

Lake Currents

"The newsletter for Members of the Big Roche a Cri Lake District"

~CONTACT US~

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~WEBSITE -

<http://bigrocheacrilake.org>



DON'T FORGET - CHANGES TO THE LAKE ADDRESS BOOK

Please forward any updates for the Lake address book to:

Big Roche A Cri Lake District
PO Box 447
Friendship, WI 53934
or to
Levi & Jackie Olson
4039 North Hall Road
Whitewater, WI 53190

You may also call Jackie Olson at 608.295.1139

Also - it is very important that the Adams County Records note your correct mailing address!

Check on line at

<http://www.adamscountylandrecords.com>

Send your news, comments, pictures for the newsletter to

Mary Ellen Bowgren at kbowgren@sbcglobal.net
Next newsletter - Summer 2008

COMMISSIONERS UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 19th, 2008

Saturday, May 17th, 2008

Unless otherwise notified all Commissioners meetings will be held at 9:00 am at the Adams County Community Center, Room 123
569 N. Cedar Street
Adams, WI 53910



Big Roche-A-Cri Lake District Special Meeting

Saturday, May 24th, 2008

9:00 am

Adams County Community Center
569 N. Cedar Street
Adams, WI 53910

"IMPORTANT MEETING

Lake Draw Down & Dredging"

Agenda

- 1) Approval of Minutes from 5/26/07
- 2) Treasurers Report
- 3) Committee Reports
 - A) Adams County
 - B) Preston Township
 - C) Harvester
 - D) Social Committee
 - E) Lake Management Committee
 - 1) Fall 2008 Draw Down
 - (a) Discussion and possible action
- 4) Old Business
 - A) Report by Candy Chapman
 - 1) What dredging would entail
 - (a) A representative from Inland Dredging will also be available to answer questions
- 5) New Business
- 6) Adjourn
- 7) Fall Annual Meeting – Saturday, 8/30/08

~ PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION FOR THE MEETINGS ~



! Get Together ! **Ice Cream Social**



The Social Committee would like to invite all owners of Big Lake Roche A Cri to join them in an Old Fashion Ice Cream Social. What a wonderful time to share and meet your neighbors on the north, south, east and west of the Lake.

When: Saturday - June 21st, 2008

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Lake District Building - on 13th Avenue

"Bring your chairs"

Enjoy the treats and meet new friends!

For further information contact the Social Committee - Linda Harbort 608.837.8379



Rummage Sale

~~ August 1st and 2nd ~~

Lake District Building

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mark the date for the Annual Big Roche a Cri Rummage Sale. This is the big fund raiser for the Lake District. Bring your items to the storage building during the month of July. Set-up is the week before.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

If you have a large item for sale such as a car, appliance, furniture - bring a picture to post with your information about the item.

Also, don't forget to bring, Thursday during set-up time, those freshly baked items to sell.

Any questions contact the Social Committee - Linda Harbort at 608.837.8379



~Training for Volunteers ~ **AIS Monitoring**

Training for water quality monitoring, aquatic invasives monitoring and clean boats, clean waters will begin soon. Workshops have "in-class" training in the morning, lunch break, and then actual "hands-on" training at the lake. You will be taught how to use the equipment and/or to do the AIS monitoring.

Dates:

5/16/08 (Friday) - Lake Arrowhead Lodge, 1195 Apache Lane, Nekossa/9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

5/17/08 (Saturday) - Jordan Lake, public dock off of County G (entrance to boat dock is just north of Home Again resort entry)/this session is "hands-on" training only at the lake/9:00 a.m.

5/31/08 (Saturday) - New Chester Town Hall, 629 Mason St., Grand Marsh/9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

6/7/08 (Saturday) - Lake Camelot Lodge, 298 Lesiure Lane, Nekossa/9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

For more information or questions contact:

Reesa Evans, Lake Specialist

Certified Lake Manager

Adams County Lane & Water

Conservation Dept

PO Box 287 Friendship, WI 53934

Tele: 608.339.4268 - Fax: 608.339.4504

FOR SALE

Aluminum Cantilever Boat Lift

Holds up to 2,600 lbs.

\$800 or O.B.O

Call 608.564.7675

Picture is not exact but similar to a cantilever boat lift.



Summary of Commissioner's Meetings

November 19, 2007

Adams County

Joyce Kirslenlohr said the Adams County Board Budget should be approved at their next meeting. She also made a comment that the open meetings law requirement say that a door can be closed if a sign is posted outside of the door stating that it is an open meeting.

Treasurer

Ray Heins summarized the Treasurer's report, noting a balance in checking of \$12,721.36. Billings forthcoming will be for the workers compensation insurance and the building insurance, as well as expenses for calendars. A question was raised regarding spraying monies and Ray said that spraying is in the 2008 budget.

Harvester

Jim Miller explained the reporting of loads/weeds to the other members present. He noted that between 2006 & 2007, loads and tons breakdown was given, noting more weeds out of Area 3. This report is confusing due to the 5' and 10' harvester loads. It was thought that this report would be useful for a draw down but the DNR would rely on its' findings of the weed count on the lake. The DNR would determine if a draw down is needed based on their reports. Jim Miller expressed that the finding can be confusing at times and that the DNR is getting more specific in what types of reporting they have in order to make sound judgments regarding a draw down. Discussions continued regarding reporting on a daily basis for the harvesters. It was mentioned that this report was in the Newsletters previously, but for cost reasons it was discontinued. Linda Mohns volunteered to assist Jim Miller with an update reporting of the harvesters use and that this possibly could be posted at the County Deli. A motion was also passed to keep the color of the harvesters as orange for safety reasons. Plans for insulating the Lake building are still in discussions due to costs and information from the Advisory Group. Jim Miller is also looking into purchasing a step-van as a possibility for doing repairs instead of insulating the building. More to be forthcoming.

Advisory Group

Candy Chapman presented the information to move forward with getting the permit to do the draw down for the lake. Candy explained that \$500 was for the permit and their is a 50/50 grant to do this. The costs for the draw down were unknown at this time because the formula to pay the dam

operator was not yet known. Candy also stated that the drawdown would have to be voted on at the Spring meeting. Comments were made that the last draw down was 30" and it was asked if it should be deeper. The Advisory Group would look into this. The motion to allow the Advisory Group to move forward and create the steps necessary to fulfill the obligations of a draw down inclusive of Resolution 1-2007 were passed and the Group will update owners at the Spring meeting. Candy Chapman also said that the Advisory Group would present at the Spring Meeting the information regarding dredging the lake so that it could be voted on at the Annual meeting. It was also discussed that the calendars would be coming out soon and that an order blank would be inserted in the newsletter. Jim Miller made the comment and concern that the Advisory Group seems to have Commissioners on this Group and that it is almost like the Advisory Group/Commissioners Group are one. Candy Chapman clarified that one of the Commissioners attended the meeting on behalf of the Commissioners. It has been mentioned at both the Spring and Annual meetings that volunteers are needed, and these are the people that have come forth. The Advisory Group is a discussion group and it is not a government entity, but that it does research, discusses and recommends to the Lake District.

Gypsy Moth

At the Town of Preston meeting, Linda Mohns reported the the Town voted to use money from regular tax dollars and not from a special assessment. They have set aside \$25,000 for invasive species



*For a good place to eat - why not try
"CJ's Italizn Restaurant"
Alethea & Christopher Carioscia owners
Recommended by Arlene and Mike Safranek - lake owners
Excellent food - homemade Italian dishes - very flavorful!
Located at Rt 82 next door to Family Dollar Store
522 A State Road 82 East, Mauston, WI
Call ahead for hours of operation & directions
608.847.3900
"BON APETITE"*

Summary of Commissioner's Meetings

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Issue #99

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4.10.08

As Linda commented, the Lake District does not have to use the \$10,000 set aside for this in the 2008 budget. Also, at the meeting, some individuals from the Town of Adams wanted to piggy-back on the Town of Preston application for spraying and this was not recommended, for cost collecting purposes and also for liability issues. As discussed, the Town of Adams will do their own application. Linda Mohns noted that their were 11 owners who returned a card saying they did not want to have spraying done on their property. Since the DNR will be doing this, there may be some areas that will be blocked out of spraying even though it was approved at the Annual meeting. Linda pointed out, that the DNR will do everything - sending out notices and making sure the spraying is done correctly. The liability issues and protection of wildlife will be handled by the DNR. Additionally, per the DNR this is a 5-6 year cycle and the Lake is coming up to the tip of the cycle, so in 2008, the DNR predicts infestation will be worse and taper off. Then the Lake District should spray in 2009. The Town of Preston is aware that it may be a 2 year program to do this.



Thanks Linda for your work on this project!

Newsletter

Calendar information was forwarded for the next insert in the newsletter for Fall/Winter. Additionally, Sue Lydon commented that she currently has been forwarding information for the newsletter to Mary Ellen Bowgren, Editor, but that ALL Commissioner's are encouraged to submit to Mary Ellen information, articles, and/or newsworthy Lake info. Owners are most welcome to send information too!

March 8, 2008

Treasurer

Balance in the checking as of this meeting was \$26,002.21. Income in the first three months of the year was mainly from the Town of Preston tax levy. (\$22,199.38). Ray Heins also noted that a CD was rolled over with a rate of 4.1%. Assets total \$29,331.72 and liabilities are \$116,454.00 with a payment (\$23,000) due in May on the harvesters. Additionally, Ray reported that \$43,752.97 was being deposited on 3.8.08, from the February settlement levy with \$16,259 from the levy and \$27,234.00 from the special charge, along with \$258.00 interest from a CD. Ray Heins also noted that the Lake District should

receive about \$14,000 from the Town of Preston special charge and that the remainder of the levy will come from the County in mid-August of approximately \$18,000-\$20,000.

Town of Preston

John Pavelec noted that the winter has all areas running out of salt. He also reported that their is a map, at the Town Hall, showing which properties are going to be sprayed for the gypsy moths. John did comment that their are some areas that are blocked and these will not be sprayed. John Pavelec brought up the comments regarding the Easton Dam. He said their is a big push by the DNR to have free-flowing water because the DNR wants to dispose of the little dams. He also said if you take the dam out, property values could drop approximately 30%. It was mentioned that the cost of replacing the Easton Dam is \$525,000 and with the road cost, it could be \$669,000. It is a 150 year old dam and the DNR said it is unsafe. A motion was made to send a letter to the Adams County Board from the Lake District, stating that this dam should be repaired and/or replaced as needed. Jim Spicenger volunteered to write this letter with a copy being sent to Chris Murphy.

Harvesting

Jim Miller reported that Marlin had not been able to do maintenance due to the winter weather. Jim also has been looking into the purchase of a step-van as a viable option for doing maintenance. He had contacted a few companies and they already have sold their equipment. It's as if you need to act immediately when the opportunity arises to purchase anything of this sort. Additional discussions continued and Ray Heins made the motion to authorize Jim Miller to procure an operable step-van up to \$3,000.00 for tool-storage and maintenance of the harvesting equipment. Motion passed. Jim Miller requested they also have a need for a water pump for the sprayer attachment, winches, brackets and a battery. He spoke with Linda Harbort, Social Committee, and she said that the committee would be able to assist with this purchase. Additional discussions were to hire a person to assist Marlin, be a back-up, with maintenance. Marlin recommended Doug who has been working for the Lake District for two years to see if he would be interested in being Marlin's assistant/back-up. Pay would be commensurate. Jim Miller would report back to the committee at the April meeting if Doug is interested, and if there will be an additional need to hire more cutters.

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Summary of Commissioner's Meetings

(continued from Page 4)

Harvester Parking

Discussions were raised regarding the parking of the harvesters. Jim Miller commented that through the years, there has been talk of purchasing the Billings property. Jim spoke with Mr. Billings, who in turn said he would discuss this with his son, and that if he did sell, he would not want payment all at once. It was discussed that Mr. Billings has always said that he wants to do what is fair for the Lake. Gary Chapman suggested that there be only one contact with the Billings so as not to confuse anyone. Jim Miller recommended that Jim Spicenger talk with Mrs. Billings also.

Adams Land and Water Conservation

Chris Murphy reported that the Conservation Department on the Lake District's behalf applied for and has been awarded a \$100,000 cost-share Lake Protection Grant to be applied to shoreline improvement projects. This money would be used for riparian buffer, shoreline erosion and storm water run-off. Chris Murphy was looking for guidance from the Commissioner's on how to proceed in allocating these funds. As of this meeting there were 30 owners who have applied for shoreline restoration. Extensive discussions as to allocation of the funds continued. Chris also explained to the Commissioner's the typical permit process for this. John Pavelec asked about removing pine trees and how far back an

owner could cut. Chris explained this and still owners may be confused. It is recommended that owners review the updated and revised "Adams County Shoreline Ordinance." It should help clarify on how to handle violations. Copies can be obtained through *Adams County Planning and Zoning*. Ray Heins made the motion to have the Lake District allocate funds, as it has historically, under the Lake Protection Grant with the Adams Conservation Department. There would be a worksheet ranking the priority and the needs of the owners. This worksheet would be submitted and approved by the Commissioner's "prior" to the allocation of funds being used. Motion passed. Gary Chapman then had a question regarding creek banks being stabilized and if monies for this would come from the Lake Protection Grant. Chris Murphy said this would fall with-in another grant and that the Lake District does not have any grants currently for this. Chris said the Conservation Department would have to inventory the stream and look into the programs available. Additionally, Chris commented that the gates on the dam were not closed timely and froze up. Now there is the situation where the gates have been closed except as dictated by law and they are working on getting the water levels back.



Adams County Wisconsin Happenings

May 3, 2008

Flea Market Opens
Flea Market opens for the season.
556 S. Main Street Adams, WI
Call 608.339.3079

June 1, 2008

Annual Open House at Roche A Cri State Park
Free admission to the park and all State parks
Highway 13 north of Adams-Friendship
Call 608.339.6881

May 19, 2008

ATV Trails open for the season
ATC Scavenger hunt.
See Adams County website at <http://www.co.adams.wi.gov> for further information

June 21, 2008

Jammin' on the porch
McGowan House - Blue Grass Concert.
Call 608.339.7732 or visit
<http://www.adamshistory.com>

Where can you look out at 10 counties spreading as far as 120 miles? "On a clear day you can see forever."

Where is the steepest cliff face in Wisconsin?

Where can you find a hand built 303 step staircase?

Right at your own back door!

Find those steps, see the country and follow as the prehistoric creatures did or as the French traders did long ago. - Visit Roche A Cri State Park



Lake Management Plan Advisory Group

Who are they? What do they do?

(Source: website:/bigrocheacrilake.org)



Issue #99

6

4.10.08

This is a Committee that works with the Adams County Land and Water Conservation Department (Chris Murphy) and they act as an Advisory Group that reports to the Board.

Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin State Statutes established the Adams County Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) and the Adams County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD). The LWCC and LWCD have the responsibility of conserving long-term soil productivity, protecting the quality of related natural resources, enhancing water quality and focusing on severe soil erosion problems.

The Big Roche A Cri Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (BRC Lake District) was formed in 1988 to monitor lake water quality and implement best management practices to maintain and improve lake water quality and quantity on Big Roche A Cri Lake.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. It is responsible for implementing the laws of the state and where applicable, the laws of the federal government that protect and enhance the natural resources of our state.

To achieve the purposes of the BRC Lake District, Adams LWCC/LWCD, WDNR a Lake Management Plan was developed. The plan addresses natural resource issues of the lake and also in the lake's watershed. The plan is dynamic and revisions will occur annually to reflect current events and priorities. The BRC Lake District will gather public input on plan at it's annual fall meeting. The BRC Lake District will publicly notify all members of the district and public of the meeting. The BRC Lake District will develop a method to accept written comments from the members and the public who cannot attend. The plan will utilize best management practices, education, and regulations to improve the natural resources. The plan will incorporate human conveniences in a manner that does not compromise the quality and quantity of

the natural resources. All ordinances, policies, and activities associated with the state, county, and town must receive approval from proper authorities.

The plan consists of goals and action items to address natural resource issues and activities for a five-year period. As one year passes, another year of the plan will be added, so the plan will always reflect a five-year period. Scientific studies, community residents, and the general public were inventoried to determine the goals of the plan. A Lake Advisory Group (LAG) was formed to identify action items, write the rough draft of the Lake Management Plan, and in the future assist BRC Lake District with updates and revisions. The LAG consists of WDNR specialists, BRC Lake District Board Representative, lake residents, community businesses, community residents, Adams County Board representative, Preston Township representative and Adams LWCD.

Once the rough draft was written, LAG members disseminated the plan and received feedback. There was also a public meeting held to receive feedback. LAG members met after receiving the feedback from the public and incorporated the feedback as allowable and deemed necessary into the Big Roche A Cri Lake Management Plan.

The BRC Lake District Board is responsible for implementing and updating/revising the Big Roche A Cri Lake Management Plan. The BRC Lake District consists of representatives of lake residents, the Town of Preston, and the Adams County Board.

Copies of the Big Roche A Cri Lake Management plan have been distributed and are available at the following locations: BRC Lake District, Town of Rome, WDNR Service Center in Wisconsin Rapids, Adams Public Library, and the Adams Land and Water Conservation Department.

**Contact Candy Chapman to
volunteer for the Advisor Group
608.564.3227**

