

BASS LAKE RIPPLES

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

VOLUME 13, NO 1

Summer 2011

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WHERE IS OUR NEWSLETTER?

As issues arose during the year, the decision was made to postpone the newsletter until summer in order to update everyone on the latest developments concerning the lake and the area. We apologize for the inconvenience if you were not aware of the change in date for the 4th of July Parade and fireworks.

Northern Wisconsin had one of the best 4th of July weather weekends in a long time, including the parade and fireworks day on Saturday, July 2nd. Plans currently call for a similar change for next year. Because of Leap Year, the 4th will fall in the middle of the week. Greater Bass Lake will celebrate with the parade and fireworks on the Saturday before the 4th, thereby allowing that Sunday (or Wed. July 4th) for a rain date if necessary.

LAKE DISTRICT TAXES

The Greater Bass Lake District finds it necessary this year to increase our mill rate. This will allow us to pay back borrowed funds that enabled the district to meet legal expenses plus cover additional legal cost.

GREATER BASS LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 13th, 2011-3:00 P.M.

Upham Town Hall, Hwy. B, Summit Lake, WI

1. Call to Order – Introduce Committee
2. Approve Minutes of 2010 Annual Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Water Quality Report
5. Summit Lake Water Flow Issue & Road Culvert Update; Recognition of Deepwood-Waterpower-Kettle Lake Association (Our Partners)
6. 2011-2012 Budget Approval with Proposed Temporary Tax Increase to Pay Debt
7. Election of new Commissioner
8. New Business
9. Adjourn

WHO HAS SEEN THE LOONS?

Reports vary as to time, number, and location, but lake residents were happy to see the return of the loons. Earlier in the season some were privileged to see a baby riding on the parent's back, always an amazing sight. Please remember to keep a respectful distance that allows the loons to live among us as stress free as possible.

FIREWORKS

Thank you to Paul Payant and his crew for their hard work setting up and firing another great fireworks show. We also send a big thank you to Gail and the collectors who made their rounds, and to all who donated to the annual Greater Bass Lake fireworks fund this year. We realize many of you may have been missed. Just a reminder that donations for the fireworks can still be sent to: Gail Kestly at W10766 Bass Lake Road, Deerbrook, WI 54424. Please make checks out to Bass Lake Fireworks. Thank you!

GREATER BASS LAKE DISTRICT WEB SITE

By Roger Sell, Chairman

The Greater Bass Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District has a website that is part of the Town of Upham's Website. The address is: www.townofupham.org. We will use this site in the section titled "Notices" to keep District members informed regarding the activities and results of our actions regarding the Lake. We suggest you reference the website periodically to learn, what if anything is happening. We have had difficulty putting information on this site, but it is now resolved.

We will also try to publish the RIPPLES on this website with the intent of reducing our mailing costs for those who would be willing to receive the newsletter this way.

FOREST ROAD CULVERT UPDATE

The Town of Upham has received a Notice of Violation from the Department of Natural Resources, regarding the Forest Road culvert between Summit Lake and Bass/Lady Lakes. A Notice of Violation meeting was held on July 14th, between the Town of Upham and the Department of Natural Resources which resulted in no resolution.

The DNR explained its problem with the Forest Road Culvert being too high, thereby negatively affecting the free flow of aquatic species between the lakes. The Town, in a rush to replace the old culvert did not fully understand the DNR's conditional permit at the time, installed the new culvert lower than the existing culvert, but apparently not low enough.

The DNR indicated its willingness to work with the Town in terms of the timeline for a proper repositioning but not so far into the future when the new plastic culvert wears out. Note: the DNR did state at the meeting that the elevation of the culvert was not the cause of the lower lake levels.

The Town is between “a rock and a hard place”, it doesn’t want to spend the money to lower the culvert, yet if it doesn’t it will be subject to expensive fines imposed for non-compliance, or incur legal expenses fighting the DNR order.

The Town plans to discuss its options and plans at the August Town meeting. You and your neighbors should attend and contact the Upham Town Board members and express your opinion regarding this issue.

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The goal here should be for the Upham Town Board and all of its residents (regardless of which lake they live on) to work together for the good of all of the lakes and Town residents. Today the issue is a culvert; tomorrow it may be the problem of invasive species attacking our lakes. Only through cooperation will we be able to deal with whatever comes our way.

Water Flow Report

Last June a resident on Summit Lake living near the culvert between Summit Lake and Bass Lake applied for a permit to place fill near the Summit Lake outlet. This application was denied. The resident and the Summit Lake Association appealed this decision. In March of 2011 there was a three day hearing on this matter, on April 25th the Wisconsin Division of Hearings and Appeals ordered that the DNR’s decision to deny the permit be upheld and the petition for review be dismissed. The group then appealed to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources to review the permit denial and subsequent decision of the Division of Hearings and Appeals to uphold the denial; this appeal was denied by the Secretary in May. A final appeal on this matter has been filed to have the Langlade County Judicial Judge review the proceedings of the March hearing. This request was made in June. The Judge has not made a decision at this time, and it could be early 2012 before this matter is settled.

Another matter of concern has been the need to re set the culvert at Forest Road. The DNR has done field investigations and survey and has determined that the culvert which was set in 2006 was placed too high. Our Town Board has refused to consider lowering this culvert to the proper level. Because of the Town Boards’ lack of cooperation, the DNR has given the Township a Notice of Violation (NOV), and held an enforcement meeting with the Town on July 14th. The Town was represented by two Board members and Chairman Larry Anderson. Chairman Anderson made it clear that the Township does not intend to comply with this order to lower the culvert. However, the DNR did not waiver on the need to bring this culvert into compliance.

We continue discussions with the DNR regarding a couple of important matters. There continues to be a need for remediation of the buried Riprap (aka - sand burm) that remains and continues to obstruct the outlet at the Summit lake edge. Mr. Munger received a Compliance Notice May 3, 2010 from the DNR which required him to modify the height and slope of his Riprap. He was ordered to remove rocks from this Riprap in order to be in compliance with his 1989 after the fact permit. Photos that were part of this report shows that some of these excessive rocks had collapsed into the outlet stream. He was ordered to remove these rocks. At this time the DNR will not pursue further corrective actions at the Summit Lake edge/outlet until all the appeals are exhausted by Mr. Munger and Summit Lake Association (regarding their application to place “fill” at the Summit Lake outlet and streambed). That “fill” permit denial is going through an appeal as mentioned above.

In order to insure that no illegal dams are reconstructed in the outlet, constant monitoring of this outlet is needed. We are getting a great deal of help on this. The culvert, streambed and Summit Lake outlet are being regularly monitored & photographed (voluntarily) by members of the Lake Association from Waterpower, Kettle, and Deepwoods with the intention of keeping historical records of any changes and contacting the DNR when any changes are identified. However we need help from our District members as well. Last October a rock dam was discovered and thanks to the help of the Langlade County District Attorney the dam was removed within days of discovering it. This resulted in a flow of water into the lake chain all winter long.

A E D TRAINING

There will be an AED training class at the Bass Lake Golf Course Clubhouse on August 15th, at 9:00 A.M. The cost will be paid by the District. Anyone interested call Michelle Arlen at 715-216-1004

REMINDER - -

Next Town Board Meeting
Tuesday – August 2nd 7:00 P.M.

Town meeting are at 7:00 P.M. on the
First Tuesday of the Month

Lake District Meeting - -
Saturday August 13th at 3:00 P.M.

May everyone enjoy the rest of the summer.