



# Lake Life

MMLMD



The Official Newsletter of the  
MT. MORRIS LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**Number 70 – June, 2022**

Robert Adams District Chairman Brookfield, WI 53008	Joe Slezak District Secretary Wautoma, WI 54982	Peggy Thiel District Treasurer Wautoma, WI 54982	Karen Tschurwald Commissioner Wautoma, WI 54982	Gil Steffanides Commissioner Wautoma, WI	Paul Jarvis Mt. Morris Town Board Rep	Randy Loehrke Wausara County Rep.
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Be sure to access the MMLMD website at [www.mtmorrislakes.org](http://www.mtmorrislakes.org) for expanded new information about the articles published in this newsletter.

## LAKE DRAWDOWN PRELIMINARY RESULTS LOOK POSITIVE

### Perfect Winter of Low Snow & Low Temperatures Froze Exposed Hybrid Eurasian Water Milfoil

When the dam gates were opened in October to drawdown the lake 6 feet, we found that this was the lowest possible level we are able to lower the lake. The dam flume is actually higher than the lake, and this kept water flowing downstream through the dam flume to keep the normal flow of Rattlesnake Creek.

Morris and Emerald Lakes saw water levels drop down just beyond their boat docks. Lakes A, B, and C, saw just the remainder of a flowing creek. Unfortunately, the conditions were not good for deer straying into the channels... some were rescued, others died in their tracks stuck in the mud.

Once the gates closed on May 3, the re-filling process took a little more than 2 weeks. Wetlands absorbed water first then lakes that were higher than the dam flume followed: Morris Lake, Lake B, then C, then A. Emerald Lake was the last one to be filled and all was at normal water height by Memorial Day holiday.



Alfson-Russel Channels & Morris Lake



### DISTRICT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Rob Adams

The District Board of Commissioners met four times since our last annual meeting. At our 09-15-2021 meeting, **long term Board Chairman Tim Dahlstrand** announced that he had sold his lake properties, and that he would be retiring from the Board and the Chairman's role. Tim has moved to Dallas, Texas to be closer to his extended family. We all owe a debt of gratitude for his many years of service to the District, mostly as the District Board Chairman.

After the vote to approve the winter drawdown at last year's Annual Meeting it was a mad dash to get all the DNR permit requirements completed prior to September 15 permit deadline for beginning the drawdown. A special thanks goes to Joe Slezak and the Onterra representatives for their efforts to move things to meet the deadlines.. We had a relatively cold winter with modest snowfall, exactly what we hoped for to ensure best AIS control results from the drawdown. We received an additional DNR funded grant for post-drawdown survey work. That report on the results of the drawdown will be coming later this summer

### Change of Annual Meeting Date in 2023

At this year's annual meeting, we will be voting on a proposed change to the annual meeting date from the third Saturday in July to the third Saturday in June. This will place the meeting closer to the end of the budget year, which is the end of May. It will enable us to pursue drawdown permitting on a more reasonable timeline in the future if we need to do so.

District Treasurer Peggy Thiel has completed the 2021-2022 fiscal year financial report and had it audited by an outside firm. She will present last year's financial details, as well as the proposed budget for next year, at this year's Annual Meeting.

Dr. Gil Steffanides, longtime resident of Lake C (Hannah's Lake) was invited to join the Board to complete Tim Dahlstrand's board term which expires at this year's annual meeting. Gil agreed to take over Tim's dam management responsibilities.

Last year's compulsory dam inspection uncovered that the dam toe drain, a device similar to the drain tile around your house designed to accept seepage from the earthen part of the dam, was plugged. Gil has researched the repair, and will budget and manage the replacement of the toe drain by using Becher-Hoppe Engineering Services out of Wausau WI. (Continued on Page 2...)

### 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Mt. Morris Lakes District Meeting Saturday, July 16, 2022

Mountainview Center – Mt. Morris HWY S & HWY /152

BREAKFAST: 8:00 – 9:00 AM ANNUAL MEETING: 9:00 AM

#### MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Agenda Approval, & Intros – Commissioner & District Members, others
2. Minutes: 07/17/21 Annual Meeting, - Joe Slezak
3. Chairman's Report – Rob Adams
4. 2021-2022 Treasurer's Report – Peggy Thiel
5. Endowment Fund Report – Bob Jozowski
6. Special District Service Award Presentation

#### Pre-Meeting RSVP Requested

Leave a note of your meeting attendance at [jeslezak@earthlink.net](mailto:jeslezak@earthlink.net) or call 920-787-7111 to allow an accurate breakfast food count

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. AIS Control Current & Future – Rob Adams & Onterra LLC
2. Aquatic Plant Harvesting & Future Equipment Plans - Joe Slezak

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. By-Laws Revision Committee Review and discussion
2. Website Revisions: Joe Slezak & Karen Tschurwald
3. Present, Discuss, & Approve the 2022-2023 District Budget- Peggy Thiel
4. Discussion & approval for establishing a non-lapsable budget fund
5. Vote: Change of Annual Meeting Date to June instead of July
6. Election of Gil Steffanides and Peggy Thiel as Commissioners
7. Adjourn Meeting: Next meeting to be June 17 or July 15, 2023

**Chairman's Report...** In preparation for the annual meeting, please read the Onterra Drawdown Report outlining the results of the pre-drawdown grant survey work, as well as the preliminary post drawdown report. Both are posted on our website home page as links. These reports are very comprehensive on the history of AIS control on our lakes and about discoveries made as a result of Onterra's survey work prior to the drawdown. The results of this work will guide the decisions we make regarding lake management in the future. We will refer to this content when we talk about future AIS control plans. Also, please see the drone video that Onterra made of our lakes during the drawdown. This is also linked on the homepage. We look forward to seeing everyone in July Meeting.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TIM DAHLSTRAND

Tim served the District by providing free dam inspections. He engineered the District's recovery during the Great Dam Collapse of 1996. As a civil engineer, Tim and his father Nils first proposed and sought funding for the upgrading of the dam. To get that funding, Tim drew out a plan for the new dam and flume, and developed a hydrological scenario that outlined what would happen if a dam failure occurred. It turned out that it was exactly on target in its predictions. Tim continued to work with the engineers to complete the dam renovations. Later on, he developed the first Dam Emergency Action Plan still in effect for today.

Tim's total service with the District, started as a part time adviser for the District from 1990 -2004...14 years. He served as a full time officer on the Board from 2004 -2021...18 years. That's a combined total of direct and indirect involvement and service to the District for a total of 32 years. A few years ago, Tim established the Friends of Mt. Morris Foundation to secure the future funding of the lakes. His foresight and insight were highly valued, and he will be missed.



### WALL OF FAME NEW 2022 DONORS



### COMMUNICATING LAKE REGULATIONS TO RENTERS

Over the past year, there have been increasing reports of on-lake tension and disrespect between lake residents and lake rental visitors regarding the observance of boating rules and courtesy behavior to all neighbors. We have documented reports that most of this tension comes from cottage renters who frequently "wise mouth back" to residents when bad boating behaviors are cited. This has to stop, and a more respectful approach between renters and residents has to be maintained. The best way to do this is to make sure that when you rent your cottage, make sure your renters are aware of all posted boating rules at the landings and the general environmental behavior that's expected on these lakes.

If you can receive your District news & information by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to: [jeslezak@earthlink.net](mailto:jeslezak@earthlink.net)

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### MT. MORRIS LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

#### Proposed 2022 – 2023 Budget

BUDGET ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET 2021 - 2022	ACTUAL SPEND 2021 - 2022	PROPOSED BUDGET 2022 – 2023
<b>AIS Monitoring &amp; Control</b>	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,719	\$ -
<b>Drawdown</b>	\$ 9,070	\$ 6,819	\$ 10,430
<b>HARVESTING ACTIVITY</b>			
Harvester Labor	\$ 35,487	\$ 32,120	\$ 38,580
Outside Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 16,144	\$ 7,000
Parts/Equipment	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,941	\$ 5,000
Fuel/Oil	\$ 700	\$ 579	\$ 1,000
Storage & License	\$ 3,247	\$ 3,352	\$ 3,620
<b>Insurance</b>	\$ 3,028	\$ 2,513	\$ 5,430
<b>Commissioners</b>	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
<b>Archives &amp; Website</b>	\$ 1,200	\$ 583	\$ 2,580
<b>Dam Ops &amp; Maint</b>	\$ 10,886	\$ 13,288	\$ 11,380
<b>General Operating</b>	\$ 3,599	\$ 3,792	\$ 2,250
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 90,466</b>	<b>\$ 87,100</b>	<b>\$ 89,290</b>

Chapter 33 allows Wisconsin Lake Districts to establish non-lapsable funds used for capital purchases, repairs, services for boat patrols, and maintenance of equipment, but can't be used for operational expenses (to be explained at the July meeting).

### Quick User's Guide to Best Use of Each Lake Environment

**MORRIS LAKE (Lake D):** Largest lake -water skiing and full wake boating from 10:00am – 5:00 pm; Good fishing and kayaking after ski hours is the norm.

**EMERALD LAKE (Lake E):** A small lake; No wake all the time; Known as the "swimming pool" because of its quiet environment: Good for paddle boating.

**RUSSEL LAKE (Lake B):** A small lake where people gather in pontoon boats to enjoy quiet swimming. Don't cross the lake full wake if 2 boats are anchored.

**ALFSON (A) & HANNAH LAKE (C):** Good bass and pan fishing and natural environment for canoeing, kayaking, paddle boards; Preferred no wake on Alfson.



#### Morris Lake "Fill the Lake" Brigade

As Memorial Day weekend approached, panic set in that the lake was still not filled yet for boating. So, some lake residents started their own action plan using buckets, hoses, mobile water tanks, and private water well pumps to ensure that the lake would be filled on schedule!

The District has to conclude important business: Certifying referendums, voting for Commissioners, passing a 2022-23 budget, setting next year's agenda, and discussing new harvester equipment needs for the next 5 years are just a few.

❖ **Commissioner Elections:** Gil Steffenides (replaces Tim Dahlstrand) & Peggy Thiel are up for election as Commissioners for a 3 year term.

❖ **Pontoon Boat Parade:** Line up for parade only at 4:00 pm, 07-23-2022

❖ **Website Revision:** Needs to be upgraded to meet our communication needs. What do you want the website to be? What is missing, or should be added? Send your opinions for improvement to Joe Slezak.

❖ We have gained many new families and we have lost some long time residents. Remember the good times spent with friends passed away.

#### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO ATTEND:

**SATURDAY, JULY 16, 9:00 AM District Meeting**  
**Mountainview Community Center-Hwy 152 & Cty Rd S**  
**BREAKFAST: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM**  
**MEETING: 9:00 AM**

Editor: Joe Slezak - W6346 Big Horn Lane, Wautoma, WI. 54982

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MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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