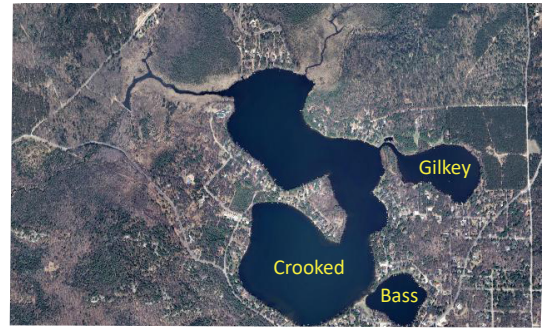


Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Newsletter



December 2020 Crooked Lake Area Lakes Newsletter



Meet Our Commissioners

Pictured: Barry Babler (Education), Bob Sipiorski (Treasurer), Brian Webb (Chairperson), Curt Hoffman (Alternate), David Van Zeeland (Secretary/Web Designer), and Matt Connell (Ex Chairperson). Not pictured are Judy Buhandt (Oconto County Liaison) Jim Zittlow (Town of Riverview Liaison), Danny Jonet (Sportsman's Club Liaison), and Jane Porubcan (Ex Officio/Newsletter).



Thank You to the Lakes District for the honor they awarded me at the Lakes Districts Annual Meeting on September 5 for my years of service to the Crooked Lake Area. If I could, I would do it all over again. All I can hope for is that the lakes are well cared for. I wish everyone to stay well and to continue the good work. Thanks.

Dick Firehammer, Past Chairman

Tentative 2021 Board Meeting Schedule

February 27

May 8

May 29 (Annual Meeting)

September 4 (Alternate Date for Annual Meeting)

October 23

All meetings are held at the Wally Remic Community Center at **9:00 a.m.** The meetings are **always** opened to the public. Mark your calendars.

Lakes District Applies for DNR Grant

The Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District has recently applied for a Clean Boats/Clean Water (CBCW) grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The DNR surface water grant program provides cost-sharing grants for surface water protection and restoration. Funding is available for education, planning, and aquatic invasive species prevention and control. A maximum of \$4,000 may be rewarded for a minimum of 200 volunteer inspection hours at boat landings. Volunteers inspect boats and trailers entering or leaving area lakes looking for plant and organic material which must be removed according to state law. Volunteers also ask boaters if they have boated in nearby lakes recently and educate boaters of state laws enacted to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The Crooked Lake District last applied for a CBCW grant in 2018 but did not reach the 200 volunteer hour threshold in order to receive funding. The District hopes to recruit more volunteers in 2021 to participate in boat landing inspections and reach the 200 hour goal. CBCW volunteer kits are available at the Crooked Lake Convenience Store on County Road W or online at the website of the district (<http://crookedlakewi.org>). More information on volunteering for the Clean Boats Clean Waters program will be shared next spring.

Brian Webb, Chairman

Zebra Mussels Detected in Nearby Lake

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Archibald Lake in Oconto County. Specimens were detected clinging to docks according to the DNR website. Zebra mussels are tiny invasive bottom-dwelling clams native to Europe and Asia. They were likely introduced to North America as larvae in ballast water of ships which traveled from freshwater ports in Europe to the Great Lakes in 1985 or 1986.

Zebra mussels wreck havoc by reproducing in large clusters that cling to docks, piers, municipal water intakes, and slow moving native species like crayfish. Massive piles of zebra mussel shells can wash ashore, most notably locally on the shorelines of Green Bay. Each specimen can filter one liter of water per day which ultimately lowers water quality via eutrophication; where sunlight can foster weed and algae growth. This filtration results in water clarity, but will result in a depleted food supply for other aquatic organisms. Water bodies with established populations of zebra mussels have fewer zooplankton and the small fish that feed on them have

less to eat. Larger fish further up the food chain decrease in number as a result.

Zebra mussels have invaded inland lakes by attaching to boat hulls and via live well water. The Crooked Lake District has been prevention monitoring zebra mussels since 2019. Zebra mussel collection plates have been submerged in various locations in the Crooked Lake area lakes and organic material collected from the plates have been harvested and shared with the DNR for testing. No evidence of zebra mussels were found after the 2019 survey and material from this year's monitoring was recently collected and will be sent in for testing.

Boaters are strongly encouraged to abide by state laws enacted to prevent the spread of invasive species. Boat hulls and trailers should be inspected and all plant and organic material removed and put in the trash. All water must be drained from equipment and live wells when leaving state waters. Strict adherence to these laws will help stop the spread of zebra mussels and other unwanted invasive species.

Brian Webb, Chairman

Sources:

1. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives>
2. University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, <https://people.uwec.edu/piersech/zebra>

Firewise USA Update

The Crooked Lake Area Lakes District received official word that we have been accepted as an official Firewise USA site. This is great news for the District as it provides resources to help us in our fire prevention and education efforts. The fire danger in our area is real. This past summer, we were able to provide free roadside brush pickup. A total of 39 members

took advantage of the service and over 60 piles of brush were picked up. The Firewise working group also did nine Home Ignition Zone assessments. The homeowners who participated received a no obligation assessment that highlighted areas around their home that could be improved to create a more fire-resistant zone around their home. The working group also did a community wide assessment that was used in the development of our 2021 plan of action.

We will present our action plan at our annual meeting next May. We have applied for and were approved for a second grant from Firewise USA. We will find out the amount of the grant in December.

Thanks to all of the members who submitted Grant matching timesheets for 2020. A total of 575 hours were recorded, which was enough to qualify for the \$1,800 in grant money we received in 2020. If you are interested in becoming part of the Firewise work group, please email Matt Connell at mconnell3095@gmail.com.

Matt Connell, Ex-Chairman

EWM Treatment

While it will take some time to compile all of the various components for the Crooked Lake annual report, there are a few things Onterra can pass along now. No EWM was located within, or in the vicinity of, the 2020 herbicide treatment area on the north end of the lake.

Onterra also collected sub point-intercept survey data within the treatment area as a part of the quantitative monitoring plan. They can pass along the fact that no EWM was encountered on any of the 83 sampling locations within the treatment area. Within their reporting, they will dig deeper into the herbicide concentration monitoring data as well as the native aquatic plant monitoring data as it relates to understanding the details of the treatment.