



P.O. Box 93  
Star Prairie, WI 54026  
cedarlake-wi.org



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A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

July 2018

## Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

# ANNUAL MEETING

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 4, 2018

Star Prairie Town Hall, 2118 Cook Drive, Somerset, WI

Agenda items will include the presentation of alum treatment results and recommendations, Eurasian water milfoil and invasive species management, alum treatment update, Treasurer's report and presentation/ approval of \$84,300 operational budget and \$594,000 2019 alum treatment budget (\$200,000 WDNR grants, \$56,627 non-lapsable fund, and \$337,373 2018/19 special assessment), commissioner election, public comments and input.

The detailed operational budget may be viewed at any of the following during regular business hours:

- Star Prairie Community Center at 207 Bridge Ave., Star Prairie, WI.
- Town of Star Prairie Town Hall at 2118 Cook Dr., Somerset, WI.
- Town of Alden Town Hall at 183 155th St. Star Prairie, WI.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE ALDEN TOWN HALL, 183 155TH STREET, STAR PRAIRIE, WI.**

## ALUM UPDATE

### ALUM TREATMENT UPDATES

Cedar Lake residents enjoyed clearer, safer water in 2017 following a June 2017 alum treatment. With only 20 percent of the recommended alum dose applied so far, there was a greater than 33 percent decrease in phosphorus released from the deepest portions of the lake. Phosphorus is the nutrient that drives algae blooms in Cedar Lake, and most of this phosphorus comes from the lake sediments in waters 20 feet and deeper.

Bill James from UW-Stout is heading up water quality and sediment monitoring for the Cedar Lake alum treatment. He and his students collected water and sediment samples and took them back to the lab for analysis. As reported in our December 2017 newsletter, water quality and sediment results were all positive. The decreased sediment release of phosphorus resulted in less phosphorus, less algae growth, and clearer water at the surface of the lake.

Water quality and sediment monitoring not only gives us a good reading on how well the alum is working, it also helps us to refine our strategy for future alum treatments. A brief algae bloom in late summer 2017, reminded us that a higher alum dose sooner would be a good idea to give us extra protection against algae blooms. Alum monitoring is supported by a grant from the WDNR which pays 2/3 of the cost. UW-Stout is contributing a portion of the required match with the remainder coming from the Lake District.

### HOW DOES THE ALUM TREATMENT WORK?

Alum is applied through the hoses that extend from the rear of the barge shown in the photo. The alum itself is a white, milky substance which precipitates in the water, strips phosphorus from the water column, then forms a protective layer of alum between the lake sediments and the lake water. This layer binds phosphorus as it is released from the bottom sediments when there is no oxygen present. Reducing the amount of phosphorus reduces the amount of algae and associated water quality concerns.



### PAYING FOR THE ALUM TREATMENT

Alum treatments are paid for with a combination of special assessments on lake district parcels and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grants. Special assessments are graduated by parcel based on proximity to the lake, size, and lake access.

### RECOMMENDED 2019 ALUM TREATMENT

We announced earlier this year that our application for a \$200,000 WDNR grant for the second alum treatment was successful. The board is proposing to use these grant funds to treat a full year ahead of schedule with a higher alum dose. According to rates in our alum bid for 2020, we will be able to add another 22% dose in 2019 bringing the lake to 42% of the full alum dose. Future alum application timing and doses will depend upon monitoring results.

### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Read the lake management plan and lake plan summary. They are both available on the Lake District website: <http://www.cedarlake-wi.org/> The website also includes the 2017 alum monitoring report, additional reports and data, and minutes from Lake District board meetings.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are non-native plants or animals that can take over and alter the ecosystem. They are successful because they have few or no natural predators and can spread quickly, out-competing native species. Invasive species impact our ability to use the lake for recreational purposes (swimming, fishing, etc.), can reduce property values, and are expensive to control.

### VOLUNTEER MONITORING

Cedar Lake recently initiated a team of volunteers to augment paid, professional monitoring this past year. Adding citizen monitors allows us to cover more of the lake and increase our chances of detecting an infestation early when it is easier and cheaper to combat.

Six of your fellow property owners received training in monitoring methods and invasive species identification. Their "high-tech" tools include underwater viewers to visually inspect for non-native vegetation and rakes to throw into the water to pull up samples for hand inspection. The real learning happens this summer when we get on the lake. The focus for this summer is Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) and zebra mussels. For EWM we will look in 3-7 feet of water where weeds are actively growing in mid-June through August. For zebra mussels, we will look on hard surfaces like docks and lifts.



Eurasian Milfoil found on Cedar Lake

## WEB/EMAIL NOTICES

To receive this newsletter and other lake notices electronically, subscribe to our email list!

Go to <http://cedarlake-wi.org> and join our list in the upper right corner of the home page.



The Volunteer Monitoring Team seeks volunteers to monitor shoreline stretches for Eurasian water milfoil and other aquatic invasive species. Training is provided.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Denny Peterson  
715-220-5208  
dennyrobin22@gmail.com  
OR  
Jim Reckinger  
651-895-3510  
jimreck@aol.com

## MANAGING OUR LAKE PROPERTIES

Runoff water that enters the lake from waterfront properties carries nutrients and sediment. Lake residents can take measures to reduce runoff and help extend the life and effectiveness of the alum treatment. Allowing tall, natural vegetation to grow near the water is a great way to accomplish this goal. Another simple measure is to be sure not to blow leaves into the lake. Decaying leaves release nutrients and create muck at the lake bottom.

### HEALTHY LAKES NATIVE PLANTINGS

Several lake residents signed up to participate in Cedar Lake's Healthy Lakes Native Planting Program. Participating residents decided to plant native plants to decrease runoff from their properties and add habitat for birds, butterflies, and other creatures close to the water. These 350 ft<sup>2</sup> plantings will be underway late this summer and into next year. Look for project results on our web site. Plantings are supported by a 75 percent grant from the Department of Natural Resources. The Lake District also provides technical assistance to help you select the right plants and to explain the process. There are just a couple of open slots for this program for 2018 and 19. Please contact Cheryl at 715-268-9992 or [harmonyenv@amerytel.net](mailto:harmonyenv@amerytel.net) if you are interested in planting native plants in a 350ft<sup>2</sup> area along your shoreline. Note that these plantings are intended to replace existing lawn or other disturbed areas and need to be at least 10 feet deep starting at the water's edge.



### MAINTAINING ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Much of the development around Wisconsin lakes occurred prior to the existence of modern standards for roads. As a result, many private roads providing lake access are notoriously difficult for emergency and other service vehicles to navigate. They are narrow, may have overhanging vegetation, and lack easy turn-arounds. We asked New Richmond Fire Chief, Jim Vanderquist, for advice on how to improve this situation.

The fire chief sent a reminder of state statutes that require maintaining access for fire department vehicles. Critical provisions include maintaining minimum unobstructed road widths of at least 20 feet and vertical clearance of at least 13.5 feet. Obstructions such as tree branches that encroach on these openings should be removed. Vehicles should not be parked so that they narrow the road width.

## PARTNER UPDATES

A new 22 foot by 32 foot picnic shelter will be available for use late this summer at the North Landing. The project is sponsored by Star Prairie Fish and Game in cooperation with the Town of Alden who provided support with site preparation. Thank you to all of the volunteers who donated labor for this project!

## THANK YOU TO OUR GRANT FUNDERS

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:

- \$200,000 Lake Protection Grant (Alum Treatment - 2017)
- \$165,000 Targeted Runoff Management Grant (Alum Treatment - 2017)
- \$200,000 Lake Protection Grant (Alum Treatment – Proposed 2019)
- \$50,000 Lake Planning Grants (Alum Treatment Monitoring - 2017 to 2019)
- \$9,652 Lake Protection Grant (Healthy Lakes Native Planting – 2018 to 2019)
- \$4,000 Clean Boats, Clean Waters (2018)

Star Prairie Fish and Game (Eurasian Water Milfoil Hand Removal – 2017 and 2018) \$1,000

