

Greater Bass Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Budget 2008/2009

Expenses:

Newsletter	\$ 650.
Wis. Lakes Assn.	350.
Langlade Lakes Assn.	100.
WAL Seminar & Travel	500.
Bouys, & Signs	100.
Water Testing	350.
Defibrillator	1,500.
Contingency	300.
Total expenses	<u>\$ 3,850</u>

Income

Taxes (rate of .05 mil)	\$ 3,800.
Interest	600.
Total Income	<u>\$ 4,400.</u>

Revenue Gain	<u>\$ 550.</u>
--------------	----------------

Greater Bass Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Treasure's Report 07/08

<u>Savings</u>		
Balance 7/1/07		\$ 4,386.82
(E) Newsletter	221.10	
(I) Interest	1.12	
Balance 7/31/07		4,166.84
(E) WAL Dues	330.00	
(E) Meeting notice	31.98	
(E) Seminar fees	190.12	
(I) '06 Final tax	1,009.38	
(I) Interest	1.04	
Balance 8/31/07		4,625.16
(E) LCWA	50.00	
(I) Interest	1.00	
Balance 9/30/07		4,576.16
(I) Interest	1.03	
Balance 10/31/07		4,577.19
(E) Newsletter	213.15	
(E) H2O Sample shipping	21.45	
(I) Interest	.90	
Balance 11/30/07		4,343.49
(E) Lake Photo	66.41	
(E) UWSP Sampling	140.00	
(I) Interest	.90	
Balance 12/31/07		4,137.98
(I) '07 1 st tax	1,173.18	
(I) Interest	.94	
Balance 1/31/08		5,312.10
(I) '07 2 nd tax	1,116.43	
(I) Interest	.94	
Balance 2/29/08		6,429.19
(I) Interest	.71	
Balance 3/31/08		6,429.90
(I) '08 3 rd tax	21.06	
(E) Postage UWSP	29.20	
(I) Interest	.52	
Balance 4/30/08		6,422.28
(I) Interest	.52	
Balance 5/31/08		6,422.80
(E) WEAP sample	140.00	
(E) WAL seminar	74.22	
(E) Newsletter	218.97	
(I) Interest	.52	
Savings Balance 6/30/08		5,990.13
Certificate of Deposit 04/07/08		12,347.91
Certificate of Deposit 11/30/2007		<u>11,040.61</u>
Total Funds		\$ 29,378.65

BASS LAKE RIPPLES

(NAUTICAL & NICE NEWS - Greater Bass Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District)

VOLUME 11, NO. 1

SPRING 2008

LAKE DISTRICT OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN.....Jerry Jacobus
VICE-CHAIRMAN....Fred Kestly
SEC. TREAS.Bill Mattek
LANGLADE Co. Rep .Tom Schultz
UPHAM REP.....Rodger Lodholz

BASSLAKE RIPPLES CO-EDITORS
DICK & CAROL HORNECK
(715) 275-4359

- * Fisheries Information
- * Lake Water Levels
- * Lake Water Quality
- * Defibrillator Purchase
- * Approve 2008/2009 Budget
- * Election of Commissioner
- * Any other New Business
- * Adjourn

GREATER BASS LAKE P & R DISTRICT BUDGET

LAKE DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The 2008 annual meeting of the Greater Bass Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, July 19, 2008 at the Upham Town Hall in Summit Lake (next to the Post Office). Come and support our new chairman, our district officers, but more important than that, come because you care about the beauty and safety of our wonderful lake!

We all share the responsibility for our lake, so it certainly should be worth taking an hour out of your life to help the board carry out the business of what is best for our lake. The more people who show an interest makes it much more likely that our lake can prosper and improve!

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- * Call to Order
- * Approve Minutes of 2007 Meeting
- * Treasurer's Report/Approval
- * Invasive Species

Expenses:

Newsletter	\$ 650.
Wisconsin Lakes Assoc.	350.
Langlade Waterways As.	100.
AL Seminar & Travel	500.
Buoys and Signs	100.
Water Testing	350.
Defibrillator	1,500.
Contingency	300.

Total Expenses **\$3,850.**

Income :

Taxes (rate of .05 mil)	\$3,800.
Interest	600.

Total Income **\$4,400.**

Balance **\$ 550.**

FISHERIES INFORMATION

In talking with DNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Seibel, we learned that there is **no fish activity scheduled by them for this season on our lake.** The kind of survey they did in the past is conducted **about every 10 years on any given lake.** Dave's team covers about 1,000 lakes in 2 counties. He was happy to hear the

reports of people catching better sized Bass, and even Bluegills!

There is however, one type of fish study involving Greater Bass Lake sooner than that regular 10-year rotation. **We are scheduled to be part of a Musky netting survey in 2009-2010, and we will report as we hear more about this in the future.**

LAKE INCIDENTS & SAFETY

Tim Otto, DNR Warden for our area, wishes to remind us all that life jackets are needed by all out on the lake. **Non-motorized boats (fishing, canoes, kayaks, etc.) seem to have a higher incidence of accidents where life jackets worn could really make a difference.** People tend to move around in these and some types are not so stable, and falling into the lake is more likely than from a runabout or pontoon.

Our biggest problem on Bass Lake continues to be the PWC's (Personal Water Crafts), especially in the narrows between the bays. **The only way one craft can meet or pass another safely there is with slow-no-wake speed, whether you are towing a skier or inflatable or not.** During the winter Tim measured the distances across the ice from shore to shore; he found the distances to be between 120 ft. and just over 200 feet. It definitely proved that **nowhere there is it wide enough as you go from main body to bays or between bays to be skiing, pulling towables, etc. at anything other than at slow-no-wake speed.**

Until some of our violators are reported, we run a **greater risk of having a tragic accident with serious injuries or even death.** We recently learned that there is actually a **phone chain operating** when DNR Wardens are present on the lake. As a result, the ticketing of violators is much lower than it might be, and we all continue to have to deal with speeding PWC's and Ski Boats passing pontoons, etc. and jeopardizing not only the quiet of a nice leisurely boat ride, but the safety of the occupants as well. A recent sighting of a PWC towing three towables or

water toys was especially disturbing to see operating illegally by **not even having a spotter aboard.** That spotter's role is crucial to the safety of the people being towed for skiing or riding on towables, etc. **Review your boating regulations manual, and pass on regulations and common sense safety guidelines to your family and guests.**

Our beautiful lake is becoming portrayed as one where residents are not interested in law enforcement and safety, and where it is treated far too lightly with poor attitudes. It is rare that the DNR gets a report of violators out on the lake from someone trying to improve things here. This does not have to be the case; **it is up to individuals to stick to the laws and common sense safety practices if we want to change that image and protect our families and friends.** If you see some of these blatant violations, take a picture and call in the problem to the DNR violations Hotline (800-847-9367). Wardens do not have to be present when violations occur in order to issue a citation.

SEPTIC STUDY UPDATE

The three phases of our lake's septic system inspection and orders for replacement where necessary are now completed. **Everyone who received orders to replace their systems has complied with that.** At times there may be isolated instances where it was not possible to discern the exact nature and/or condition of a system. According to the Langlade County Land Records & Regulations Dept. those **questionable cases usually become resolved when property is sold, new construction or a remodeling project is undertaken, and permits granted**

At this time we can be **grateful for all of the new systems installed that help make this lake a safer and healthier place for everyone.** We would again urge that if you have any doubts about your own system, call the Zoning Department at (715) 627-6206 for information and assistance.

WISCONSIN'S NEW PIER REGULATIONS

In April of this year new legislation concerning the placement of piers on Wisconsin waterways went into effect. Piers have been a hot topic in the news since 2004 when the Wisconsin Legislature set size requirements to exempt certain piers from permit requirements.

Why the concern? Piers can cause unintended side effects for navigation and shoreland habitat. Piers that are too long or have many boats can block other users' enjoyment of water. Research shows that **large decks on piers block growth of aquatic plants.** These plants are an important food source for fish and wildlife, and prevent algae growth.

The new 2008 legislation expands the configuration options for exempt piers, provides greater flexibility in the number of boat slips permitted for commercial and multi-family lots, and creates a registration system to grandfather certain pre-2004 piers that no longer meet today's standards. **Most piers do not require a permit from the Department of Natural Resources, and are not subject to permit fees.**

An existing or new pier can be placed without a DNR permit or fee, if it meets the standard dimensions (see below) and a few other requirements. All requirements for exemptions are described in DNR's brochure *Pier Planner* (DNR pub. # FH-017), available at www.dnr.wi.gov. A 2005 DNR study showed that 85% of all existing piers already meet these requirements, so most waterfront owners already have exempt piers and don't need to do anything differently!

IF YOUR PIER IS NOT EXEMPT, but you had it before 2004, go ahead and enjoy it - just don't expand or modify it. Most of these piers are eligible to be grandfathered through a one-time free registration process. To be eligible for registration piers must:

*Have been placed before 2/6/2004.

*Have maximum 8 foot stem width.

*Have a loading platform at the end of the pier that is a maximum of 200 square feet, or a maximum of 300 square feet if the platform is 10 feet wide or less.

*Not interfere with the rights of other riparian (waterfront) owners.

Existing piers that meet these criteria must be registered with the DNR by April 1, 2011. A 2005 DNR study showed that around 10% of all existing piers that do not meet the exemption criteria already meet the grandfather requirements, so most waterfront owners that do not have exempt piers will need to register.

Of course you can also choose to modify your pier so it meets the exemption requirements. Then you won't need to register your pier.

IF YOU HAVE AN EXISTING PIER WITH A LARGE DECK (more than 300 sq. feet) on it, your deck can be causing harm to habitat, navigation or your neighbor. If your pier has a stem more than 8 feet wide or a deck platform more than 300 square feet and 10 feet wide, you should downsize your pier to meet the new basic exemption standards; then you would not be required to register or get a permit from the Dept. for your pier. Or you can downsize your pier to meet the grandfathered standards and do the one-time free registration.

If you are selling your property, the pier's status transfers to the new owner.

FOR NEW PIERS, follow the requirements described in the *Pier Planner* to be sure your pier is exempt. New piers can be installed without a permit if they meet the exemption standards. Permits are required for piers that are larger than the dimensional standards or have more boats.

The DNR has never required a waterfront owner to remove their pier. **Flags, flowerpots, and benches are all fine to have on a pier.** If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, the DNR can assist you in coming up with reasonable solutions so every waterfront can enjoy navigational access and be in compliance with state laws.

Once additional law changes have been completed, **clear definitions, procedures and standards will make it easy for everyone to follow the rules, and maintain the quality of our state's water resources for all to enjoy.**

EXEMPT PIER SIZES

WIDTH - Maximum **6 foot wide** for the pier. If the pier is not located in an Area of Special Natural Resource Interest a maximum **8 feet long by 8 feet wide loading platform or deck** is allowed at the end of a pier.

LENGTH - The **length needed** to moor your boat or use a boat lift, or 3-foot water depth, whichever is greater.

LOCATION - Does not interfere with the rights of other riparian (waterfront) owners.

NUMBER OF BOATS - 2 for the first 50 feet of frontage, 1 for every additional full 50 feet.

LOONS ON BASS LAKE

It was exciting to get a call (while we were still in Florida in April) reporting loons back on the lake! **The last reports from various lake residents would seem to indicate we may actually have two pairs this year!** One pair has been seen out and about on the main body lately with a baby traveling on the back of one of the parents. Another pair has been spotted spending time in the southernmost bay, perhaps still nesting? We'll know more as the season unfolds and **we all enjoy the sightings of these magnificent creatures we are so blessed to have here.**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE LOONS AT LEAST 200 FEET.

4TH OF JULY, 2008

About this time of year our thoughts start turning towards the wonderful Independence Day Celebration on Greater Bass Lake. **Our Annual Boat Parade will begin at 4:00 P.M. on Friday, July 4th, down on the southern end of the lake.** Last year's weather was a bit "iffy"

and we had more join in as we were heading out. **Let's make an effort to line up in that southern area and then tour the area over across in the bay nearest the boat landing.** If we miss them at the beginning, they usually miss most of the parade, as boats drop off during our return trip.

Our **Annual Fireworks Extravaganza** will again be held as the sky darkens, on **Friday, July 4th.** Our Fireworks fund collection chairperson Gail Kestly has prepared and distributed folders to the volunteers who come out calling on you. **Please be generous with your donations to keep this wonderful show tradition at the level of quality we have all come to enjoy.**

If you are interested in helping Paul Payant and his crew with the set-up and/or shooting of the evening fireworks show, please call him at (715) 275-4221. Thanks!

REGULATIONS REMINDER FOR BOATING ON THE LAKE

Earlier in this newsletter we talked about **slow-no-wake speeds** going in and out of the main body of Bass Lake and also between the bays. This not only **increases safety** for all people and crafts out there, but **reduces the damage to shorelines significantly** in those narrower areas.

Here's the official rule:

Wisconsin boating regulations require slow-no-wake speeds anytime the PWC is within 2100 feet of any other boat or PWC, and also when PWC is within 200 feet of the shoreline of any lake.

Further, it is **ILLEGAL** to operate a PWC at **ANY speed within 100 feet of a boat towing a skier, the tow rope of a boat, or the person involved in skiing or a similar activity.** The boaters involved in skiing, etc. **must likewise remember that it is illegal for them or their tow ropes to get within 100 feet of personal watercrafts, anchored boats, or boat landings.**

*******Plans are in the works for revising our Lake Directory. Check your directory copy & call us with any corrections. Thanks!**