

**Found Lake Property Owners Association  
PO Box 125  
St. Germain, WI 54558**

May 2022

Dear Association Members and Found Lake Property Owners,

The lake ice went out late this year and the buoys are finally in place. The loons and eagles (with baby) are back and the lake water level is high right now. As usual we had quite a bit of winter activity to update everyone on and to report on new information for this summer as well. Please note - a separate Membership Form and Picnic registration is attached.

### **Annual Meeting/ Picnic 7/9/2022**

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED ON SATURDAY, JULY 9th. MEETING TIME IS 11 AM AND THE LOCATION WILL REMAIN VANDERVORT PARK ON LOST LAKE DRIVE NORTH. We will again have Subway sandwiches but this year we will additionally have potato salad and a dessert. An order form with details is attached for you to place orders and pay in advance for Subway sandwiches for the picnic. Because of the rapidly rising food cost the picnic price will increase. Additionally, because Subway could not guarantee prices for turkey or roast beef, we will have limited selections. The cost will be \$ 8.00 for each 6" sub meal - you will have a choice of Tuna salad, Ham, BMT or Cold Cut Combo. Potato chips, potato salad, dessert, soda and water will be provided. *The deadline for ordering and paying for the food will be **June 28th**.*

### **Boat Parade 7/2/2022**

There will be a 4th of July Boat parade this year on Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM. We will start out at the Schell's dock (NE corner of lake w/Packer wind sock). Prizes for best decorated boats will again be donated by Ed and Ann Sturzl.

### **Water Quality Concerns – Reminders**

Water quality degradation was the primary concern for 66% of the 53 Found Lake Property owners surveyed in the Lake Management Plan completed last year under a DNR grant. Our board wants to stress the importance of keeping fertilizer, grass, leaves and pine needles out of the lake. Not only do leaves and grass contribute to bottom sediment but they contain phosphorus which is a major contributor to algae growth. If you must fertilize make sure you use non phosphorus fertilizer- Wisconsin has banned the use of phosphorus on lawns. The water quality survey done in 2020 by an outside consultant (Onterra) stated we have had an increase in the phosphorus level in Found lake of over 20 percent in the past five years! Please don't blow or mow your leaves and grass clippings into the lake and if you have a lawn service let them know that it is unlawful to do so. Remember, according to UW a pound of phosphorus creates 500 pounds of algae. Recent studies have found that increased wave action and prop turbulence from boats close to shore accelerates a decrease in water quality. Not only does this activity stir up bottom sediment and sludge floating on the surface but it releases trapped phosphorus thus magnifying the growth of algae.

As a reminder, it is unlawful to operate a boat at greater than “**slow no wake speed**” within 100 feet of the shoreline OR any dock, raft or swimmer. This rule is 200 feet for Personal watercraft. It is being found that even at these distances, wave/prop turbulence leads to degraded water quality. *For the sake of protecting the lake, it is highly recommended that all high-speed boating activity stay as far to the middle of the lake as possible.*

### **Boat Inspection Volunteers -Clean Boats Clean Waters**

We again applied for and received a \$4000 CBCW grant for paid intern inspectors at the boat ramp for 203 hours of inspections. This amount is fully refundable by the grant if we provide 104 hours of volunteer time at the ramp. We need our old standby volunteers and new ones as well to help achieve this goal again this year. Any amount of time would be helpful. We will provide "on the ramp" training for anyone new willing to help us out. This becomes more important as some of our members have aged and can no longer help out. Bob Schell will send out the schedule to those of you on the volunteer list this week. Please email Bob if you are not on our list and wish to volunteer at [rsschell@msn.com](mailto:rsschell@msn.com).

### **Fisheries Planning**

As reported last year, the Town of St Germain Lakes Committee has an ongoing project to formalize a fisheries plan for all the lakes in St Germain. The fisheries plan is to have one person from each lake coordinate efforts with the DNR Fisheries Biologist. Your board selected Ed Kindlarski as the Found Lake representative. Ed, an avid fisherman and long-time resident of Found Lake, has been working on this task and will give us a brief status report at the annual meeting.

### **Election**

The positions of Vice Chairman currently held by Paul Bartnik, Treasurer held by Judy Schell, and board member positions held by Donna Rollmann and Chuck Thier remain unchanged this year. The terms of office for the positions of Chairman - Bob Schell, Secretary - Kay Schultz are up for reelection at the annual meeting. Board member Dianne Dieter has decided to retire from the board after many years of service. Thank you, Dianne, for your efforts. Jon Strom, a year-round lake resident and local businessman, has agreed to run for this vacant board position. Anyone interested in running for any of the open positions should contact Kay Schultz at 715 542-3912.

### **Found Lake Road Construction**

The rebuild of the Phase 2 Found Lake Road Project is scheduled for this summer. Phase 2 is the stretch from Dean Road to Four Corner Lane. The work was to begin on May 16<sup>th</sup> but was delayed a month by the contractor.

### **Town of St Germain Fiber Optic Project**

The new high speed internet Fiber optic project was detailed here last year. The \$1.2 million installation (over half covered by grants) of fiber optics to every dwelling in the town is somewhat behind schedule but is now scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023. Every dwelling/business in St Germain will have the cable run from the street to the house as part of the project. **You must sign up for this at the Town website** at

(townofstgermain.org/fiberopticproject) **if you haven't already**. The good news for seasonal people is that the contract allows for no additional fee for part year connection. See the town website and get signed up - we will discuss more at our annual meeting

## **Grant Activity**

Below is a brief summary of the ongoing Grant activity:

### **DNR Grant AEPP62721- Town of St German/Found Lake PO Association - Install Boat Landing Monitoring System at Found Lake Landing.**

Last year we installed the ILIDS camera system at our boat landing. As reported last year, almost all of the equipment/installation costs were paid by the DNR grant and the Town of St Germain. The main intent of the camera is to act as a deterrent and a reminder to boaters to help reduce the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Videos of people launching boats are sent up to the internet cloud and reviewed by our contractor with violations reported to the proper authorities. A prominent sign and audio message welcomes boaters and reminds them to follow AIS rules and that they are on camera. In the first year of operation with the camera no violations occurred during the approximately 800 launches recorded. In many instances, boaters would notice and read the ILIDS sign then go back to their boat and look carefully for weeds on their boat or trailer. We will discuss this more at the annual meeting.

### **DNR Grant #AIRR24719.1 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)- Early Detection and Response Grant.**

As reported at last year's annual meeting, a small new patch of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was found on the north side of the island during the June 2021 survey by our contractor, Onterra. As covered in our grant, we paid for a contractor to hand pull the (about 15 stems) EWM. The August 2021 weed survey did not show any invasives. We will have another weed survey in June of this year to check for any new signs of AIS.

### **Lake Management/ Planning Grant LPL171019**

This is a joint multiyear project done in conjunction with the Town of St German-Town Lakes Committee that was reported on last year. Early this year the results of this project were finally approved by the DNR and published on the Town Web site. As mentioned elsewhere in this letter, the study showed increased phosphorus in Found Lake and also included findings of dramatic decreases in many weed species since 2010. This is mainly attributed to the decrease in water clarity due to our wet seasons resulting in more dissolved organic matter making our water darker in color - thus less light for weeds to grow. This is a concern for all of us if we want to keep the lake a high-water quality lake. We intend to publish a summary for Found Lake owners when the findings are final.

An interesting section of the plan was the results of the survey sent to all Found Lake property owners. A total of 53 property owners responded and almost all expressed a deep concern for the quality of the lake and measures to keep preserving the quality of Found Lake. The top three categories given as a reason for owning property on Found Lake were 1. Relaxing/Entertaining 47%, 2. Fishing 19%, and Nature Viewing 13% for a total of 79%. The remaining reasons were Swimming 6%, Snowmobiling 6 %, motor boating 4%, water skiing/tubing 2% and Others at 4%. The full report and survey are available on the Lakes committee section of the Town website.

## **Town of St Germain -Town Lakes Committee – Update**

The Town Lakes Committee meets once a month year around. Found Lake is represented by two voting members and an alternate. The committee is involved in most of the items listed in this newsletter as well as other items effecting all the lakes in St. Germain. Since this is a governmental body, all committee activity is (and has been) posted on the town website in accordance with open records procedures. Additionally this committee started up a Facebook page to help get the word out about important topics- it can be found on Facebook by typing “Town of St Germain Lakes Committee” when on Facebook.

Some of the other items the committee has been looking at are:

- Working on a new courtesy code sheet outlining lake etiquette especially for uninformed first-time visitors/boaters.
- Increased traffic problems on the area lakes resulting in many safety problems and complaints.
- Feasibility of a DNR sponsored Boat Safety patrol for all the lakes in the town.
- Setting up a social media page (Facebook) to allow for better communication of activities.
- Coordination with appropriate DNR/Vilas County resources (Grants etc.)
- Manage Town Funds allocated to Lake Improvements

## **Closing**

We hope to see you on July 9th at our annual meeting/picnic. We will be covering most of the items above. Remember to occasionally check our web page on the Town of St Germain website mentioned above. We invite all new property owners to join us for the annual meeting and parade. In closing, here is a saying for all of us to think about.

*"We didn't inherit (Found) Lake from our ancestors.  
We're borrowing it from our grandchildren."*

*-Mike Lehner*