

# LLLPRD Spring 2005

*LOWER LONG LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT OFFICERS:  
Chairman Wayne Sauls 833-9983, Secretary Pat Andress 967-2518 and 723-9157  
Treasurer Darlene Glass 967-2289, Commissioner Jim Dahl 568-3225  
Commissioner Marcia Loofboro 967-2175*

## Message From the Chairman

Over the last six years as an LLLPRD board member, I have come to realize in myself a sense of value for Long Lake that I had taken for granted prior to my participation. It is a sense of value that I believe many of us share. When I became involved, I learned that the District's "cause" was completely different than what I had expected it would be.

The "cause" is not so much about the water itself as it is about everything that goes on *around* the water. I have learned that no matter what the level of human intervention is, it is impossible to influence *all* aspects of water quality; nature has a plan, and the lake does not exist in a hermetically sealed laboratory. However, I've also learned that much can be done to positively influence the qualities we have in our lake today, for tomorrow, and hopefully forever by the District as a group and by each individual property owner.

My tenure as a commissioner happened at a time when many feel that the lake quality is threatened. Development pressures and the potential for water quality disaster is overwhelming. I think the momentum of lake education, less environmentally damaging engines, DNR assistance and general awareness have brought us a long way from where we were. Many of the attitudes that existed just a decade ago, such as the one that says, "no matter what we do, the lake will take it's own course," have evolved into, "what can I personally do with my property to make sure this lake remains of the quality we all value."

Last summer we began to see a positive result of our efforts: aquatic vegetation is back in levels that we have not seen on Lower Long Lake in several decades. Some people have expressed concern that the weeds they see on the lake may signal a deterioration of quality when, in fact, the opposite is

quite true. I'd like to give some assurances that the growth of this vegetation is a very positive product of our collective influence. Healthy "native" vegetation is the Hallmark of a lake in good condition.

One of the most influential factors in the re-vegetation is the decrease in the crayfish population. This is a direct result of several factors, but the two most important are commercial trapping and the stocking of smallmouth bass, a natural crayfish predator. Today we have an excellent smallmouth population, and the sunfish and crappie are also returning. We have a long way to go before the bait fish populations are adequate to see a noticeable increase in harvest size, but I think it is on the horizon. It has taken a long time to recover from past damages to the lake, but our efforts have not been in vain!

One change that had an unexpected negative impact on the lake was the installation of flow regulators at Morris-Erickson Park many years ago. They decreased the outflow and increased the water level and useable size of the lake to that which we enjoy today. However, it also began an erosion of our shores that is still evident today and may partly be responsible for the lake's increasingly damaging phosphorous levels.

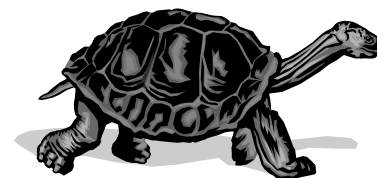
My six years on the LLLPRD board have been filled with education and an awareness that everything we do around the lake from the watercraft we operate on it to the way we maintain our yards near it has an impact on the lake. It is up to us to be critical thinkers about the lake and to take responsibility for what it will be in the future. Keep thinking. Keep trying. Be aware of your own impact. And keep loving Lower Long Lake.

# Proposed 2005-2006 Budget

CATEGORY	'04-'05	SPENT	PROPOSED
Fish/water quality committee	\$100.00	\$0	\$100.00
Projects and Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$70.00	\$100.00
Picnic	\$50.00	\$0	\$50.00
Property Committee	\$50.00	\$0	\$50.00
Liability Insurance	\$949.00	\$949.00	\$1019.00
Fish Cribs	\$300.00	\$0	\$300.00
CVORA	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
WAL meeting/ membership	\$725.00	\$270.00	\$725.00
Publicity Committee	\$600.00	\$166.25	\$650.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2924.00</b>	<b>\$1505.25</b>	<b>\$3044.00</b>

## Has Your Address Changed???

There are several newsletters and postcards that go undelivered with each mailing. If you have a change of address or know someone who has moved into or out of our area, please contact Lesley Sauls at 833-9983 or [lawgs@charter.net](mailto:lawgs@charter.net) to update. Thank you!!



The Lower Long Lake Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing will be held at the Sampson Town Hall on Saturday, July 30, 2005 from 9:00-11:30 am. Pastries and coffee will be provided.

## Camp Manitou Thanks Volunteers for Their Service to Youth

-By Kurt Lothe  
Camp Director



Camp Manitou had another fantastic summer last year on Long Lake, and we enjoyed a beautiful winter season, too. For the past two years, volunteers from the lake have been playing a role in children's summer camp experience.

Each week, Dr. Lou Frase led campers in hands-on sampling and diagnostic techniques for testing the quality of our lake's waters. Each child came away with a greater understanding of what a lake needs to maintain clarity, the role phosphorous plays in algae growth, and how our actions impact the amount of phosphorous entering the lake system.

Many children come from the Chippewa Valley, where examples of phosphorous loading and excessive algae growth abound (Half-Moon Lake, Lake Altoona, Lake Wissota) and appreciate the clarity of Lower Long Lake.

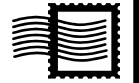
We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Lenny Seyberth in educating campers about

the role wolves play in the ecosystem of Wisconsin's north woods. The kids loved the various skins and skulls on display during his presentation, especially the gigantic wolf hide!

If you are interested in volunteering during the summer, autumn, winter or spring, there are many opportunities to get involved at Camp Manitou. Programs range from summer camp sessions, family camps, to school groups that would all benefit from the unique knowledge of people around the lake. Please contact me at Camp for more information (715-967-2126) or contact the YMCA (715-836-8460 x107). You can also email Camp Manitou at [camp@eauclaireymca.org](mailto:camp@eauclaireymca.org). We would love to see you here!

Our thanks also go out to all our lake neighbors who have called to report a stray paddleboat or have rescued a wayward canoe with kindness. Thank you!

# LLLPRD Lake News



Postage Here

LLLPRD  
3509 Cummings Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

**Have a great Spring!**  
**From the LLLPRD**



# Foundation Report



This has been a banner year for the Lower Long Lake Foundation. We have had two major property donations by the Dinger family on Herd Lake and the Breed family off of Kelly Road that bring the total acreage held by the Foundation to about 145 acres with about 5000 feet of shoreline. The purpose of the Foundation is to preserve Lower Long Lake in its natural state, and these donations have been a wonderful step forward in that effort. All donations are tax deductible, and the Foundation will assume the costs for appraisals and deed transfers. If you are interested in donating property or funds to the Foundation, please contact Wayne Sauls at 833-9983.



# lllprd.org

In order to provide you with more timely notification of events, we have begun publishing the "LLLPRD Bulletin." The Bulletin is sent by e-mail and published on our website at [http://lllprd.org/Newsletter\\_index.htm](http://lllprd.org/Newsletter_index.htm). In one issue, we discussed lake zoning changes, and we hope the Bulletin continues to provide some useful reference information.

We are also pleased to offer you the option of receiving Lake News by e-

mail in addition to U.S. Mail. You will get our newsletter, in color, several days earlier this way.

You may subscribe to the Bulletin and Lake News by e-mail by sending e-mail to [webmaster@lllprd.org](mailto:webmaster@lllprd.org) or by using the form at <http://lllprd.org/subscribe.htm>.

Please note that your e-mail address will remain confidential and will be used **ONLY** for official LLLPRD correspondence.

# Annual Picnic

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The Annual Picnic is back, and the date has been set for Saturday, August 13. The picnic will be held at Morris-Erickson Park (Hwy. 40) at 12:00 p.m. We will have the shelter reserved in case of inclement weather.

As in years past, hamburgers and their condiments will be provided. Please bring your own beverages, a dish to pass, friendly conversation and lawn chairs on which to sit and enjoy the day. Let's meet our lake neighbors!

If you would like to donate your time or efforts to hamburger flipping or picnic preparations, please contact Margaret Hagen at 967-2841.



## LLLPRD Committee Chairs



### LLLPRD Commissioners

Wayne Sauls, Chairman	833-9983
Pat Andress, Secretary	967-2518/723-9157
Darlene Glass, Treasurer	967-2289
Jim Dahl	568-3225
Marcia Loofboro	967-2175

### Lake Property

No Chair...please contact a commissioner for information

Wayne Sauls	833-9983
<b>Long Range Planning</b>	
Jan Frase	967-2339
<b>Publicity</b>	
Lesley Sauls	833-9983
<b>Fish and Water Quality</b>	
Lou Frase	967-2339

Lower Long Lake Foundation



# LLLPRD Survey Results

Our thanks to all who participated in the LLLPRD survey last summer. We sent out a survey to every tax payer on the lake (about 170) and got 79 responses. The results are in, and we hope to use them to direct the district in a way that we all choose. The results will be discussed and posted at the next annual meeting, but here are the highlights.

It seems that a majority of us have chosen to have property on Lower Long Lake because of its superior quality, proximity to home and because of family tradition, and the lake is enjoyed most for its peace and tranquility. Many also enjoy entertaining and relaxing with family on the lake.

Most people have between 100-200 feet of lake frontage with natural vegetation and stabilizing rocks being the most frequently described shoreline. People feel comfortable with their knowledge and use of "adequate buffer strips."

There are 80 motor boats with more than 25HP and 41 with less than 25HP. We seem to enjoy quieter recreation with 59 canoes, 37 kayaks, 33 row boats and 23 sailboats.

51 of the homes who responded are winterized, and 25 were listed as summer cottages only. 90 piers and docks were counted.

We mostly use our lake in the summer months with very few people listing winter activities. Many enjoy boating, bird watching, swimming, canoeing and fishing, and the spring, summer and autumn weekends see the most use of the lake, although people did report that they use the lake year

round.

People report that they are very happy with the quality and clarity of the lake. 54 of 78 people feel that the lake quality has remained the same or has only slightly degraded since they've been on the lake.

Boat traffic does not seem to be an issue with our responders. 62 of 76 people report that "it is easy to share the lake" and that watercraft traffic is moderate and "not enough to bother my use."

Regarding access to the lake, 52 of 60 responders say that they feel the access points are adequate for the size of our lake. Comments were made about improving the Morris Erickson landing and the North End Landing, and one suggestion was made to limit Morris Erickson park to tent camping only.

We learned that continued water chemistry study, riparian owner education and fishery improvements are

*A majority of us choose to have property on Lower Long Lake because of its superior quality*

the issues that matter most to us. A surprising number are also interested in having the district test and monitor septic systems near the lake.

A majority feel that the LLLPRD should manage the lake and finance that management, but many also think that the Town of Sampson or the State of Wisconsin should be involved.

People have many positive comments about the LLLPRD. They enjoy the annual picnic, although turnout has dwindled in the last couple of years. They also encourage education and want to see positive enforcement

of regulations instead of "heavy handedness." There were upbeat comments about the move toward land trusts and also about the Foundation mission.

Another comment section revealed many people interested in the placement of more fish cribs in the lake and an increased emphasis on the fishery. People also encouraged more overall participation, although suggestions to make that happen were not included.

It was good for the LLLPRD commissioners to hear from the people who responded to this survey. It is difficult to lead a group of people without knowing what they want or need. One comment was made that the district is run by a few people with a specific agenda, but that this survey might dispel that perception.

71 of 79 people say that they think that the best way for the district to communicate with members is through this newsletter, but it is unfortunately a one-way medium. Of 78 responders, only 43 have attended an annual meeting in the last two years, and only 16 of 72 say they have *ever* held an office for the district. This puts a lot of pressure on the few people who want to actively protect and preserve the tranquility, water quality and activities that a majority of our responders list as being of paramount importance.

There were several comments about people feeling that their voices were not being heard by the board members. Hopefully this survey will help us to hear your voices, and perhaps it will encourage more people to participate and make their needs known.

# LLLPRD Annual Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2004  
By Pat Address



**Commissioners Present:** Wayne Sauls, Pat Address, Jim Dahl.

**Call to Order:** 9:05 a.m. by Wayne Sauls at the Sampson Town Hall with a short opening welcome to recognize the Kristo and Kracum families' outstanding conservation projects.

Wayne also recognized Brian Kent's contribution to the LLLPRD board. Brian is moving out of the Town of Sampson. Wayne reviewed two of the Chapter 33 rules concerning lake districts: posting of the annual budget and elimination of proxy voting.

**Minutes:** July 2003 annual meeting minutes were approved as published in Fall, 2003 newsletter.

## Committee Reports:

**Fish and Water Quality:** Chair Lou Frase provided a written outline. Phosphorous levels have increased in each of the last three years. Main contributors include storm water runoff, soil erosion, fertilizers and failing septic systems. He showed an example of fertilizer that does not contain phosphorous. The report indicates fairly stable average Secchi depths with no clear trend up or down since 1989. The lake remains in the desirable mesotrophic range, but DNR advisers indicate once phosphorous levels start to exceed 20, the algae blooms can rapidly create undesirable water quality, and restoration is costly. The fishery continues to improve without stocking. The re-emergence of old weed beds has restored the lake vegetation to near 1970 levels. Bloomer High School students and the Chippewa Valley Outdoor Resource Alliance (CVORA) participated in a "walleye wagon" this spring [2004] to restock surrounding lakes. It involves stripping spawning Long Lake walleyes of milt and roe and raising the fry in rearing ponds. 250,000 walleye fry were replaced in

Long Lake. Frase also alerted the district about a proposed development on Loon Lake in the Town of Sampson that would be considered at the town board meeting on Monday, August 2, 7:00 PM. Joe Kurz, DNR fisheries biologist, reinforced the importance of a comprehensive lake management plan including county conservation resource people and a variety of lake users. Kurz reminded the district of the excellent UW Extension educational materials especially related to shore land, wildlife habitat, including fisheries, and stewardship of the land. Kurz presented information on trends, netting, and shocking which is available from Lou Frase or Joe Kurz. The general habitat improvement in the lake is encouraging. Another positive feature of the fish report included the "walleye wagon" that gave students a "learning by doing" experience. Kurz called attention the Job Creation Act (Act 118) that addresses permit rules on shore lands and waterways. Hearings are scheduled throughout the state. And he expressed concern for protection of Wisconsin waters.

**Publicity Report:** Wayne Sauls made the report in the absence of Lesley Sauls. He presented the expenditures associated with the committee, including the website. Wayne encouraged use of the website. The annual picnic lacked an organizer this year; but Margaret Hagen volunteered for 2005.

**Treasurer Report:** In the absence of Darlene Glass, Wayne reported on the year's expenditures and outlined the proposed \$2,995 budget for 2004-05. Len Seyberth, district representative on the CVORA, requested that the proposed budget be amended to include an annual \$50.00 donation to the CVORA. Motion by Len Seyberth. Second by Lou Frase. The

amended budget passed, and the board voted to levy \$3,000 to cover the account. Motion by Wayne Sauls. Second by Lou Frase. All present voted in favor. Wayne also gave totals for the two small lake planning grants, both completed. The park restoration/demo total was \$1,377.28 and the water trail map/brochure total was \$1,155.84. Pat Address stated that the final reports were on: [www.lllprd.org](http://www.lllprd.org). Photos and information about the projects were displayed at the front table. Darlene Glass and Kurt Lothe were recognized and commended for the water trail map.

**Lake Management Plan:** Wayne expressed appreciation for about a fifty percent return of the district surveys. The results of the survey will be used in the lake planning grant, and in developing the lake management plan. Wayne solicited volunteers.

**Foundation Report & Election:** Jake Farrell reviewed goals of the Lower Long Lake Foundation, and expressed appreciation of the two directors whose terms expire: Wally Schulenberg & Rich Kracum. Dennis Zacho & Richard Baer were elected directors.

**Commissioner Election:** Pat Address was given a certificate of appreciation for service from 2001—2004. She indicated interest in another term and was unanimously elected.

**Special Presentation:** Conservation Warden Scott Bowe discussed his job, aquatic invasive species, Act 118 concerns and other issues. He suggested that violations be reported to the DNR by the district and that the district sponsor a boat safety class.

**Adjournment:** 11:45 a.m.