that the 2023 Proposed Budget is hereby approved:*
- *Be it further resolved that the 2023 Annual Meeting can be scheduled after September 8<sup>th</sup>:*



## 2022 MINUTES CONTINUED...

After the reading, there was a question on from the floor regarding expenses. There was a motion to accept budget as presented, seconded from the floor. Motion passed on a voice vote, with one citizen against.

There was a motion from the floor to accept Resolution 1-2022 as presented, seconded from the floor. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

### **New Business**

Bellante provided update on the chemical treatments including SSW.

Citizen had a question on the public launch regarding the parking of single cars. Cars can legally park on a public launch.

Citizen had a question on low lake water level. It was explained that the dam has not been opened all summer.

Citizen question on the dam operations and if calling Racine County would help.

Citizen that lives near the dam commented that the dam operator does follow the rules and does coordinate with surrounding lakes.

Citizen had a question on dredging and what it would take to clear out channels. It was explained that dredging would cost millions and grants are no longer available.

Citizen comment that DNR allows homeowners to dredge up to 5 cubic yards.

Citizen had a question on the possibility of a dredging project in the future.

**Election of Commissioners** – The terms of current commissioners Bruce Rosenquist and Jim Marks are up for re-election. Nominations from the floor for a 3-year term are welcome.

Both Jim Marks and Bruce Rosenquist accepted renewal nominations and presented their case for election. There were also two nominations from the floor. Todd Flunker and Pat Calliari were nominated and provided a background and case for their election. Paper ballots were provided, with each eligible citizen voting for two positions. The results were as follows:

Todd Flunker 30

Jim Marks 26

Pat Calliari 18

Bruce Rosenquist 16

Jim Marks was re-elected, and Todd Flunker elected to 3-year terms.

Bluemel recognized and thanked Bruce for his years of service.

With no other issues presented, there was a motion from the floor to adjourn, seconded from the floor.

Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 8:18

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

After a brief discussion, the following commissioners were elected to officer positions:

Ron Mayer, Chairman

Mike Bluemel, Secretary

Todd Flunker, Treasurer

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for October 25th, 2022, at 7pm, at Norway Town Hall.

# WIND LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

6419 Heg Park Road  
Wind Lake, WI 53185

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## VISIT [WLMD.ORG](http://WLMD.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Meetings, schedules, agendas, and minutes
- Information about who to contact for various activities
- Links to other lake-related sites
- The latest lake depth map of Wind Lake
- Important Notices

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Ron Mayer – Chairman	(414) 614-5859
Mike Bluemel – Secretary	(262) 895-2502
Todd Flunker – Treasurer	(414) 510-5446
Jim Marks – Commissioner	(414) 810-9526
Jeremy Sauld – Commissioner	(262) 391-7044
Ralph Schopp – Town Representative	(414) 531-6020
Joe Bellante – County Representative	(262) 895-6694

**WEED HARVESTING HOTLINE**  
**262-332-3670**

Commissioner's meetings are usually held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month, with the November and December meeting combined. Meetings begin at 7pm at the Norway Town Hall. All residents are welcome to attend, but please note that meeting dates are subject to change. Always refer to our website for the latest up-to-date information.

## QUESTIONS?

Email us at [info@wlmd.org](mailto:info@wlmd.org)