



# Alpine Lake

*Protection & Rehabilitation  
District*

P.O. Box 155, Wautoma, WI 54982

June 3, 2023  
Marion Town Hall  
Informational Meeting

PRESENT: Jason Kunding (Chairman) Mary Sue Braun (Treasurer)  
John Manion (Interim Secretary) Michael Baranowski  
Bill Behnke (Town of Marion Supervisor)

GUEST: Jim Scharl – Wisconsin Lakes & Ponds

Approximately 41 Lake Alpine Residents

- Meeting called to order at 8:40 am – Jason Kunding
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Special Presentation from Jim Scharl - Lake Management Plan Q & A
- Jim Scharl has been helping with invasive species management, dredging, nuisance species control, navigation lanes, lake management planning, and basically most things on the water. He informally discussed the 5-year lake plan and why we are doing it, the steps required, and where it is going to go from there. Questions will be allowed after that.
  - Why are we doing the plan? It's a requirement from the DNR that the plan be updated every 5 years and we are past that date. Updated plans are needed for funding (receiving grants) for things like invasive species control, harvesting permits, and overall lake management.
  - What's involved? The first step is we updated the past plan in cooperation with Waushara County, UW-Stevens Point, the DNR, and Alpine Lake District. A large part of this plan has yet to be updated because we are waiting on an Aquatic Plant Survey and that cannot be done until the middle of July. Once that survey is completed, we can update the plan and note what has changed since the last survey. The plan is expected to be completed over the winter of 2023/2024.
  - Question: Jason asked if revisions to the Lake Management Plan that the Lake District wanted to submit and approve could be approved at our August meeting but James Scharl said that would be too soon as they would not have the plan ready for months after that. November would be better.
  - Question: Since much of the plan data is essentially non-negotiable, can the Lake District solicit changes before August 1st and update changes the membership wants to make at our late August meeting? Answer: Jim thought this would be fine.

- Question: Does the timing of the chemical treatment of the lake we do impact the Survey? Answer: Since actively managed lakes do chemical treatments, Jim felt it would make no difference.
- Question: Several years past we asked if we could do a complete lake treatment. It was not approved. Can we do one now? Answer: A whole lake treatment is only if the invasive species level exceeds a certain level (above nuisance levels) and our lake does not meet that threshold. We will not be approved.
- Question: What can we do to reduce algae? The lake looks substantially worse than in 2015. Can landowners treat the lake with chemicals? Answer: Harvester skimming is allowed by the DNR for this and landowners can treat the water also IF they have the proper permits and the treated area is limited to 30 feet of shoreline. Complete lake treatment for algae will never happen.
- Question: We manage our navigation lanes. Can we treat other areas of the lake that are really bad? Answer: No, the DNR will not allow this. We must prove impedance to navigation. Mechanical harvesting is permitted.
- Question: Are we doing weed harvesting once or twice this year? Answer: Just once as the June date was too early, but we are looking to replace with chemical treatment in June and July or early August, if necessary.
- Question: Was the dredging by the inlet completed? Answer: Yes. Areas defined on the permit were completed. But while they dug to prescribed depths, the silt/dirt did slide in and backfilled much in some areas.
- Question: Do fallen trees or debris slow the water flow at the inlets? Could this impact how far the silt flows in? Answer: We think the bigger problem is that there is almost no water flow right now due to lack of rain.
- Question: One member questioned if all the silt we paid to have removed, in fact was? Answer: 2600 yards was removed and this is what we were limited and paid for.
- Question: Could we get a filter to reduce what is entering the lake from upstream? And could we install an aerator to promote more water movement and reduce weeds? This could improve the fishing on the lake. Answer: These are good ideas and should be included in the lake management plan in order for us to act on this. DNR will not likely approve a large aeration project but personal landowners can put small units (water movers) in but they must be attached to structure (docks) and must not disturb the lake floor.
- Question: Can we ask our residents on the lake to limit the use of phosphorus? Answer: Very good suggestion, yes, we can.
- Question: Is there a plan to stop sediment from running into the lake? Like adding sediment traps? Answer: The problem and potential solution is known but we have not planned for it yet. Some lakes do this now. This is covered under Goal 5 of our current Lake Management Plan.
- Question: If we actually followed the entire existing plan, can you estimate what the total cost to the district would be? Answer: Just a guess but it would be at least double what you are spending now.
- Question: Can we buy "weevils" to eat the Asian water milfoil? Answer: This has been tried before and it turns out to be nothing more than expensive bluegill food.
- Question: Are there any instances where Lake District groups had successful restorations of their lakes? Who are they and what did they do? Answer: One sanitary district was able to increase funding and did a whole lake milfoil project and this was quite successful.
- Question: Are we limited to how frequently we can draw down the lake? It seems to help. Answer: There is no limit on this but because of the permits involved and the

coordination difficulty, it would not be approved for consecutive years. It impacts others downstream too.

- Question: Is there some way for shoreland restoration to help the lake? Answer: Native plantings and uncut grass help create a buffer zone to slow the runoff and loss of nutrients.
  - Question: Phosphorus levels are up in recent years. Can we trace the origins of this? Would going to a city sewer system help this? Answer: There are many ways to increase the levels, some man-made, some natural. It can readily come from upstream sources. The watershed is the main source. Our lake level is rated at 22 and Jim felt this was actually pretty good.
  - Question: Does wildlife management, such as goose population management, impact the weed levels? Answer: Ducks eat weeds and water vegetation. Geese eat vegetation on shore.
  - Question: Is there any way to attract animals that actually help? Answer: There are ways to do this and is included in the plan.
  - Question/Suggestion: Everyone could have their personal wells tested for nitrates as this is a growing problem. Many wells are above the Federal maximum levels. There are options offered by the county so give them a call. UW-Oshkosh, Madison, etc. can do the testing.
  - Question: Some rip-rap on County land collapsed during the drawdown. Will this be fixed? Answer: If you see a problem area, give the county a call. Rip-rap on private land will not be approved.
  - Question: If anyone has any more questions on the Lake Management Plan, give Jason Kundinger or Joan Matone a call. Explanation: The Plan is just that – a plan. It is not a directive. We are required to have a plan and if we chose to do something, it must be included in the plan.
- Treasurer's report – Mary Sue reported the checking account is now at \$29,927.15 which includes the \$18,500 lake assessment check from the township less some recent expenses. Government invest pool is at \$117,088.55. It's currently paying over 4.8% interest so we are using that instead of CDs for now. Total lake assets are \$147,015.70. The dredging project came in at \$18,530, well under the budgeted level.
  - Outlot Pier – Reminder that folks should not tie boats at the piers that are provided by the district. Hillcrest Outlot has had a lot of issues there and had two boats tied to the pier. When the lines have been removed, they end up being reattached and this hinders people from launching their kayaks. If you live off the lake you should know there is no such thing as "Deeded Access when selling a home. People have advertised that when selling and this is just not correct. Buyers believe they are getting Deeded Access and there is not. Access is not guaranteed 100% of the time and please be respectful of others. The pier is for coming/going, not for tying off of. Resident noted that the Outlots are for off-lake residents who launch at the County Park but who may need to tie off at the outlots to take care of some brief personal matter. Another resident noted he has lived on the lake for 35 years and putting a private pier on an outlot has never been allowed, yet now someone has done so. The Lake District owns the outlots, not the members. Tying off to a tree is permitted and if you leave the spot and someone else puts their boat there, that is fine.
  - Dredging is Complete – Dave Ripp was on the board and he promoted the project. He organized 95% of the dredging. A landowner near the dredging was happy with the work.
  - Geese – Clyde Simonson reported on the geese. Forty-three eggs were sprayed. Clyde is looking for volunteers to help out and/or train for next spring. There is a definite improvement (reduction) in the goose population. Let Clyde know if you do see a nest with eggs as there

is still time to address this.

- The 2023 chemical treatment of the lake will be coming up soon. Notifications will be sent out in the next week or so.
- Habitat and water quality questions have been asked and a good resource to learn more is [www.Healthylakeswi.com](http://www.Healthylakeswi.com).
- Shoreline survey will be done this summer and you may see a boat and a drone doing this.
- Outlot Signs – Each of the signs at the three outlots received a makeover from Neal and Marie Johnson.
- Fireworks Permit - Bill Behnke, Town of Marion Supervisor, reminded residents that a permit to use fireworks will be required for July 4<sup>th</sup>. Fireworks will be allowed in the Township of Marion from dusk to 11:00 p.m. Permits are free of charge. The permit is needed 3 days before and 3 days after July 4<sup>th</sup>. New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and Special occasions. Special occasion permits must be approved by the Town Board at a regular monthly town board meeting. Those who are interested, should contact Vicki Snyder, Town Hall Clerk. Fines will be issued to those who do not have a permit. Also note the Sheriff's Dept. will be patrolling lakes to make sure people have flotation devices on their boats/kayaks.
- The Watershed Lakes Council make up New Member packets for new people on the lake. Jason said he would like to drop them off and meet the new neighbors.
- Reminder that our annual picnic is 10am August 26<sup>th</sup> at the County Park again.
- William Elliott reported the **We Really Kare Fishing Club** fisheree had record results: \$55,000 gross income, \$36,000+ net profit. 1000 perch and 1000 crappie were added to our lake, twice what was planned because we did not add any flatheads.

#### Public Comments

- No Wake – Joan Matone reported that she has witnessed boats creating wake in front of their property which runs parallel to the island. Please call out people when you see this happening. Suggestions such as Floating Buoys, imposing fines to repeat offenders, adding signs to remind boaters it is NO WAKE were discussed. High boat speeds cause erosion of the shore lines as well as presenting a safety hazard.
- Can we put some type of address tags on docks so vendors on the lake can find the properties easier? It would be helpful with goose egg control as well.
- Jason K. announced Linda Payne's retirement as Secretary, after serving 19+ years on the Alpine Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Board. MOTION approved to present Linda with a \$100 gift certificate for her time serving on the board.
- MOTION approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 am.