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Clean Water Goals

Editor's Note: LMLA Clean Water Committee chair, Martin Jarrett, recommends this article from Big Sioux Water.

Advocating for the restoration and protection of water quality in the Big Sioux River will require diligence and doggedness by the region's residents. Some water rules and regulations are susceptible to tweaking and interpretation by special interests and regulators who may favor special interests. Water regulations are also complicated, and citizen groups typically lack funding, expertise, and horsepower to effectively navigate, legislate and litigate the arcane world of water pollution law and policy.

As citizens, we'd prefer to defer to state and federal agencies to restore and protect healthy water. But that is naïve. Although considerable progress has been made since an era when pollution was completely ignored, ample concerns continue. In 2012, forty years after historic water protection measures were enacted, water quality in the Big Sioux River plummeted to disgraceful levels. Sediment, animal and farm waste and other pollutants wrecked the river's water quality. This happened under the

"watchful" eye of state government and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In 2017, about two-thirds of South Dakota's rivers were classified as impaired by pollution. Again, this happened on the watch of regulatory agencies. Then there's this example of regulatory stewardship: A state permit allowed Smithfield Foods meat processing facility to release up to 102 pounds of ammonia each day into the Big Sioux River, with a month-long average of 58 pounds per day. On one August day, in 2018, Smithfield discharged 2,199 pounds of ammonia into the Big Sioux River. This followed several days in which daily releases exceeded 1,500 pounds.

In between 2000 and 2019, Smithfield committed at least 61 pollution permit violations, including discharges of fecal coliform, chlorine, and ammonia into the river. For these violations, South Dakota regulators fined the company a total of \$99,642. Smithfield's parent company, a Chinese multinational, recorded 2018 sales of \$22.6 billion. Is it cheaper to pollute than prevent pollution?

Passage of the Clean Water Act (CWA), in 1972, included overriding a veto by President Nixon. Though Congressional support was relatively strong, many



No one knows how many tile drains serving farm fields discharge into the Big Sioux River, or any other river. That's because tile drains are considered non-point pollution sources, and there are no regulations restricting or monitoring non-point polluters. Tile drains can carry farm pollutants such as fertilizers to waterways, large and small. Overlooking their impact on water quality is a serious shortcoming of the Clean Water Act.

members abstained from voting. The concept of defending natural resources remained for many an awkward, expensive abstraction.

Amended several times since 1972, the CWA retains a basic principle: The federal government, through EPA, delegates much regulatory authority regarding clean water protections to each state.

The CWA did allow for EPA to set pollution parameters for "point" sources, required point polluters to obtain

permits limiting pollution and funded sewage treatment plants, among other important actions.

Addressing "point" sources of pollution while ignoring "non-point" sources (NPS) is viewed as a significant deficiency of CWA. Point sources typically are outlet pipes from factories, energy plants and municipal facilities discharging directly into surface water. Most non-point pollution comes from

Continued on page 5

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LAKE MADISON

Letter from the President of Lake Madison Development Association

GREETINGS!

There is a lot of strife in our world today (politically, racially, financially and medically), but we have all heard enough of that. Instead, I would like to remind everyone of how great it is to be AT THE LAKE!

The lake is where all of those troubles seem to fade away. Whether you are a seasonal or year-round, you can feel the calm wash over you whenever you see the water. Like a hug, it comforts you and like a good friend, it welcomes and encourages you to enjoy yourself.

As a child I remember how excited I would get when my parents were bringing me to the lake to visit friends. Anxiously I waited to catch the first glimpse of the lake to see if there were any whitecaps. This would decide what I was going to do for the day. I knew I was either going to go swimming, fishing or just dig in the sand. If I was really lucky, I would get to go on a boat ride!

As I grew older, I brought my Minnesota girlfriend here because it was important to me she felt the same way about the lake as I did. This girlfriend is now my wife, Cheri, and your LMDA Treasurer/Secretary. Can I pick 'em or what!!!?

As you can tell, I am greatly attached to the lake and all it offers. I also understand how fragile a relationship can be and as in all

relationships, there needs to be a give and take in order to keep the mojo going. Making this lake a special place for generations to come takes effort. That effort is being put forth by your LMDA.

Read the Lake News. You will begin to understand what we are trying to do for the lake, for you, and your family/friends. Please remember this association is based on volunteers who are doing their best, but we could use a lot of help. If you have some time to offer and would like to see things, not only continue, but advance, please step forward. We are in critical need for help with our membership drive as well as working on our website. Other areas of need would include becoming an LMDA Director, working with the Safety Committee, Fishing & Habitat Committee as well as LMDA Events. The reward of knowing you did your part is awesome. If you can spare a few hours now and again, give me or any executive member a call or an email. We value your thoughts and ideas and many of these ideas are discussed and acted upon.

In ending, remember our interaction with nature is fragile. Please respect the land, water, wildlife and your neighbor by not polluting and following the laws set forward.

BE SAFE, BE HAPPY, BE KIND

Mark Wolfe, President, LMDA

————— *check out our website* —————
www.lakemadisondevelopment.com

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The Lake News

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Rollyn H. Samp, Volunteer Publisher
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BOATING SAFETY CLASS



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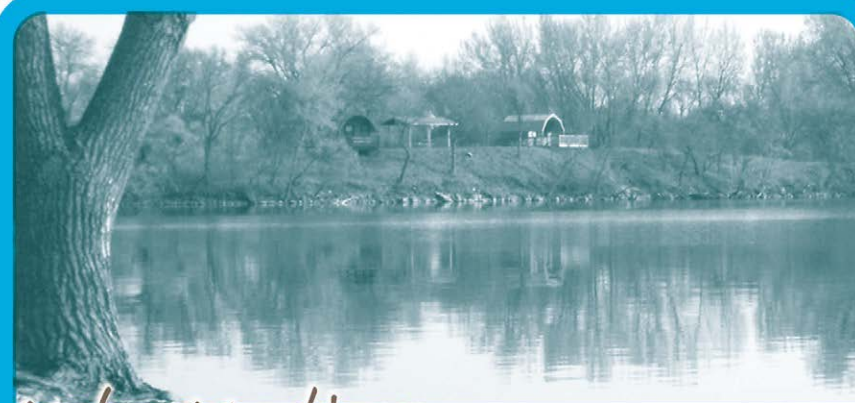
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Dear Fellow Lake Resident:

2020 was a year for the record books. The COVID epidemic impacted everyone and everything including our Association. Because of COVID we were unfortunately unable to continue with "Business as Usual". 2021 is looking to be a new awakening and resumption of our Association activities. We are looking forward to resuming CPR classes and watercraft safety which are held as open enrollment.

The CPR classes are offered by the Wentworth Fire Department and are free to all attendees. The Wentworth Fire Department protects the east half of our lake from fires, storms and medical emergencies and all fire personnel are on a volunteer basis. As an appreciation to the Ambulance personnel who risked exposure to themselves and families during the pandemic, LMDA distributed \$100 Sunshine grocery gift cards to them in gratitude for their service.

The watercraft safety seminar is instructed by the South Dakota Game Fish & Parks. This excellent presentation is provided free for participants. Pizza and pop is also included courtesy of LMDA.

In addition to the watercraft safety presentation, LMDA is working closely with SD GF&P to improve fishing habitat on our lake. One adventure being worked on is creating artificial fish structures nicknamed "Fish Cities". In conjunction with SD GF&P, LMDA is hoping to have these structures placed in our lake this year.

Please support the Lake Madison Development Association mission by becoming a new member or renewing your annual LMDA membership today! Membership is only \$35. Please have your paid dues submitted via Pay Pal or mail.

You will also receive:

- 3 Additions of The Lake News delivered to you
- Anti-theft shield (up to \$5,000 reward)
- Annual Picnic with catered food and beverages free to members
- Updated copy of the annual directory of the lake
- Our website www.LakeMadisonDevelopment.com which houses our two active cameras to view around the lake and Association/Lake events & activities.

Thank you!

Sincerely, **Mark Wolfe**, President
Lobowolfe2001@yahoo.com
605-321-0900

PAST LMDA PROJECTS

- Weather Warning Sirens
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Cheri Wolfe, Secretary/Treasurer

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Clean Water Goals... *Continued from page 1*

runoff related to agriculture and from community storm sewer systems.

South Dakota relies on voluntary measures for implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control NPS pollution. Many water researchers identify non-point contaminants emanating from farm fields as the nation's top unresolved water pollution issue.

South Dakota officials can determine which water bodies are to be protected. Long debated is the value of protecting small streams that flow into larger streams and rivers. South Dakota has opposed extending protections to our smallest waterways, leaving them vulnerable to polluters. Of course, tributaries do not exist in a vacuum. The pollution they carry impacts the environment before flowing into and impacting other waterways.

There are nearly 100,000 miles of rivers and streams in South Dakota. About 87,000 miles of those are small and ephemeral waterways unprotected by South Dakota and the CWA.

States monitoring and regulating surface waters within their boundaries establish acceptable limits for pollutants that must align with the range of limits set by EPA. In South Dakota, those limits

are posted on the DENR website. Our state tends to choose generous limits.

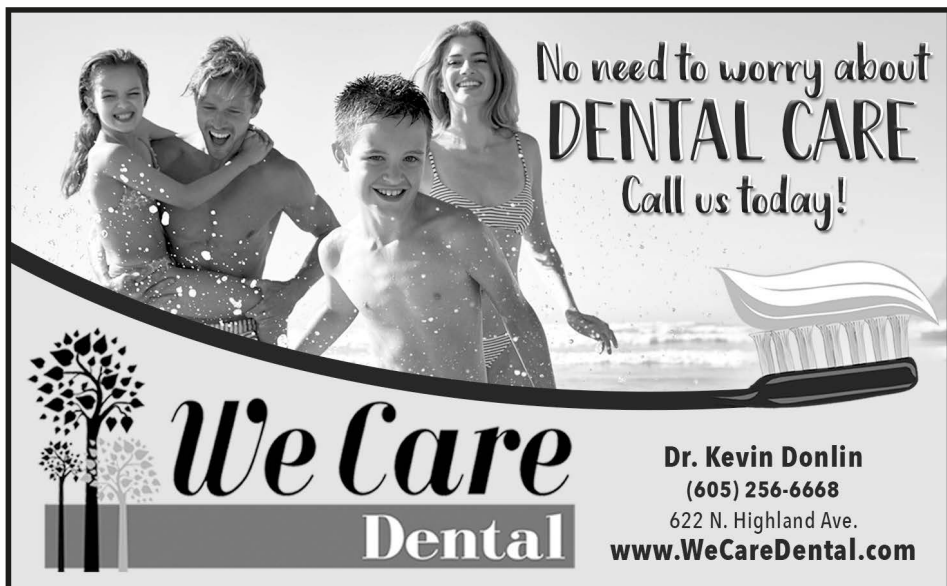
An example is how South Dakota addresses nitrate pollution, an escalating issue because of shoreline cropping practices and unregulated tile drains funneling fertilizer pollution into surface water. Despite these worrisome circumstances, the State's allowable nitrate standards are often higher than EPA's drinking water standards.

Equally impactful regarding nitrates is runoff from manure applications to farm fields. This threat is worsening, but the state appears intent on boosting development of confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) rather than elevating water protection standards.

Section 303 (c) of the CWA requires states to periodically review the clean water standards set for applicable waterways.

A critical determinate of water quality is to measure Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). Translated: How much pollution can a waterbody receive and still support its designated beneficial uses?

What are the designated beneficial uses for the state's waterways? Here's the list: 1) domestic water supply; 2) coldwater fish habitat; 3) marginal coldwater fish



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habitat; 4) warmwater fish habitat; 5) warmwater semipermanent fish habitat; 6) warmwater marginal fish habitat; 7) immersion recreation water; 8) limited contact recreation water; 9) fish and wildlife propagation, recreation, and stock watering; 10) irrigation; 11) commerce and industry.

What are the designations for the Big Sioux River? In Sioux Falls and the Sioux Falls vicinity, DENR has assigned the following beneficial uses: warmwater semipermanent fish life, immersion recreation; limited contact recreation, fish and wildlife propagation/recreation/stock watering, and irrigation. Only the needs of irrigation and fish and wildlife propagation/recreation/stock watering designations are sufficiently satisfied by existing water quality characteristics to be in full compliance. Note that domestic water supply -the beneficial use requiring the best water quality- is not included for the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls.

From 2014-2019, DENR assessed about 5,900 miles of rivers and streams in South Dakota. That's half the waterway miles identified as needing regulation. Only 22 percent of those miles fully supported the assigned beneficial uses.

The agency has already admitted it lacks the budget and manpower to monitor and safeguard all regulated surface water in South Dakota. This

circumstance will be exacerbated if the agency is merged with the Department of Agriculture.

Dana Loseke, founder of Friends of the Big Sioux River and sitting board member explained a basic weakness that flaws today's water protections. "Polluters and regulators rely on a waterway's volume to help cleanse its flows," said Loseke. "Yes, there are waste treatment plants and regulations on industry, but dilution continues to be mistakenly relied on for a major part of our government's solution to pollution."

As population grows and competition for useable water intensifies, dilution as a solution will be recognized as being short-sighted and incomplete. Competition and clamoring for clean water will necessitate more stringent approaches.

But our situation is not desperate. Water quality issues remain mostly manageable in South Dakota and the Big Sioux River. However, the forecast is worth noting. There are supremely challenging times ahead for advocates of cleaner water in South Dakota. Even-handed and public-spirited preparedness and enforcement must happen. Favoritism to polluting businesses and industry must cease. Water is a public resource and it should be regulated and protected to serve all constituencies. ■

Historic Study Underway

A significant and historic research effort studying the relationship between the Big Sioux River and the aquifer that underlies its channel and those lands adjacent to the river is now being conducted by South Dakota's Geological Survey, an agency of the state's Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This multi-year project is especially interested in determining how river flows migrate into its aquifer, the speed of that movement, the association of aquifer volume and river flows, and how water quality in the Big Sioux River impacts the quality of water in the aquifer. Approximately 300,000 people consume water from wellfields tapping this aquifer.

River Wildlife Numbers Dwindle

River-based biodiversity is dramatically shrinking because of human activities. A study by University of Wisconsin researchers states, "Multiple environmental stressors, such as agricultural runoff, pollution and invasive species, threaten rivers that serve 80 percent of the world's population. These same stressors endanger the biodiversity on 65 percent of the world's river habitats, putting thousands of aquatic wildlife species at risk." Though the researchers didn't mention climate change, this factor certainly adds problems to water quality and flow patterns. The researchers declared that it is smarter and more cost-efficient to prevent river degradation rather than respond to degradation.

River Flows Are Changing Color

Shifting weather patterns and more powerful precipitation events triggered by climate change cause soils, agricultural chemicals and other pollutants to wash into rivers and change water chemistry and color. Analyzing nearly 16 million

satellite images taken over three decades allowed researchers to discover that about 33% of America's rivers have changed color since 1984, leaving only about 5% retaining their natural color. They also determined that 56% of America's largest rivers (rivers at least 197 feet wide) were predominately yellow, because they carried excessive amounts of soil and sediment, and 38% appeared predominately green because of algae buildup due to fertilizer runoff. The same factors influencing the nation's largest rivers also impact smaller rivers, such as the Big Sioux.

Pharmaceutical Waste

Often overlooked as a threat to clean water are the impacts associated with medicines and pharmaceuticals. Scientists with the United States Geological Survey were able to detect and identify chemicals used in pharmaceutical production as far as 18 miles downstream from where they were discharged into a waterway after so-called treatment. Not only does the manufacturing process for pharmaceuticals pollute waterways, so does the disposal of such chemicals by homeowners, landowners and businesses. This can happen by tossing them into the garbage or flushing them down the toilet. Many of the more than 4,000 prescription medications used for humans and animals ultimately find their way into the environment. To dispose of unused medicine and pills, deliver them to a local take-back facility. In Sioux Falls, old or unused prescriptions can be deposited in the lobby of the downtown police department. Your neighborhood Lewis Drug store also accepts such medications. Otherwise, mix them with dirt or coffee grounds and place the mixture in a sealed bag. Place the bag in your household trash. Recycle or trash empty bottles of drug packaging after removing labels.



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Smith-Zimmermann works to be more accessible

VOLUNTEERS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By **MARY GALES ASKREN**

Madison Daily Leader Reporter

The Smith-Zimmermann Museum, under the direction of Julie Breu, is seeking ways to make museum resources more available to the public.

That was the message Breu sought to communicate to Lake County commissioners on Tuesday morning when they held a regular meeting. She began by thanking the commission for its support and reported the museum will be embarking on a membership drive soon.

In 2020, after the museum reopened in July, it had 158 visitors, including those who attended a public forum in September to talk about a new location in Madison.

"We are still waiting for the proper fit," Breu reported.

In addition, the museum received

24 service requests. These came from all over the nation and included both genealogy and information about the county.

"We reach more than local people," Breu told commissioners.

She also reported on news coverage and on the work of volunteers. She spoke specifically about six projects. Anna Blessinger created a new exhibit displaying art with ties to Lake County.

Interns from Dakota State University's digital arts and design program are creating videos which will be posted on the museum's website. One is a tour of Graceland Cemetery. The other is about veterans to mark the 80th anniversary of the United State entering World War II.

A third DSU intern is digitizing oral histories which are currently on tape. These include stories about the Chautauqua, which was on the northwest shore of Lake Madison; the Great Depression, which is also known as the "Dirty Thirties" due to the drought and the severe dust storms; and World War I.

"We're thinking of different ways



to reach the public and bring people into the museum," Breu said.

She said another volunteer, experienced in IT, is working to transition the museum's accession records from a single computer to a web-based system. Finally, a trained volunteer is working to help organize the archives so they are more accessible to the public.

"I can't speak highly enough of

our volunteers," Breu indicated.

She also reported the museum board of directors has embarked on strategic planning and said that once the pandemic has ended, the museum will be working to be out in the community more. She specifically mentioned doing something this summer at Downtown in MadTown. In the past, she has mentioned doing more educational programming. ■



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SAFETY REPORT

We all know the effects COVID had on everything last year, but I believe we are turning a corner and with enough vaccinations, we can once again enjoy many of the things taken from us in the last year.

The Safety Committee has continued to try and meet the needs of the Lake. The following is a summary of the current activities we are pursuing.

A. BOATING SAFETY CLASS

This class will be conducted by the South Dakota Game Fish & Parks (GF&P) and sponsored by the LMDA. The GF&P conservation officers will be on scene. Weather permitting, they will take attendees out on the water and demonstrate to them what they are looking for when they are working as well as discussing boating laws and safety. This will be a class for all ages and all experiences. No pre-registration is required.

At the conclusion of the class, the Association will provide pizza and a beverage. The class will be on **July 10th**, scheduled at the Hillside restaurant and will run from **10:15 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** (including the meal).

If you are new or inexperienced to boating or jet skiing (or know someone who is), this would be a very good class to attend.

B. CPR CLASSES (BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!)

The Lake Madison Development Association (LMDA) has been in contact with the Wentworth Fire Department. They have graciously agreed to host 2 CPR classes. The classes will allow the participants, upon completion, to gain their CPR Certification. The fire department will also cover the use of Automatic Defibrillators which are found at numerous locations around the lake. This is a great class to attend and the student will gain the ability to help save a life.

It is an open enrollment class, FREE to anyone attending. The instructor to student quota requires participant's to sign up for the class in advance. Please contact me (Mark Wolfe) at 605-321-0900 to be put on the list.

The dates for these classes are **Wednesday, June 16th at 9:00 a.m. or Saturday, June 19th at 9:00 a.m.** The class will be held at the

Wentworth Fire Station in Wentworth, SD. It's easy to find and you will be glad you went.

C. KID'S DON'T FLOAT KIOSK

The first kiosk at Walker Point has been a great success. The life preserves were used on a regular basis and we actually had more preservers at the end of the year then when we started. With that good news, we have decided to add a second unit at Johnson's Point. This unit is being constructed by our own Dennis Zingmark, who is one of our directors. The kiosk will closely resemble the one at Walker's and is expected to be up and operating by the start of summer. Thanks Dennis!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The emergency services for Lake Madison are in need of any one with a pontoon boat willing to allow Rescuers to use their boat in an emergency. If you would be willing to allow them to use your boat during an emergency, please contact me (Mark Wolfe) at 605-321-0900. Those living on the lake year-round are preferred, but others will be considered!

LMDA is also looking to start an observation team for the Lake. We are looking for anyone who can be our eyes and ears throughout the year. The basis of this idea would be to create a communication link in times of emergency. An example would be after a major storm. The individual would survey their neighborhood and report if there was any major damage or injury. This communication would be very valuable to first responders in helping them prioritize their response. The people on this team would not be performing rescue, but would help in evaluating the need.

Another example might be a call of a missing boater. If we had eyes around the lake and people looking, perhaps the missing boater could be located quicker.

I believe this is a very simple concept many of us can do and it would help allow our resources to go where they are needed most, potentially saving lives.

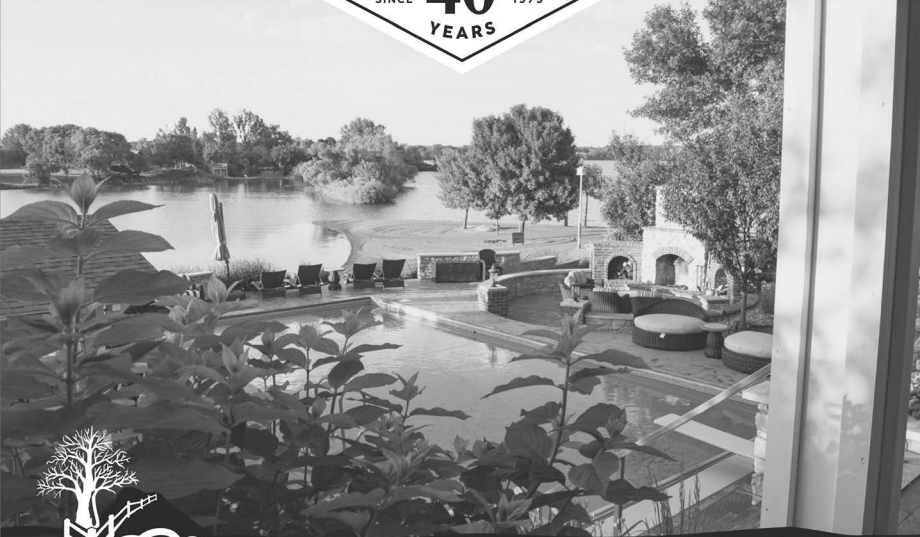
If you have any good ideas to advance safety on the lake, please feel free to contact me. It takes all of us to ensure the safety and well-being of ourselves and our guests. I hope all of you have a safe and fun summer.

See you on the water! **Mark Wolfe** ■

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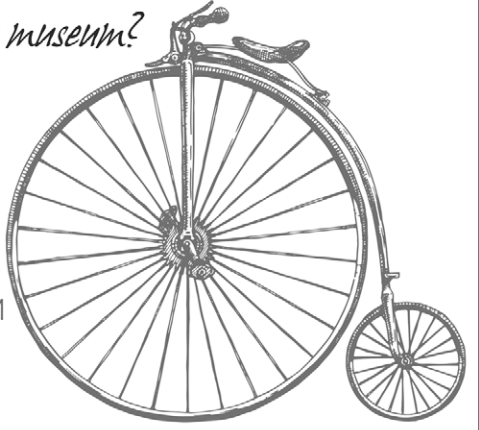
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People you should know around Lake Madison...

CHIEF TERRY RECK OF THE WENTWORTH FIRE & RESCUE

By ELIZABETH ANTONIO

When Terry Reck fell in love with a young gal many years ago, he had no idea it would lead to an ongoing 46-year career with the Wentworth Fire & Rescue. When he married his wife Deb, they moved to her hometown of Wentworth, where her father was the Fire Chief. Reck's new father-in-law told him that he too would be joining the fire department. And so, being a good new son-in-law, he joined the department.

That is not the end of the firefighting family connection. Reck's son, Kory, is the current Assistant Chief, and his grandson is also a firefighter and currently working to earn his EMT certification. Reck, who has been

Chief since 2017 became an EMT in 1986. He was later promoted to Assistant Chief in the mid 1990's.

Reck currently oversees a crew of 26 firefighters, as well as five cadets. Cadets can begin their training at age 16. They wear different uniforms and have a limited scope in their duties. They learn all the processes and familiarize themselves with all the duties of the position. Chief Reck says above all, it teaches them about volunteerism. "Volunteerism is going away if you ask me. People want to get paid for every little thing they do anymore. But that's not what it's all about." He hopes by teaching the younger generation they will continue to volunteer in their community.

All members of the Wentworth Fire & Rescue are volunteers. They meet twice a month to maintain equipment, discuss business and participate in new seasonal-related trainings. May's training topic is Farm Medics: farm related accidents. The men attend multiple trainings throughout the year. A few are attending the South Dakota



Chief Terry Reck & Assistant Chief Kory Reck

photo by M. Felty Photography

Department of Public Safety's state fire school in Fort Pierre this summer. The Wentworth Fires & Rescue department currently has five certified EMT's on their roster.

Wentworth Fire & Rescue assumed the duties of county wide rescue after the Madison chapter disbanded several years ago. This means all 911 calls with any type of injury are dispatched to the Madison Ambulance, Wentworth Fire & Rescue and the local fire department.

Reck explained fire department unity happens when large fires break out in nearby areas. "Even though we have our own boundaries in Lake

County, it's a multi-county-wide effort in the case of all structure fires. It is called Lake County All Call. It's mostly for the water supply," he explained. "We are sometimes assisted by Brookings, Kingsbury, Minor, McCook, Minnehaha and Moody counties fire departments for mutual aid. Water tankers. It always comes down to the water supply", he mentions.

Best Experience

When asked about the best experience of his 46 year career, Reck recounted a story about a young DSU student who had rolled his vehicle in a single car crash. The young man was

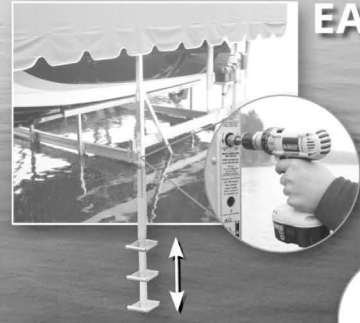


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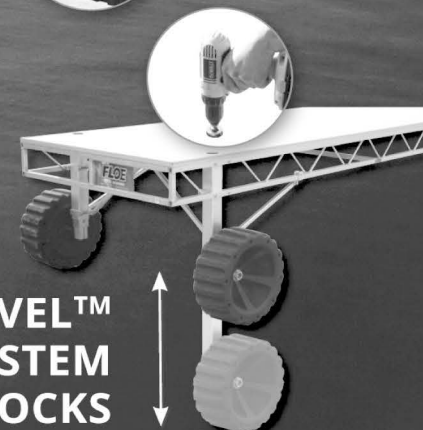


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in the ditch for nearly six hours before a farmer discovered him and called for help. Reck recalls arriving at the scene, "It was that time of year, you know, where the snow was starting to melt but still had snow in the ditches. He was lying face down in the water at the bottom of the ditch. He was unresponsive, I rolled him over and did CPR. Got the AED and it didn't shock. Meaning- there was no heartbeat. So, I continued CPR and somehow... he took a breath".

When the young man arrived at the hospital, his core temperature was 86 degrees Fahrenheit. He shouldn't have survived, but did, because of Reck's quick thinking and the Madison Community Hospital's ALS service. The humble Chief said, "Seems the good Lord still had plans for him. It's a good feeling". He says that young man is now doing great and lives with his family in California. He is now playing baseball.

CPR Classes Scheduled

Reck wants to encourage as many residents as possible to be certified in CPR. "The biggest culprit of an emergency is time. When you think about it, it takes 7-14 minutes for us to respond out at the lake. That's too long for a brain to go without oxygen", Reck commented. "It's so important that someone who is right

there knows CPR and knows where our AED machines are located around the lake". The Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) can assist when someone is experiencing cardiac arrest. The device detects the heart's rhythm, and if necessary, delivers an electric shock to the heart to re-establish a regular rhythm.

The AEDs on Lake Madison are located at the Hillside Sea Store, The Lakes Golf Course Campgrounds, the Lakes Golf Course, The Broadwater, Peninsula Point and the entrance to Walkers Point.

The Wentworth Fire & Rescue periodically host CPR certification classes free to the residents of the Lake Madison fire protection district. The next classes will be held on June 16th and June 19th. One class is held on a Wednesday and another on a Saturday to accommodate people's busy schedules.

Please contact Mark Wolfe, President of the Lake Madison Association, for more information or to sign up for the class. 605-321-0900 Lobowolfe2001@yahoo.com

Chief Reck is a true hero and a great example of a civil servant. We are blessed to have him as our Fire Chief in the Lake Madison community. "Thank you for your service Chief" said LMDA President Wolfe. ■

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Keep Zebra Mussels Off Your Watercraft

Zebra mussels can cause significant problems for watercraft owners who leave their watercraft in infested water for long periods of time. As free-floating, juvenile zebra mussels develop and grow larger, they settle out and attach to hard surfaces. Any part of the boat that sits in infested water for multiple days is a potential landing spot for zebra mussels, including watercraft hulls and motors.

Decrease Colonization

There are two common methods watercraft owners have used to prevent zebra mussels from colonizing on their watercraft's hull:

- 1. Boat lifts** can be used to keep the watercraft completely out of the water, when not in use.
 - Utilizing a watercraft lift is the most effective way to prevent zebra mussel colonization because the watercraft is no longer exposed to the juvenile zebra mussels as they settle.
- If your watercraft is not stored on a lift, **anti-fouling products** that effectively repel zebra mussels and prevent adults from attaching to a watercraft's hull can be applied.
 - These can be copper based or more natural, environmentally friendly forms, like capsaicin (one of the chemicals that makes chili peppers hot). Many of these anti-fouling products last the full boating season, while others may need to be applied multiple times during the summer. Your local marine dealer may be able to provide some guidance on these products.

Minimize Damage

Juvenile zebra mussels can be sucked up into boat motors or internal compartments with lake or river water. Routine practices to minimize damage to vital internal components of watercraft include:

- Pumping out as much water as possible from ballast tanks after each use.
- Lowering outboard motors or lower units to allow them to completely drain before tilting them back up for transport or to keep them out of the water when on boat lifts.
- Allow boat motors to reach normal operating temperatures during each trip.

Taking these precautions can help protect your watercraft from the damage of zebra mussel colonization and reduce the complexity of watercraft decontaminations. Also, taking steps to prevent zebra mussel colonization can help prevent the spread of this harmful invasive species to other waters.

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The Madison Opera House

By DALE NIGHBERT

As the frontier towns across the prairie grew, developed, and prospered during the 1880s, so did the desire to build an opera house. The opera house played a prominent role in the social and cultural life of the communities. Every progressive town wanted one, including Madison. Four years after its founding, a stock company was formed, stock certificates were issued, and the Madison Opera House was built. The elegant building opened to the public in late June 1884 to an excited crowd of roller skaters, dancers and other spectators. Close to 800 were in attendance that first night. The Madison cornet band played for the skaters, and later the Fulmer Bros.' band of Dell Rapids furnished music into the late hours for dancing.

Located on Center Street, one block east of Egan Avenue, the Lake County Leader described the opera house as one of the

"tiniest in th territory" -with a seating capacity of 1,250. The floor was laid with hard maple and the interior was "tastily" decorated with flags and ornamented with wreaths of evergreens and groups of Chinese lanterns.

A stylish chandelier was suspended from the center of the ceiling. With the aid of a few side lamps and windows, the building was sufficiently lighted.

The newspaper reported that the people of Madison should be proud of their opera house and that "a thing of beauty is a joy forever." And so, the elegant building served the needs of the community for the next 32 years.

In the early days, the opera house had the largest auditorium in the community. Not only was it used for skating and dancing, it had a floor area large enough for basketball games. Both the public school and the Normal School used the stage for their plays and commencement exercises. It was quite common for it to host



The Madison Opera House (pictured on the right) was built in 1884 and was located across the street north of the present-day Madison Post Office. The post office was built and opened in 1918 after the opera house was torn down. (Photo courtesy Gene Hexom.)

church suppers, lodge gatherings, fancy balls, traveling road shows, temperance meetings, prominent lecturers of the day, political meetings, and the list goes on. The state Republicans even held their convention there.

But, in 1916, changes in the community and competition led to its closure. The Madison Daily Leader reported in its June 6, 1916, article that "there will be no more

shows from now on. What shows had been booked will be canceled so that nothing will hinder the work of demolishing the old building." By this time movie theaters were being built, the two schools had gymnasiums and auditoriums built in their facilities, and the Lake Madison Chautauqua had attracted speakers, programs, and traveling shows. Madison's historic opera house was no more. ■

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MADISON AGREES TO SELL WATER TO CLAY RURAL WATER SYSTEM

By **CHUCK CLEMENT**
Madison Daily Leader Reporter

The city commissioners this week approved an agreement that will sell part of Madison's 1 million-gallon-per-day allotment of water from the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System to a rural water system in southeastern South Dakota.

Officials with the Clay Rural Water System (CRWS), which serves Clay County and parts of four other counties, have offered to purchase at least 200,000 gallons of water per day from Madison. CRWS could purchase up to 400,000 gallons per day and, with Madison's permission, buy more than 400,000 gallons per day.

No matter what volume of water is purchased, CRWS is obligated to pay for its minimum requirement of 200,000 gallons.

Chad Comes, city engineer, explained the agreement to the city commissioners. CRWS will pay a basic rate that is equivalent to what Madison pays the Lewis & Clark water project for its water allotment. However, Madison will also receive from CRWS an additional amount — a sort of "city

surcharge" — of 25 cents per 1,000 gallons of water.

If the minimum allotment of 200,000 gallons per day is taken by CRWS, its per-day payment would amount to \$50. Over a 30-day period, CRWS's payments would amount to \$1,500.

CRWS' purchase of Madison's water allotment would start on or before Oct. 1, 2021, and continue for an initial term of 10 years, or until Oct. 1, 2031. However, following the initial term, Madison and CRWS could agree to renew their contract for one or more successive 10-year periods.

If changes do occur to consumer demand for Madison's water, the city can terminate the contract with CRWS with two years notice.

CRWS will have the responsibility for building all of the infrastructure needed to obtain the water from the Lewis & Clark water project. CRWS will build infrastructure according to Lewis & Clark standards and own the equipment.

According to Comes, CRWS plans to have all of its needed infrastructure in place before the end of 2021.

Comes told the commissioners that an increased amount of water used by Madison and CRWS will lower the

water costs paid by both parties to the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. The money paid to LCRWS follows the principle of lower unit costs for higher volumes used.

After the commissioners' meeting, Comes said CRWS, unlike Madison, is not a member of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System.

Madison does not have a direct pipeline connection to the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. However, Madison and LCRWS officials along with representatives from two rural water projects and state government worked together during the last seven years to provide access to the city's 1-million-gallon allotment of Lewis & Clark water. Two pipeline segments were constructed in 2016 that allowed Madison, Big Sioux Community Water System and Minnehaha Community Water Corporation to access the city's share of water. Sometimes called a "wheeling plan," the shared access for the three parties was operational in spring 2017.

Madison still needs 32 miles of pipeline constructed to have a direct link to the water pipeline project.

CRWS provides water service to

2,430 locations in parts of five counties in southeast South Dakota. The system provides safe, quality drinking water to its consumers for domestic, farm and business use.

CRWS operates as a member-owned, nonprofit corporation that was incorporated in June 1975. The water system was financed and constructed from 1978-80 primarily with member connection fees and loans and grants from the Farmers Home Administration. It became fully operational in late 1980, and the system's original construction cost amounted to \$5.8 million.

CRWS's service to its member population of 5,200 is provided from two water treatment plants. The main plant is located 7 miles east of Wakonda, and a second plant is located near McCook Lake. Water is distributed from the treatment plants through a network of 900 miles of pipeline, six storage reservoirs with a capacity of 1,040,000 gallons and three booster stations.

Madison's commissioners also needed to approve an agreement with Lewis & Clark to complete the sale of part of Madison's allotment of LCRWS water to CRWS. ■

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Local couple among first to construct yurts in SD

By **MARY GALES ASKREN**
Madison Daily Leader Reporter

Curiosity may have killed the cat, but for one local couple, it created an opportunity.

Sue and Marlon Overholt were working a craft show at Fort Ransom State Park, located in the Sheyenne River Valley of North Dakota, when they saw a round, hutlike structure the park was renting out for lodging. Called a yurt, it included a full kitchen and bathroom and was available year-round.

"In 2017, we actually rented it for a weekend in December. It was six below and we ended up turning the heat off," Marlon Overholt said.

That began their love affair with yurts which is currently coming to fruition on their small

acreage south of Madison.

Earlier this year, Overholt pulled a flatbed trailer to Cottage Grove, Ore., and picked up three from Pacific Yurts, Inc. They are being assembled on platforms behind his shop.

"For the nomads of Mongolia, this was their home," he said, providing a historical context for the structures, which look like squat grain bins that have been covered with a tarp.

"The original Yurt was intended to be mobile. What we have is the modern yurt," he said.

As far as Overholt knows, there's only one other yurt in South Dakota — near Lead. However, they are a popular structure elsewhere in the nation.

"On the West Coast, there are hundreds of them," he

indicated.

Overholt said that bringing yurts into eastern South Dakota is typical of the decisions he and his wife have made.

"Sue and I think outside the box," he said. "We've done that ever since we've been married. We didn't do anything the traditional way."

The couple is originally from Ohio. They first became acquainted with South Dakota when Sue was working on her Ph.D. in meat science at South Dakota State University. When she completed her degree, she began to work for a pharmaceutical company, first in Los Angeles and later in North Carolina.

"We decided to start a business, so we came back to South Dakota because this is where we wanted to raise

a family," Overholt said. That was 18 years ago.

They bought their current acreage sight unseen and moved in, starting a cabinet shop — Dakota Fixture and Cabinet Co. Sue also started Susan Solid Surface Specialties, making cutting boards, game boards and other items.

"What she does is utilize the waste. It's kind of a green business," Overholt said.

The yurts were appealing for a number of reasons. Some of the reasons are practical, such as their affordability. The website for Pacific Yurts, Inc., indicates a 30-foot yurt, like Overholt's, starts at \$12,350. Upgrades such as glass windows, insulation liners and the snow and wind kit cost more.

The yurts are also durable.

"The way ours are set up, they can withstand 140-mph winds, and the roof will hold 25 pounds per square foot," Overholt noted.

The wind resistance comes in part from their shape. Because the yurts are round, the wind goes around them rather than pushing against them. In addition, the rafters

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are reinforced with a system of cables.

"Cables in the rafters keep them from corkscrewing in the wind," Overholt explained.

The weight-bearing capacity of the roof is enhanced by the cables. However, another upgrade the Overholts chose also contributes. They have 2x6 rafters rather than the more common 2x4 rafters.

Over the summer months, they focused on exterior construction.

"We would have people stop on the road and watch us," Overholt said.

The yurts were assembled on platforms which involved literally standing lattice bales upright and unrolling them. The roof is comprised of 50 rafters held in place with a compression ring and a 3/8-inch tension cable.

The Overholts also chose to reinforce the structure with perimeter blocking. All of the wood is Douglas fir.

That basic structure is then covered with an insulated liner and vinyl cover.

"The insulation they use is the insulation used on the International Space Station," Overholt reported.

Each yurt will have running



Photo by Mary Gales Askren

MARLON OVERHOLT is constructing three yurts on his small acreage south of Madison. The round structures are a modern adaptation of living quarters developed by nomads in Mongolia.

water and electricity. Each bathroom will have a shower, toilet and small vanity. The kitchenette will have a refrigerator and sink, but no stove.

"Each yurt will have 200-amp service like a regular house," Overholt said. The yurts will have electric heat provided with a series of small heaters around the outside perimeter,

and a 50-gallon water heater.

The interior design of each will vary to some extent, depending upon the use. One, for example, will have two bedrooms for guests to use.

"The interior is completely up to the individual," he explained, indicating that Pacific Yurts, Inc., offers a great deal of flexibility. "We decided to make it simple and easy for everybody."

Currently the interior walls of one yurt are framed. Over the winter months, it will be finished. Rather than install flooring, the Overholts plan to sand and finish the platform. They also intend to leave the yurt open to the rafters rather than install a ceiling.

"The beauty of the yurt is seeing the structure," Overholt said.

Thus far, many who have stepped inside have been impressed. With two windows and a tinted dome, the space is light drenched. The round walls and open rafters give a sense of spaciousness even though the yurt is only 30 feet in diameter and 706 square feet.

"Most people, when they step into them, they feel a calm feeling come across," Overholt noted. ■

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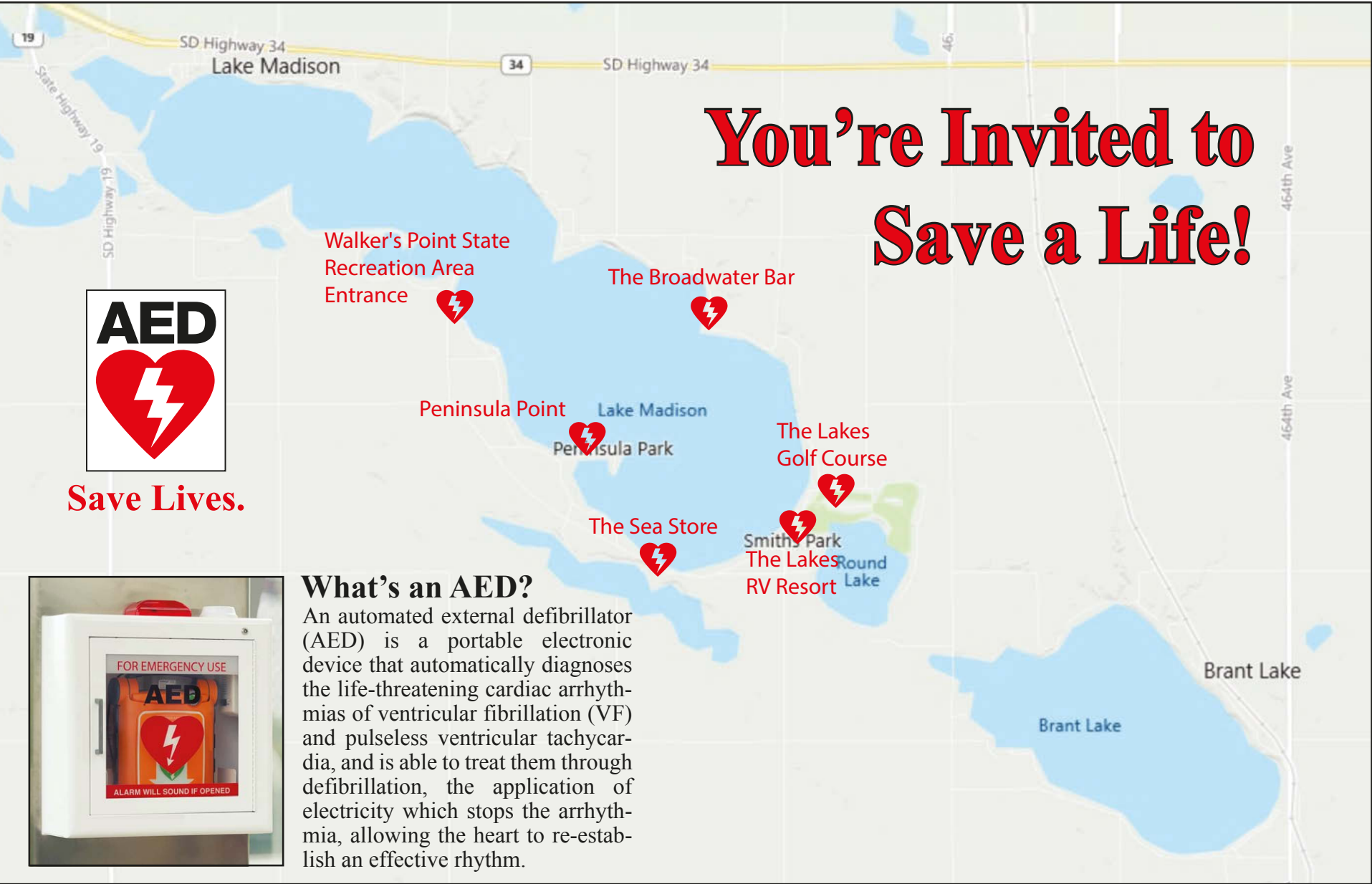
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Regular season events at PRAIRIE VILLAGE

By **MARY GALES ASKREN**
Madison Daily Leader Reporter

When a public health crisis was addressed as a political issue in 2020, decision-makers faced a quandary. They could consider the public health risks in making their decisions, or they could cross their fingers and hope for the best. Either way, they faced harsh criticism.

While the echo of that dilemma can still be heard, a nationwide effort to address the public health crisis as such with mass vaccinations has changed the landscape. With that, decision-makers can issue a sigh of relief. Among them is Faron Wahl, Prairie Village manager.

"My intent is to focus on getting back to a full season and doing it well," he said.

Last year, the village was open to visitors and campers, but no events were held. Not only were the pageant, concerts and car show canceled, but so was the annual Steam Threshing Jamboree for the first time in the

organization's history.

This year, apart from school tours, a normal year is planned.

"Some of our bigger events will have as big of attendance as usual," Wahl projected.

The season kicks off with the annual consignment auction on Saturday, followed by opening day on Sunday. The next event will be the Miss Prairie Village and Miss Prairie Princess Pageant on June 6.

The experience of visitors and campers for summer events is expected to be "largely normal," said Wahl. The exception will be the carousel; some adjustments must be made before it will be operational.

"A wood carousel of its age requires the adjustments be made in the temperature it will be used in," he explained.

Last year, neither the carousel nor the train was used. It was believed the coronavirus could be passed through contact with surfaces touched by an infected person. Suitable precautions could have damaged the carousel.



Photo by Mary Gales Askren

PRAIRIE VILLAGE is having a regular schedule this year including train rides at 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

As more has become known and as more people have become vaccinated, the guidelines provided by the CDC and state Department of Health have changed. Consequently, similar precautions are not necessary this year.

"Right now, we're planning to run them," Wahl said about both the carousel and the train. "All these things are subject to the weather."

While the year is expected to be a good one, the season is off to a slow start.

"Normally, I start getting school tour requests by Thanksgiving," Wahl indicated. This year, he had not received any by March and has only received tentative inquiries since then.

"I don't find that surprising," he said. "Each school has their own set of rules."

Wahl said the feel of a visit would be different this year, not only because there would be fewer groups on the grounds but also because the carousel is not running. He has not

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stocked the gift shop with the kinds of souvenirs that are popular with students.

"There are a very few that might come for a partial day visit," he said. "I anticipate next spring we'll be back to seeing the typical requests for school tours."

The Northern Bull Riding Tour will be coming on June 11, with two changes: Dakota Darling Boutique will be setting up a trailer offering women's clothing, and a championship buckle will be offered.

"It typically grabs the attention of the contestants," Wahl indicated.

In scheduling the concert season, he said that he listens to requests and tries to offer variety. This year, the first show is "Divas Gone Country" on June 19.

"We had a variation on that three years ago," Wahl noted. The trio also does Divas on Broadway and Divas through the Decades.

Divas Gone Country "celebrates the sights and sounds of America's Heartland feature music by some of the 'Queens of Country'," according to the group's website. The show is described as fast-paced and interactive.

Wahl is bringing back by request the Beatles tribute band, Abbey Road, on July 10. They last performed at the Lawrence Welk Opera House in 2019. The concert season will wrap up on July 24 with a Fleetwood

Mac tribute, Landslide.

"I've had a number of requests to bring something of that category," Wahl stated.

There will be a variety show on June 27 and the car show on Aug. 1. However, the highlight of the season is expected to be the 58th annual Steam Threshing Jamboree featuring International Harvester which will be held Aug. 26-29.

"We're thrilled to have International Harvester. It's going to be an exciting year with them," Wahl said. Those who were disappointed when last year's Jamboree featuring John Deere was canceled won't have to wait long to see their favorite tractor.

"There isn't any significant delay. We'll have International Harvester this year and come right back in 2022 with John Deere. Both of those are among the most well-established farm equipment manufacturers in this country's ag history," Wahl said.

Regarding the summer season, he did issue a word of caution. While widespread vaccinations and more information about COVID-19 make outdoor events appear safe, public safety will remain a priority.

"We'll have to evaluate events as they come," he stated. However, his enthusiasm for upcoming events is clearly evident as he speaks about the coming season.

"We're excited to have regular-season events," Wahl said. ■

Prairie Village News

FARON WAHL, *Prairie Village Manager*

A great deal of the wonderfully woven history within a place like Prairie Village centers on the people who helped get us here. Whether partners in our 1960s founding or folks who currently serve to forward our mission, our organization's timeline comprises a healthy volume of "Who's Who?"

Sadly, as years pass and time marches forward, it is a given that folks dear to us will pass on. It seems we have lost an unusual number of those players recently — all of whom were building blocks of support in some facet.

I am always hesitant to name any one of them here, as such practice inevitably leaves out someone else. Very occasionally, though, one experiences a loss that flat-out lands in unusual territory, which leads me to pay tribute here to a man who identified as member, supporter, exhibitor, advocate and volunteer. But this situation is worthy of additional words, as the loss hit us hard in a very uncommon category: the spouse of a current Prairie Village staff member.

Jack Mader was a true friend to this institution. As a guy who knew and loved International Harvester equipment at a level rivaled by few, he restored tractors at an impressive caliber and loved exhibiting them during our Jamboree. Given that this year's feature is IH, you can bet his lineup would have stood polished and proud, and Jack would have been in his element among that crowd.

Just in my five-plus years as manager, Jack fixed our equipment more times than I care to count. He not only possessed the knack and know-how to fix the stuff, but he could also sense the root of the problem while others were only beginning the search. Moreover, if the equipment were red, I swear the guy could smell what was wrong as he drove in our front gate, before ever laying eyes on the challenge. He just knew, and he could always

make it right.

Time and again Jack showed up to humbly toss his "two-cents worth" at something of ours that had broken down, work often worth several hundred dollars in his assessment process alone. We would buy whatever parts he needed, but many times freebies got tossed in here and there from his own deep stash of parts and hardware. Never wanting him to be taken for granted, I offered every single time to pay Jack for his time and mechanical expertise. Not once did he accept.

During the crazy water-logged 2019 season, we fought just to keep campsites open. We had to re-plan carefully week to week where we dared put campers, for fear they would go in and never come out. Even with those best laid plans, a few buried their pickups and campers in the process.

Jack offered to be "on call" all season and would show up with equipment needed to pull them out, which was typically beyond our capacity. Doubtless he had a dozen other things to be doing, but faithful Jack rolled in immediately every time we were in a bind.

Beyond all that, we are grateful that he was so willing to share his beloved wife, Bev, with us. Her schedule is not for the faint of heart, and it certainly doesn't allow for typical time at home during our main season. Jack understood her deep love for her job here at Prairie Village, and he never stood in the way of the demands it placed. Most would not have tolerated it, much less been kind about it.

I was blessed to know Jack for just five years of his life, and very early in that timeframe he became a true friend to me. I am not only indebted to his selfless use of skills that backed me up regularly as a manager, but I will be forever grateful for his kind demeanor, his easy visit, his disarming humor and a thoughtfully offered piece of advice I will never forget.

Our hats are off to you, Jack Mader — such a kind servant and supporter of Prairie Village. Our memories will remain fond and close at heart, and we will do our very best to always support and care for your dear Bev.



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- June 26 Railroad Day
- June 27 Prairie Village Variety Show
- July 10 *Abbey Road concert
- July 24 *Landslide Concert (Fleetwood Mac tribute)
- Aug. 1 27th Annual Madison Car Show
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TRAIN RIDES TO RESUME AT PRAIRIE VILLAGE

By MARY GALES ASKREN

Madison Daily Leader Reporter

Members of the Prairie Village railroad committee were all aboard on Saturday, preparing the passenger cars for use in 2021. Like many attractions, the Prairie Village, Herman & Milwaukee Railroad did not run in 2020.

"There was one day we took it out to make sure it was working," said Harold Boer, committee president.

On Saturday, committee members were cleaning the passenger cars and making repairs in preparation for opening day, May 2, when the train will run at 2 p.m. This year, train rides will be offered regularly at 2 p.m. on Saturdays. In addition, the train will run on Mother's Day and throughout the Steam Threshing Jamboree.

The cost is \$4 per person with children age 3 and under riding free. A family pass for \$15 can be purchased for a family of up to five. One train ride is included in the cost of a season pass.

Currently, the committee plans to run steam only twice during the summer months — on June 26, Railroad Day, and during the Jamboree.

"It's fairly involved to get the steam up and running — about four hours in the morning," Boer said, explaining why a diesel engine will be used most

weekends.

Only one steam engine — the No. 29 which was built in Lima, Ohio, in 1944 — is operational. The No. 11, which was built in Pennsylvania in 1924, was dismantled in the spring of 2019 so the boiler could be replaced.

"The COVID pandemic has slowed up the construction of the new boiler," Boer said.

In preparing for the summer season, volunteers have been replacing rotten wood around windows in the passenger cars, replacing unused doors with windows, and installing security latches on the windows. Boer explained that children like to stick their hands out of the windows, and the latches will ensure no one is injured due to a falling window.

In addition, an air compressor was used to blow peeling paint flakes from the walls of the cars.

"Our goal this year is to have the inside painted," Boer said.

Bill Lutter, the committee historian, is pleased the trains will be running again this year. Although he remains somewhat concerned about the public health threat posed by the COVID pandemic, he also knows the train rides are an integral part of the Prairie Village experience.

"It builds a lot of interest and shows what it was like in the past," Lutter said. "People sometimes complain



Photo by Mary Gales Askren

RAILROAD COMMITTEE members at Prairie Village work on Saturday to prepare the passenger cars for use on opening day, May 2. Among those at work were Harold Boer (left), committee president, Gary Johnson and Rick Meyer. Plywood was temporarily placed over two openings where windows will be installed.

it's not comfortable. That's the way it was!"

Normally, at this time of year, the railroad committee would be working with Faron Wahl, manager of Prairie Village, to staff the train for school tours. Most years, they give rides to 1,400 to 1,500 school children. This year, that is not likely to happen,

though committee members remain interested.

"If they request one, we could probably accommodate it," Boer said.

Even without this normal start to their season, the railroad committee anticipates a good year.

"We have a lot of people interested," Boer said. ■

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What's in a Name?

The Lake County Historical Society Smith Zimmermann Museum

On the eastern shores of Lake Madison lies an area that was once called "Sour Milk Point." According to an early legend, a passing wayfarer stopped at a nearby homestead and asked the woman of the residence if she could spare a bite to eat. She gave him a piece of stale bread and some sour milk. As the man continued his journey, he stopped at the next homestead and told the inhabitants his story. Apparently, unhappy with her hospitality, he stated that the woman "looks like a sour milk point, too." Thus, the area was called "Sour Milk Point" for many years. Today, we know it as Wentworth Park.

How did places throughout Lake County get their names? In 1955, Winifred Brown Christensen, a local teacher working on her master's degree from the University of South Dakota, asked that same question. To fulfill the requirements in completing her degree, she researched, collected, and recorded as much information as she could gather on the subject. The result was a thesis titled "A Study of Place-Names in Lake County, South

Dakota" which contains hundreds of little-known facts documenting our local history.

Once upon a time, as the story goes, a group of pioneers began moving into a region located in the southeastern part of Dakota Territory. This area, a part of the vast prairie known as the Great Plains, was made up many lakes, sloughs, and native wildlife – including a large number of skunks! The Native Americans and an earlier trapper/explorer called it "Skunk Lakes," and the name stuck – for awhile.

During the 1870s, as the land was being surveyed for settlement, this region was appropriately named Lake County – not Skunk Lakes. It was divided into 16 townships. As settlers moved in, claimed the land, and organized their townships, names were applied.

So, by the mid-1870s and into the 1880s, as settlers migrated into the area, homesteaded, built schools, organized churches, and prepared cemeteries for loved ones, they gave names to these various sites. Many of these place-names continue to exist today; many, such as "Sour Milk Point," do not.

The lakes and sloughs were named accordingly. The large western lake known as Lake Herman – was named by

Herman Luce, who claimed the nearby land. Lake Madison, the largest lake of the county, was named after the city in Wisconsin. But, not all geographic features were named after people or places. In the southeastern part of the county was a lake that was visited by a large number of small, dark, geese during their annual spring migration. The nearby settlers called these birds "brant," and applied the name Lake Brant.

Some of these areas have lost their names, or are known only by a few of the local residents. For example, if you asked many residents of Lake County for directions to Buffalo Slough, the response might be, "I don't know where it's at." But, if you lived in the Chester area, the response might be, "It's a few miles south of town." The early pioneers called the area Buffalo Slough after a large number of buffalo bones that were found there during settlement.

In the Badus, LeRoy, and Rutland townships, located in the northern part of Lake County, flows a stream that was named Battle Creek. In 1878, as the story goes, a group of newcomers gathered together near a local creek for a social outing one afternoon. Two of the men staged a "mock" battle. Thus, the stream became known as Battle Creek.

Clarno Township, located in the southwestern part of Lake County, was

organized in 1888. One early settler, a Mr. McCullom, wanted to name the township Caledonia – after a place in Wisconsin and an ancient name for Scotland. But, a majority of the settlers wanted a shorter name. After much discussion and debate Caledonia was shortened to "Clarno." It is reported that in disgust, McCullom went home and renamed his dog Clarno.

Some the earlier settlements of Lake County no longer exist, and their names are lost to the times. For example, in 1903, a settlement and post office named Peolke was established seven miles west of Madison. It didn't make it, but another settlement named Junius that was established near the same site a year later, managed to survive. When the railroad extended its line in 1905 near Chester, a group of residents created a rival settlement and named it Saranac. It was built one mile east of present-day Chester and was nicknamed "Kill Chester." Saranac is long gone.

Winifred Brown Christensen married Thorne Lee in the late 1950s and continued to make her home in Lake County until her death in the late 1990s. Thanks to her extensive research, a part of Lake County's heritage has been preserved, and local residents are better able to understand the history of those days long-gone-by. A copy of her thesis is on file at the Carnegie Public Library. ■

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Freshwater Fishing Equipment for Beginners

No matter how advanced someone becomes with a skill or hobby, we all start out as beginners. Fishing is one of those sports that can seem intimidating at first as there are so many factors to consider—gear, location, technique, fish behavior, weather, temperature, tides—but the best advice for all beginners is to keep it simple. There are a few basic things you'll need to get started. Here's a list that encompasses essential freshwater fishing equipment for beginners.

FRESHWATER FISHING GEAR FOR BEGINNERS

- **Rod and reel.** For your first setup, go for a pre-spooled, pre-assembled rod and reel combo. A 1000 to 3000 size spinning reel affixed to a 7-foot medium action rod is a great setup to learn with.
- **Fishing line.** If you buy a rod and reel setup that comes pre-spooled, you won't need to worry about picking out your own fishing line for now.
- **Tackle.** Tackle is the fun part about selecting freshwater fishing equipment for beginners. Bait hooks, lures, soft plastic baits—these fish candies will entice your favorite species into biting.



Ask your local bait and tackle shop what works best for the species or water body you're fishing and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

- **Knot tying book.** To start, learn one basic line-to-tackle knot that you can rely on. You can also find many free videos online.
- **Line cutters.** Fishing can require a lot of knot-tying. Use line cutters for trimming excess line. For an easy hack, you can also use fingernail clippers or household scissors.
- **Dehooker or pliers.** Essential freshwater fishing gear for beginners, a dehooking tool will help you remove the hook from the fish's mouth easily and without harm.
- **A fishing license.** Every state has their own licensing requirements. Be sure to get your fishing license and know the local fishing regulations before you hit the water.

If you're just learning how to fish, there are also many free resources available online including even more freshwater fishing equipment for beginners. Research is valuable, but the important part is that you get outside and have fun fishing! ■

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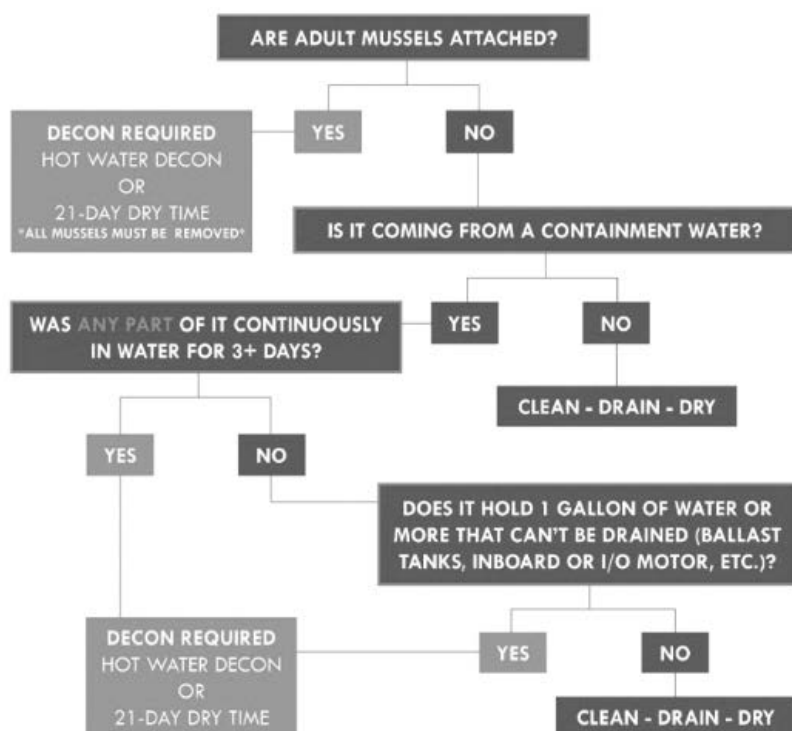


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Does my watercraft need a decontamination?

Zebra mussels have been slowly spreading to new waters in South Dakota. Decontaminating watercraft used in infested waters is the most effective way to slow the spread. Decontaminations are required for certain watercraft that have used zebra mussel infested waters and for any watercraft with adult zebra mussels attached. Any mussels attached to a watercraft must be removed. It is illegal to possess zebra mussels.



What are containment waters?

Containment waters are waterbodies with established populations of zebra or quagga mussels. These waters are

- Lewis and Clark Lake
- Lake Francis Case
- Lake Sharpe
- Any part of the Missouri River below Oahe Dam
- The Bad River from its confluence with Lake Sharpe to the U.S. Highway 83 bridge
- McCook Lake
- Lake Yankton
- Pickerel Lake
- Waubay Lake
- Minnewasta Lake
- North Rush
- South Rush
- Any water outside the state of South Dakota that has been designated as infested with zebra or quagga mussels

What does a decontamination include?

All types of decontamination require that all zebra mussels are removed before the watercraft is launched into the water again.

Watercraft which sit out of the water for a minimum of 21 days meet the dry-time decontamination requirement. Boats removed from infested waters and stored over winter will meet the requirement for dry-time decontamination before the next boating season. Dead zebra mussels must be removed before the next launch.

If dry time cannot be met before the next planned launch, watercraft needing decontamination will require a hot water decontamination.

- Outboard motors will be lowered and allowed to drain.
- Inboard and inboard/outboard motors will receive a ten-second flush with 140°F water.
- Ballast tanks or internal compartments that retain more than one gallon of water after draining will be flushed with 120°F water for two minutes.
- Watercraft with zebra mussels attached or any part continuously in infested water for three or more days will have all internal compartments flushed with 120°F water, and 140°F water will be used to flush the boat motor and pressure wash the watercraft's hull.
- Marine dealers are best equipped to remove zebra mussels from within boat motors



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How can I get my boat decontaminated?

If meeting dry time requirements is not possible, contact your local Game, Fish and Parks office to learn about decontamination options in your area. The GFP website (gfp.sd.gov/contactus) and the hunting and fishing handbooks list contact information for GFP offices.

What about boat docks and lifts?

All boat docks and lifts pulled from the water in the fall should be inspected for attached zebra mussels. Please report the discovery of zebra mussels in a lake not listed as infested with them to your local Game, Fish and Parks office. Any mussels found must be removed before the dock or lift is transported or placed back into any body of water. Docks and lifts containing mussels may only be transported away from a lake for the propose of decontamination.

Guidance on best practices

Good boating practices should be used even when visiting waters not infested with invasive species. Boaters can always clean, drain, and dry their watercraft, pull all plugs and leave them out until they are at the next boat ramp, and lower their boat motor before leaving the boat ramp to allow excess water to drain out.



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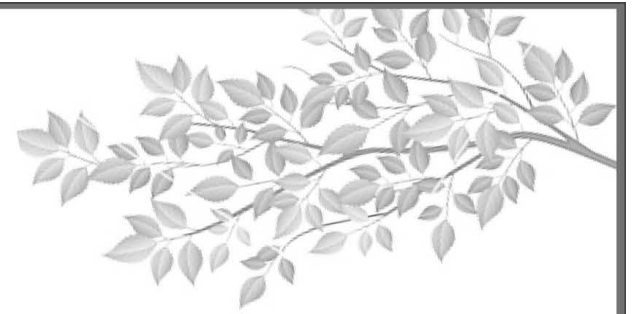
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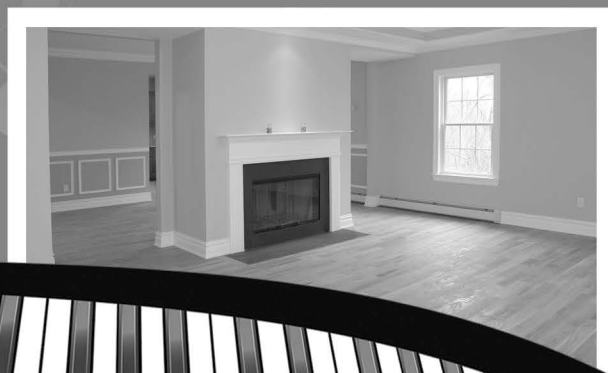
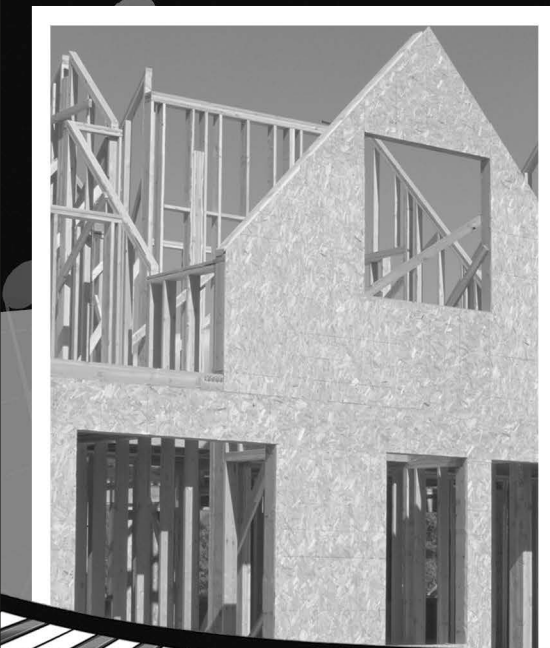
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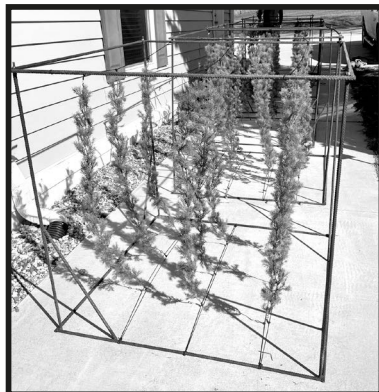


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Happy Spring!

The LMDA President and myself had a meeting with SD GF&P in mid- March to discuss plans about improving the lake fisheries. The idea of placing Fish Cities (an artificial structure) into our lake has been tabled for now. However, a new test of 10 temporary Perch egg laying structures was begun in early April. The SD GF&P had these boxes that are made to support strings of artificial weeds. The perch at spawning time need some structure on which their eggs skeins are laid across, such as weeds, trees, docks and boat lifts. Their eggs are part of a 2'-6' skein, unlike other fish species, they are white to opaque in color and you might see some on or around your lift or dock. A skein can produce 5000 to 25,000+ eggs, the productivity of the skeins is dependent upon water levels, temperature, winds and predation once hatched.



The ten structures are marked by an orange GF&P buoy, all 10 are located on the north shore of the lake. (3 at Stratton public access, 2 at Stoney Point and 5 along Hares Point). All are located in approximately 4' or less of water and are only temporary until the eggs have hatched which should be early May. I continue to monitor the 5 along Hares Point weekly, recording temperatures and noting any skeins on the artificial weeds. We have had positive results with as much as 20% - 66% of skeins on the weeds. I recently repositioned a lesser productive unit to an area with more spawning occurring and even just overnight the structure gained 2 additional skeins!



Last Fall the SD GF&P removed 4,139 adult Yellow Perch from Long Lake. The fish were distributed to the following bodies in the region:

Miller FMA (Hanson) 299 fish
Scheffel WPA (Bon Homme) 400 fish
Scott Lake (Minnehaha) 1068 fish
Ravine Lake (Beadle) 618 fish
Hurley Pond (Turner) 300 fish
Island Lake South (Minnehaha) 1454 fish

They also trapped 1,279 adult Yellow Perch from North Mud Lake in Lake County and distributed them to area lakes. In the spring of 2021, it is confirmed via survey that Long Lake did have a few dead Yellow Perch, Carp and Bullheads observed along the shoreline. On March 22, 2021 3 nets were set for 24 hours and they saw plenty of live fish including 45 Yellow Perch and also Bullhead and Common Carp.

The SD GF&P have committed to adding 196,000 Walleye fingerlings from the 2021 spring spawning efforts. Due to Covid last spring the GF&P did not gather any eggs from spawning operations. I believe this issue of the paper is going to include 2 notices regarding Zebra Mussels from the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks. In those notices, are a review of proper procedures when placing boats on lifts and or trailering. These guidelines apply to while we are on our home lakes as well as when we travel to bodies of water which are infected with Zebra Mussels. There are 2 new lakes not noted on the list supplied from GF&P they are Cochrane and Kampeska.

There is a handicap accessible fishing pier now located at Walkers Point on Lake Madison.

The South Dakota Game Fish & Parks has acquired some additional land on the west end of Lake Madison called Paynes access - very near the public boat ramp. They hope to move forward to develop the area as a hardpoint structure to allow fishing access near deeper water. The LMDA has been asked if we would consider a donation of possibly a bench for the area to be used by persons.

Lastly, speaking of Public Access, the SD GF&P has a newer tool for the entire state that shows many layers of info such as artificial structures previously introduced along with rough GPS coordinates. During the winter time this website will show recent snow removal access. The following document will give you step by step instructions on how to use this great tool.

Here's hoping you success in all of your outdoor endeavors!

Murray Driggs, chairman, LMLA Fishing Committee ■

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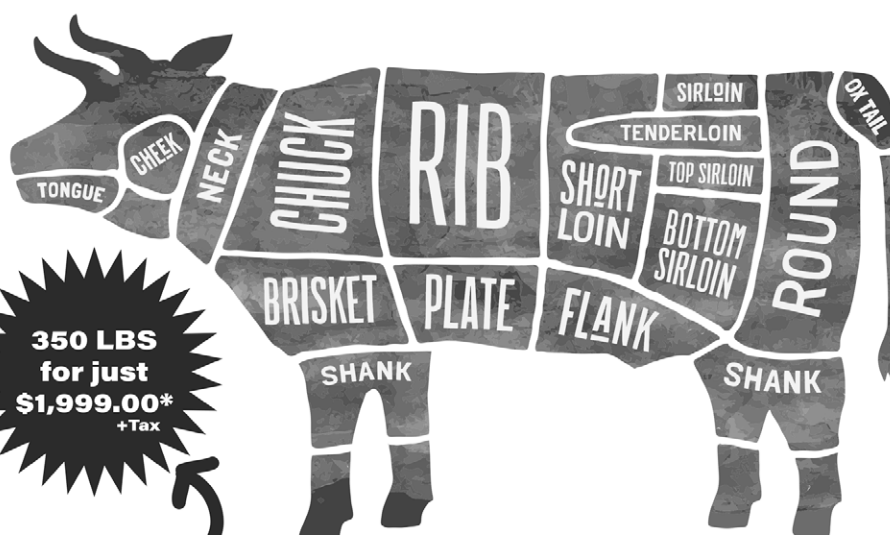
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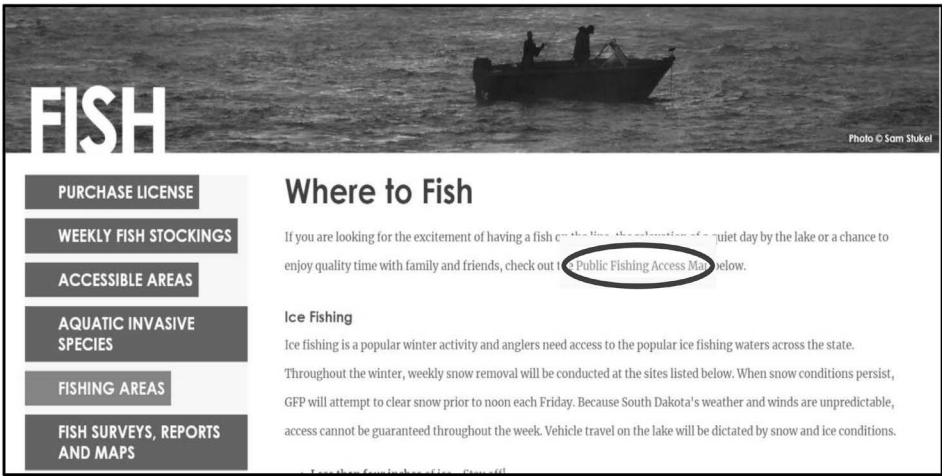
- Start by going to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks main website (gfp.sd.gov) and click on the FISH tab.



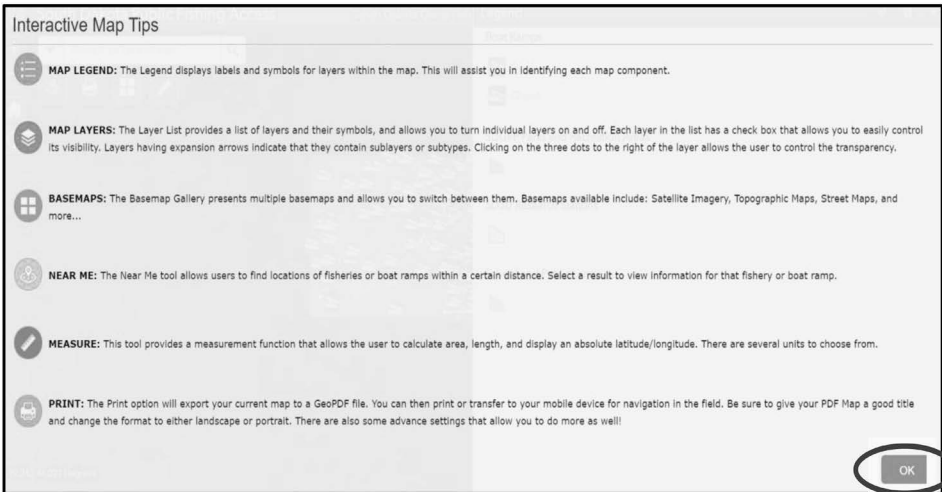
- Click on FISHING AREAS on the left side of the screen.



- In the first paragraph, click on the Public Fishing Access Map link



- When the interactive map loads, a tips page will pop up. After reviewing the tips, click OK.



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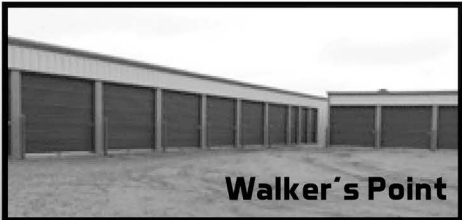
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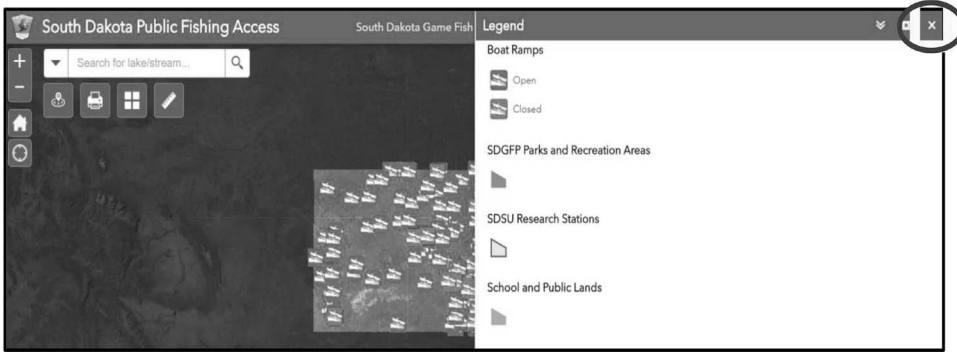


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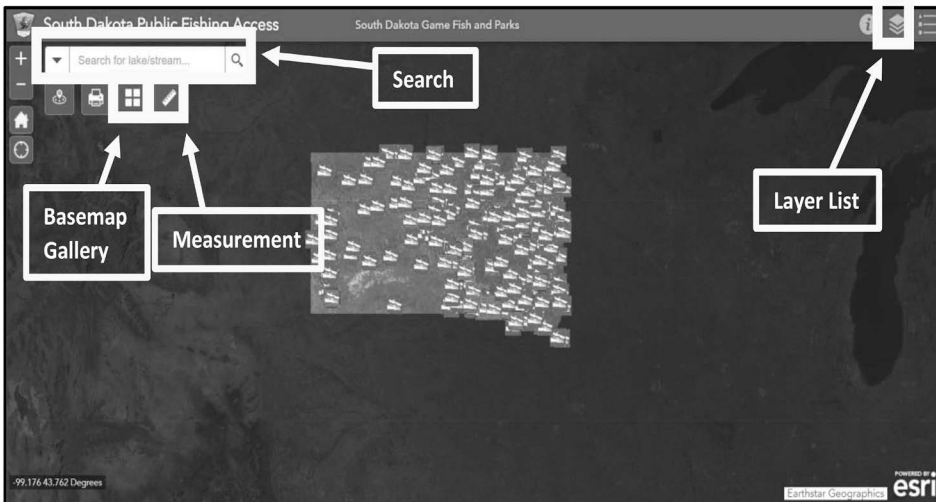
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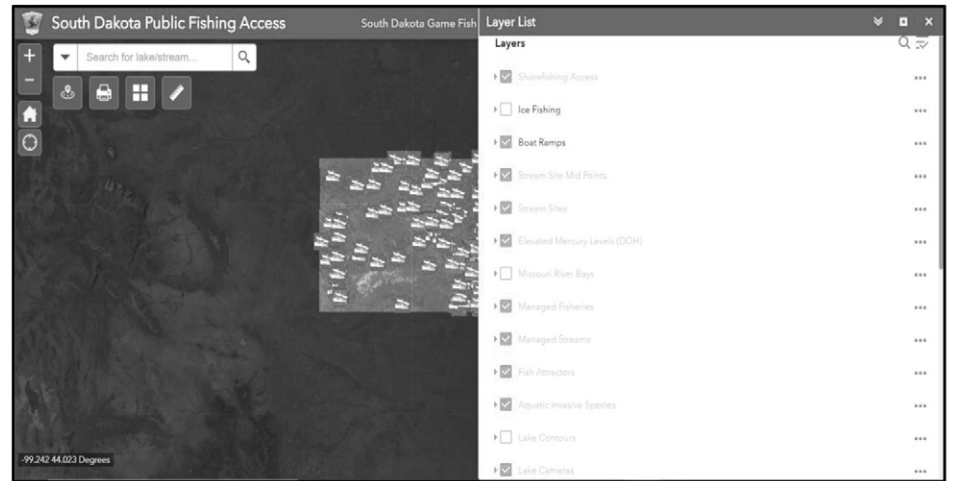
- The map Legend will automatically open. After reviewing the Legend, click X in the upper right corner to close.



- At this point, you can use the search function to find a specific lake or zoom in to find the lake on the map. You can also change the basemap, take measurements, and turn on/off various map layers.



- The Layer List contains numerous helpful features that will show up on the map only if the box is checked. You may have to zoom in for certain features to appear on the map.



- The Ice Fishing feature  is located on the map at maintained ice fishing access locations. These features are updated throughout the ice fishing season to provide anglers information such as the last time the access was cleared of snow.

Questions/Comments about the Public Fishing Access map can be sent to:

- NE South Dakota – Rhet Russell (Rhet.Russell@state.sd.us)
- SE South Dakota – Kip Rounds (Kip.Rounds@state.sd.us)
- Central South Dakota – Jason Jungwirth (Jason.Jungwirth@state.sd.us)
- Western South Dakota – John Carreiro (John.Carreiro@state.sd.us)

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BRANT LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 10, 2021

President Mike Wagner called the regular meeting of BLSD to order as a Zoom Virtual Meeting at 7:13 p.m. Present were: Board Member Tim Basler, Superintendent Dave Brown and Marlys Hohman. Ben Schwartzhoff, representative of Electric Pump, was a guest.

1. Approval of the Agenda: Basler moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

2. Declaration of Conflict: None

3. Public Comment and Input: None

4. Clerk of BLSD: Wagner moved, Basler seconded to appoint Marlys Hohman as Clerk of the BLSD as a voluntary position. Motion passed.

5. Minutes:

* Basler moved, Wagner seconded to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting. Motion passed.

* Wagner moved, Basler seconded to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2021 Special Meeting. Motion passed.

6. Expenses Approved: Wagner moved, Basler seconded to approve the following expenses and payments. Motion passed.

* Sioux Valley Electric - \$708 (Estimated charges for 2021)

* South Dakota 811 - \$150 (Estimated charges for 2021)

* Thurman, Comes, Foley & Co. LLP, accounting - \$300

* Carolyn VanHeerde - Office Supplies - \$361.11

* Minnesota Pump Works - Pump Repair Inventory - \$4,468.78

* Madison Daily Leader - Publishing - \$106.27

* Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith - Legal Fees - \$15,392.06, with no payment to be made currently and the total amount posted to Accounts Payable.

7. Financial Report for 2020: Wagner to meet with accountant to complete. Delay due to recalculation of new depreciation schedules and new debt restructuring timelines.

8. Grinder Pump Bids - RE:FEMA *4469: Bids were considered from Brown Excavating and Electric Pump. Brown Excavating Bid's included a four-year warranty which was beyond specifications for a total of \$156,350. Electric Pump met all published specifications for a total of \$85,788. Wagner moved, seconded by Basler to accept the bid from Electric Pump. Motion passed.

9. Extension Kits bid rescinded: Due to a failure by the Madison Daily Leader to publish the initial bid advertisement a second time, Wagner moved, Basler seconded to rescind the bid award for Grinder Pit Riser Kits. Motion passed. New bid advertisements have been made and bids will be reconsidered during a special meeting on February 16, 2021

MARLYS HOHMAN, *Clerk*

MIKE WAGNER, *President*

BRANT LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 16, 2021

President Michael Wagner called a special meeting of the Brant Lake Sanitary District to order at 5:21 PM. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom with notices and invitations to the meeting posted on the BLSD website. Present was Board Member Tim Basler, Board Member Michael Wagner, Superintendent Dave

Brown, Clerk Marlys Hohman and Jen Rover. With only two members currently serving on the board, Wagner determined that a quorum was present.

1) Grinder Pit Extension/Riser Kit Bid Opening: one bid was received from Brown Excavating in the amount of \$60,726. for 87 grinder pit extension/riser kits. The bid met all requirements of the District. Wagner moved, Basler seconded to accept bid and place the order. Motion passed.

2) Revision of Superintendent Contract: Contract issues were discussed and agreed to. Wagner moved, Basler seconded to approve amended contract with Brown Excavating. Motion passed.

3) Question was asked about article in Argus Leader on Saturday, February 6. Discussion was held. More information will be available soon.

4) Executive Session for Discussion of Legal and Personnel Issues: Wagner moved at 5:45 PM to move into Executive Session, Basler Seconded. Wagner moved to come out of session, Basler seconded at 6:05 PM.

5) Additional members had joined the meeting and public discussion was held.

6) Wagner moved, Basler seconded to adjourn at 6:15 PM

7) Next regular meeting with be March 10, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom.

MARLYS HOHMAN, *Clerk*

MICHAEL WAGNER, *President*

CITY OF BRANT LAKE SOUTH DAKOTA

TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 12, 2021

Opening

President Dave Philips called the meeting of the City of Brant Lake Board of Trustees to order at 6:06 p.m. on Tuesday, January

12, 2021 via Team Communications.

Present: Dave Philips, Paula Wagner, Karen Reiff, Doug Bowen, Diane Reiff. Absent: Tom Reiff.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved.

Public Forum N/A

Approval of Minutes:

December 8, 2020 board meeting minutes approved.

Treasurers Report:

Total 2020 General Fund expenditure: \$56,580.54; Current Cash Balance \$37,374.67 Treasurers report was approved.

Approved Bills

Madison Daily Leader, \$19.26; Wilbur-Ellis (snow removal) \$200.00; S.D. Public Assurance Alliance, \$441.27; Eng Services (FEMA sand and gravel), \$477.31; Dave Philips (Bluehost reimbursement), \$75.11; City Finance Officer, (Melissa Wagner) \$92.35; City Clerk (Diane Reiff), \$92.35; Postage reimbursement (Diane Reiff) \$24.20; First Bank & Trust (80 check blanks), \$45.32.

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

Monthly salaries for the year 2021 will be as follows: City Finance officer \$125.00; City Clerk \$125.00.

Motion was made and approved to name the Madison Daily Leader as the official newspaper for Brant Lake City.

There will be one three year term for the Board of Trustees to be filled in the April 2021 municipal election.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Team Communications

Minutes submitted by:

DIANE REIFF, *City Clerk*

DAVE PHILIPS, *President*



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CITY OF BRANT LAKE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Opening

President Dave Philips called the meeting of the City of Brant Lake Board of Trustees to order at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 via Team Communications Present: Dave Philips, Paula Wagner, Karen Reiff, Doug Bowen, Tom Reiff Absent: Diane Reiff

Approval of Agenda

Agenda amended to add discussion regarding Brant Lake's 5th anniversary Public Forum N/A

Approval of Minutes:

January 12, 2021 board meeting minutes were approved Treasurers Report:

Total 2021 General Fund disbursements: \$1357.45; Current Cash Balance \$36,090.59. Treasurers report was approved.

Approved Bills

Madison Daily Leader, \$37.41

City Finance Officer (Melissa Wagner) \$138.53

City Clerk (Diane Reiff) \$138.53

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

The Annual Equalization meeting will be held on the third Monday of March, 3-15-21, at 6:00 p.m. via Team The board discussed having one board member designated as the first contact for all zoning requests and questions. A discussion took place regarding hosting a 5th anniversary celebration for the city of Brant Lake; date to be determined.

Executive Session: NA

LAKE MADISON SANITARY DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 10, 2020 MINUTES

The Lake Madison Sanitary District monthly meeting was held on November 10, 2020 with board member Gary Avise present. Scott Jamison by speaker phone due to exposure to COVID-19. Also present were Shawn Miller, Jerome Lammers, Mark Peltier, Cody Miller, Scott Johnson and Linda Aus.

Meeting was called to order. Shawn Miller was introduced. He is a LMSD member and resides in the Evergreen Acres area. Avise moved Jamison seconded that Shawn Miller be appointed to fill the open position on the board for the remaining term of Steve James who passed away suddenly. All in favor motion passed. Lammers will prepare oath of office. Officers will be appointed at next months meeting. Miller will not vote until oath is administered. Agenda was amended to allow Mark Peltier to address the board pertaining to Resolution 20-02. Lammers reported attendance of the Lake County Commission meeting. The Commission gave its approval for the annexation. The LMSD board instructed Lammers to proceed with the filing of Resolution 20-02. Peltier thanked the board and left the meeting.

Avise moved Jamison seconded to approve the October 20, 2020 minutes as read. Motion passed. Financials were reviewed. Avise moved to approve the financials and disbursement list dated November 10, 2020 with the ratification of checks *13817 through *13850 and the issuance of checks *13851 through *13866. Motion passed. Johnson reported insurance claims from

lightning strike have not all been turned in. Johnson also reported continued work on raising lift stations in flood prone areas. There being no further business meeting was adjourned.

LINDA AUS, Clerk

GARY AVISE, President

LAKE MADISON SANITARY DISTRICT

JANUARY 12, 2021 MINUTES

The Lake Madison Sanitary District board held their monthly meeting on January 12, 2021. Board members Gary Avise and Shawn Miller present. Also present were Cody Miller, Scott Jamison and Linda Aus.

Cody Miller presented Oath of Office for Shawn Miller to sign and was duly notarized. Officers will remain the same, Those being Avise, President, Miller, Vice President and Jamison, Treasurer. Avise moved to approve the December 8th, 2020 minutes as read. Miller seconded and motion passed. Financials were reviewed. Avise moved to approve the financials and disbursement list dated January 12th, 2021 with the ratification of checks *13881 through *13918 and the issuance of checks *13919 through *13935. Miller seconded the motion and motion passed. Johnson updated board of ongoing projects. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

LINDA AUS, Clerk

GARY AVISE, President

LAKE MADISON SANITARY DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 9, 2021 MINUTES

The Lake Madison Sanitary District

board held their monthly meeting on February 9, 2021 with board members Gary Avise and Shawn Miller present. Also present were Dan Lemme, Eric Johnson, Cody Miller, Scott Johnson and Linda Aus.

Dan Lemme opened a discussion with the board on potential for development in the district and the procedure that would be needed to comply with district boundaries and ordinances. Dan Lemme and Scott Johnson will discuss options with engineer Kim Buell. Dan Lemme and Eric Johnson thanked the board and excused themselves from meeting.

Avise moved to accept the January 12, 2021 minutes as read. Miller seconded motion and motion passed. Financials were reviewed. Avise moved to approve the financials dated (Unaudited) December 31, 2020 and January 31, 2021. Included in motion and Disbursement List dated February 9, 2021 and the ratification of checks *13919 through *13955 and the issuance of checks *13956 through *13969. Miller seconded motion and motion passed. New signature cards were signed and Aus will deliver to First Bank. Avise moved and Miller seconded to set the election date for the first Tuesday of April 6, 2021 motion passed. Aus explained a letter from SDPAA Deputy Director, Lynn Bren regarding valuation of properties. Board authorized Aus to move listed property to 100% of the replacement cost value. Aus reported on Audit requirements. Aus will contact KMWF & Associates and report at next meeting. Johnson reported on projects. There being no further business meeting was adjourned.

LINDA AUS, Clerk

GARY AVISE, President



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MADISON'S RECREATION TRAIL COMMITTEE ENDS

By **CHUCK CLEMENT**
Madison Daily Leader Reporter

City commissioners acted on Monday to approve a recommendation from the Madison Park Board to end the operation of a recreational trail committee within city government.

The members of the park board advised the Madison City Commission to merge the duties of the city's recreational trail committee with park board duties. The merger would not create any new seats on the park board.

Completing the work in 2007, Madison built a 4.2-mile recreational trail for hikers and bicyclists from Flynn Field in south Madison to Johnson's Point at Lake Madison. Since then, city officials had considered expanding Madison's recreation trails westward to connect the city to Lake Herman State Park.

At the end of Monday's March 9th meeting, Mayor Marshall Dennert announced that a section of the Lake Madison recreation trail next to the Lakeview Industrial Park would temporarily close. A construction crew needs to complete the installation of a new culvert near the Runnings retail store construction site.

City airport grant
 The Madison City Commission reviewed a grant application to the Federal Aviation Administration in which municipal airport officials requested a \$13,000 grant to help pay for operational expenses.

Officials with the Madison Municipal Airport have requested grant funds to pay for "...costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, combating the spread of pathogens at the airport, and debt service payments."

The FAA would provide the grant funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA).

On Dec. 27, 2020, then-President Donald Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Division M of the act is the CRRSA Act of 2021, and Title IV of CRRSA provided about \$2 billion in economic relief to airports to prevent, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants include relief from rent and minimum annual guarantees (vendor-related fees) for eligible airport concessions at certain primary airports.

The city commissioners authorized Mayor Dennert to sign the grant application. ■

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Pam Lewis captures the beauty of a sail boat on Lake Madison in early May.

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