

Lake Sinissippi Improvement District July 2023

Lake Management Plan

By Commissioner Christine Lilek

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources awarded Lake Sinissippi Improvement District a \$25,000 Surface Water Grant on February 23, 2022.

The grant is being used to fund a current Lake Management Plan (LMP) for the district. So, we can apply for funding and grants for approved DNR projects.

We were hoping to have the entire plan finalized by our August 19, 2023, Annual Meeting, but data collection of shoreline structures and rock ledge measurements upstream of the Hustisford Dam put us behind schedule. *We will not vote on the plan at the Annual Meeting.*

At the August 19, 2023, Annual meeting we will provide details on:

- Goal 1 - Lake management work group
- Goal 2 - Lake inlet channel improvements (targeted dredge) and rock ledge
- Goal 3 - Habitat and shoreline protection and improvements
- Goal 4 - Water level management projects

This plan was based on information collected from property owners during 2 years of informational meetings and surveys. Once the plan is approved by electors (*at a special meeting to be set for October 2023*), the plan will be sent to DNR for approval, we start to explore partnership funding, grant opportunities, and develop an implementation document. *Only funding feasible actions* will move forward in an implementation plan. Electors will have an opportunity to review and approve the implementation plan in the future.

No tax increases are included in the Lake Management plan.

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ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023
See insert for more details

Lake Sinissippi



Improvement District

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Special points of interest

- All water quality tests taken in 2022—2023 have come back in normal ranges. Sample results are posted on LSID webpage
- Fisher folk are reporting catches of catfish, perch and northern in 2022—2023

Wisconsin Native Wildflowers- They Tend to Grow on You!

By JoAnn Matheus

Growing up on a farm in central Wisconsin, I always loved nature wandering in the woods, picking wildflowers for my mom not knowing their names. They were just pretty. In 2004 and 2006 I took a Wildflower Identification class at UW-Whitewater, same class, and teacher with the hopes of identifying roadside wildflowers at 65 mph (or at least a good guess and I can sometimes). I was hooked on Wisconsin native Wildflowers!

Wisconsin native flowers are plants that grow naturally in the state's woodlands, prairies and other habitats and provide benefits for wildlife and the environment.

Why plant Wisconsin Native flowers and grasses?

- They are pretty, unique and provide beauty in any setting.
- Native Plants are hardier than non-native. They are locally adapted to our climate having called Wisconsin their home for many years and like the soil they are grown in.
- Once established native plants provide years of beauty, spring, summer and fall with a rainbow of colors. They spread naturally by self-seeding (i.e., milkweed), bulbs (i.e., nodding onions) or rhizomes (i.e., coneflowers).
- Native plants can be integrated into existing landscapes. Plant a few to get started. Mix into other plants you have in your garden beds and add more each year.
- Native plants have longer tap roots compared to lawn grasses, providing natural erosion control for hillsides and along lake shores. Because of the tap roots, many species are drought tolerant requiring less watering and maintenance than hybridized annuals and perennials.
- These natives provide an endless supply of food for our pollinators. A pollinator is any animal that visits flowering plants and moves pollen from flower to flower, thus making fruits and seeds. These include bees, butterflies, moths, flies, and birds. In Wisconsin, crops such as locally grown vegetables and fruits depend on these pollinators. By creating these natural pollinator friendly habitats, reducing, or eliminating environmental contamination from pesticides (such as lawn weed chemicals and spraying yards for insects and spiders) you can help contribute to pollinator conservation.

We hope you will consider planting Wisconsin wildflowers on your property on Lake Sinissippi or your primary residence. For more information check out: <https://wisconsinpollinators.com/>



Love Your Lake - Lawn Care Tips

By Dodge County Healthy Soil/ Healthy Waters Alliance

Here are some simple steps that homeowners can take to ensure a healthy lawn and a healthy lake:

Leave grass clippings on your lawn. They provide free nitro- gen fertilizer for your grass. In general, grass clippings sup- ply all the fertilizer your lawn needs. If a soil sample shows you need additional fertilizer, use a “slow release” form with NO phosphorous. Fast acting fertilizers are easily washed away into waterways and lakes, providing fuel for unwanted algae growth. Fall is the best time to apply fertilizers, promoting growth the following spring.

Weed control can be achieved in several ways. Corn gluten, a nontoxic byproduct of corn processing may be applied early in spring to kill weed seedlings. You can also target individual weeds with a mixture of 5 parts vinegar, 2 parts water and 1 part dish soap. Spray broadleaf weeds only- the vinegar can burn the grass. (Or use a small amount of herbicide sprayed directly on the weed-not the lawn.) It’s best to treat the weeds when they are small and actively growing.

Limit pesticide use- or even better, eliminate it completely. The toxic runoff from the residue percolates in our ground- water, wells, and lakes.

Mow as needed, but not too short. Most turfgrass is healthiest when kept at 2 ½” – 3 ½’ tall.

Allow your lawn to go dormant in the hot summer months. It’s best to give grass about ½” of water every other week during dry times. It will bounce back well when the cooler, wetter weather returns. Water early in the morning to avoid water loss to evaporation.

Replace lawn you don’t use with native plants, shrubs, and trees.

**Greetings from
Chairwoman Chris Lilek**

“We appreciate the property owners attending lake management planning meetings at the library and filling out the LSID lake survey this past year!

Please join us on Saturday, August 19, 2023, for our Annual Meeting from 8:30 to 10:30 am at the Hustisford Community Hall.

We have two commissioner positions open this year. Both David Matheus and Joseph Adamson are interested in serving an additional term if reelected.

Nominations should be submitted in writing to the LSID Secretary at PO Box 89, Hustisford, WI 53034.

The Significance of Monitoring Lake Water Chemistries

by Steve Hefter – NLS Laboratory

LSID Board Commissioners

You are invited to attend the monthly meetings. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm unless otherwise posted on the door.

District Office
112 South Lake Street
Hustisford, WI 53034

Webpage:

<http://lakesinissippi.org/2017/>

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Government-Organization/Lake-Sinissippi-Improvement-District-113137420069556/>

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Nutrients are a key factor in assessing the water quality in lake water. Lakes are classified based on their nutrient load. An oligotrophic lake has lower levels of nutrients resulting in low biota productivity. A mesotrophic lake has an intermediate level of nutrients resulting in clear water with beds of submerged aquatic vegetation. Eutrophic lakes have an excess of nutrients. Excessive nutrients will result in an abundance of aquatic plant and algal growth.

The Lake Sinissippi Improvement District routinely monitors for some general water chemistries. These water chemistries include biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), nitrate/nitrite, ammonia, phosphorus, Kjeldahl nitrogen, and total suspended solids (TSS). These water chemistries can be dependent on one another. What is the significance of testing these specific water chemistries?

As initially stated, the classification of a lake is based on the nutrient level found in that lake. Phosphorus is a key nutrient and essential building block to support biota. The nitrogen to phosphorus ratio in most plants is 15 parts nitrogen to 1 part phosphorus. There is often plenty of nitrogen in an aquatic system with phosphorus being the limiting nutrient. Even a slight increase in phosphorus (under the right conditions) can create a chain reaction of accelerated aquatic plant growth and algal blooms.

Nitrogen is the second key nutrient in aquatic plant and algal growth. Nitrogen is created by the breakdown of organic material. The organic nitrogen content is measured by testing for Kjeldahl nitrogen (organic nitrogen plus ammonia). The decomposition of organic matter converts the organic nitrogen into ammonia. If dissolved oxygen is present, the ammonia converts to nitrate/nitrite. Ammonia and nitrate/nitrite can be utilized by aquatic plants and algae.

Total suspended solids (TSS) can include silt, bottom sediment, and decaying plant matter. There are two major issues that may come from elevated TSS levels. First, high TSS concentrations in a lake can adversely affect the food chain. The smaller aquatic organisms are an important part of the food chain. These organisms' uptake oxygen through filamentous gills. Elevated levels of TSS can plug the gills on these organisms. Once these organisms die off, the next level up the food chain has nothing to feed on. Each level of the food chain is then negatively impacted. The second issue with elevated levels of TSS is it may be the result of an excess of organic matter. Continued – page: 5

The Significance of Monitoring Lake Water Chemistries continued from page: 4

Organic matter eventually breaks down or decomposes. This is a natural cycle required to allow organically bound nutrients to become available again. Unfortunately, an excess of organic matter can have a negative effect on a lake. This is where the final test, biochemical oxygen demand or BOD, is crucial. In the process of decomposition, oxygen is consumed. The BOD test measures this oxygen consumption. A higher level of organic matter in a lake will result in a higher BOD result. Elevated BOD levels in a lake will result in lower dissolved oxygen levels which may lead to fish kills.

Although the water chemistries monitored by the Lake Sinissippi Improvement District are all separate tests, these tests are all tied together. An excess in the nutrients level can increase the total suspended solids level. Higher total suspended solids levels may lead to elevated BOD levels. High BOD levels result in lower dissolved oxygen levels. This correlation may lead to adverse effects on the ecosystem. Nutrients are essential but should be monitored. An increase in nutrient load through man made practices can greatly impact the ecosystem of any lake.

Lake Sinissippi Improvement District (LSID) - Special Tax District

LSID is made up of 4 different taxing authorities:

- Town of Hubbard (the largest by dollar amount)
- Town of Hustisford
- Town of Oak Grove
- Village of Hustisford

Only lake property owners are part of this special taxing district. LSID is required each year to submit a Form PC-505 with the state giving the state our total approved budget amount for the next fiscal year. LSID's budget is based on a calendar year. The state uses a formula based on equalized value and allocates, sets a levy amount, to each taxing authority a portion of our budget. The taxing authorities collect the money when you pay your taxes and then send a check to LSID on Settlement dates. Copies of the filed Form PC-505 Special District Apportionment are public and can be found on Wisconsin Dept of Revenue website.

Each taxing authority sets their own Net Assessed Value Rate based on their needs and Special District levies. For an example we will use a Town of Hubbard property with \$200,000.00 total assessed value, which would have been taxed about \$92.48 for LSID for 2022.

Thank you for Service to Our Lake District

By Chris Lilek

We thank Marge Hager and Terry Pinzak for helping with LSID's 2022 financial review. They make a great team. Chris Lilek—LSID Chair welcomes appointed commissioner **Stacey Glowinski** (completing Izzy Hassey Nevarez term). See photo to the right.



Search for Invasive Species of Lake Sinissippi

By Addie Schlussel, **Rock River Coalition**

Rock River Coalition is recruiting volunteers interested in learning about and looking for invasive species on Lake Sinissippi. Monitoring can help us detect new populations of invasive species when they are still relatively small and easier to manage.

Volunteers can monitor when and where works best for them, once or several times a summer. Training and supplies are provided.



Photo credit: Chris Hamerla

No experience is needed. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, email addie@rockrivercoalition.org

2022 Fish Stocking Report

By Shane Kaemmerer

LSID contracted with **Gollon Bait and Fish Farm** to stock 7,500 4" to 6" bluegill and 3,000 Perch in November 2022 as they have been proven through research to eat carp eggs in the spring and help suppress recruitment of carp.

Plans going forward are to stock panfish that help to suppress the recruitment of carp which is a goal the DNR will require to remove carp. A good number of reports have been coming in of anglers catching large catfish and northern pike on the lake and river.



Safe Paddling on the Rock

By Greg Farnham, Coordinator, **Rock River Trail** Initiative, www.rockrivertrail.com

The Rock River National Water Trail is a diverse recreational waterway with a gentle gradient, twenty-two dams and three river impoundments that form Lake Sinissippi and Lake Koshkonong in Wisconsin and Sinnissippi Lake in Illinois. Important recreational uses include motorized boating, canoe and kayak paddling, water skiing and jet skiing; even sail boats are used on the large lakes. The water trail serves a variety of user age groups, individual abilities, and skill levels. Several river sites are accessible to persons with disabilities.

The Rock River Trail Initiative supports local communities in providing safe and suitable public access to the water trail and promoting safe use while paddling on the Rock River. Lake Sinissippi Improvement District is an important partner in educating and enhancing public awareness of safe practices while on the water.



What are some safe practices while on the water in a canoe or kayak?

- Always wear a life jacket
- Do not drink while paddling – alcohol and drugs impair coordination and balance you need to use a paddle craft safely.
- Keep your balance – stay low and do not overload your canoe or kayak.
- Practice a wet exit – learn how to get out of, hang on to, right, and re-enter your capsized boat
- Paddle with a companion – your partner can come to your aid if you get into trouble.
- Watch the river – know the water you are paddling, look ahead for potential obstacles, downed trees, bridges, dams.
- Watch the weather – do not venture out on the lake if high winds are expected.
- Plan – plan your day of paddling, locate take outs and portage routes, and file a “float plan” so that someone knows where to find you and when you plan to return
- Learn about your boat – consider taking a canoe or kayak safety class.

The Rock River offers a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Enjoy the river, safely!

Greetings from Lake Sinissippi Association



By Tanya Lemke

Another Sinissippi summer is upon us, and Lake Sinissippi is brimming with activity. We'd like to thank everyone that came out to our annual meeting and signed up for, or renewed, their memberships. Our goal is to have every resident on and around the lake sign up for membership. Membership dues are an important part of funding projects on Lake Sinissippi.

At the annual meeting, Michelle Kluewer presented on behalf of the Hustisford Historical Society and provided an excellent oral and pictorial narrative on Lake Sinissippi history. Many attendees spent time after the meeting asking Michelle questions and looking through the books, photos and other items Michelle brought in for display. A new twist to the annual meeting was the brat and catfish fry that we held immediately following- it gave us all some time for fellowship and for people to taste some Sinissippi catfish!

In the Summer 2022 issue of this publication, we discussed the LSA buoy placement program and a request for donations for same. We are pleased to announce that the buoy project donation goal of \$3400 was successfully met through a generous matching donation pledge from one of our members. Over 40 buoys were purchased to replace old, worn-out buoys and increase the number to expand placement in critical areas. There are now more than 80 navigation and hazard buoys on the lake.

After 2 very successful years of LSA Chasing Whiskers Catfishing Tournaments, the third annual season kicked off on May 24th. The number of participants and teams continues to grow and we are very pleased with the participation. It is encouraging to see the number of people that do not live on the lake, coming out to participate in the tournaments. It gives those people an opportunity to experience the beauty of Lake Sinissippi and "Love Our Lake!" If you're not already participating, it's not too late to catch the 2 remaining tournaments on July 19, 2023, and August 23, 2023. More information can be found on our website www.lsassn.org

As we have discussed prior, the LSA is moving along with plans to write a grant and provide the matching funds to donate an ADA compliant kayak launch down at Neider Park. This project is still underway, and we strive to have it in place and fully operational for the 2024 season. Additional projects are in the creative hopper, but we are waiting for the LSID lake management plan to wrap up so that we may coordinate efforts and tailor our projects to fit the overall combined goals.

By the time this publication prints, the annual LSA Lakefest and Fireworks extravaganza will have taken place. Tony Rocker, a professional Elvis impersonator was the daytime entertainment, and Nobody's Hero (formerly Cerfus Project) rocked the evening stage. Two years ago, the LSA started offering beers on draft and it has been very well received. Lakefest is truly a community-wide celebration, and we are thrilled that the last few years have brought a coordinated effort to bring people to downtown businesses the day of the event. We can accomplish much when our community works together! We sincerely hope that everyone had a great time and came out to celebrate our great lake and community.

Lake Sinissippi Improvement District - 2022 Property Owners Survey

By David Matheus

Thank you to the 188 property owners that completed the Lake Improvement District survey in 2022. This survey was a requirement of the Wisconsin DNR for the grant we received for the creation of our Lake Management plan. We were pleased with the responses and feedback we received from the property owners.

The responses to the survey demonstrate the commitment to the Lake. Several interesting facts as well as the areas the survey participants thought we should focus our attention (this is a small sample):

- 38% of the property owners have lived on the lake for more than 20 years.
- 52% of the property owners live year-round.
- 69% support or strongly support making channel navigation improvements.
- 73% support or strongly support dredging historic sediments from the channel.
- 55% support or strongly support shoreline stabilization of islands.
- 44% support or strongly support providing farmers cover crop monies to reduce soil runoff.
- 38% support or strongly support providing dam operators monies for improved measurements and operations.
- 67% support or strongly support providing private property owners permit cost reimbursements for shoreline improvements.
- 69% support or strongly support providing native and invasive plant maps and technical guidance for and technical guidance for private property shore improvements.

The feedback we receive will guide the goals for the Lake Management plan.

For more information and the detailed results can be found on the LSID website:

<https://lakesinissippi.org/2017/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/LSID-Survey-Results.pdf>

Most Liked Facebook Photos!



Eligibility to vote at annual and special meetings.

By Joseph Adamson

This is a screenshot from the UW-Stevens Point 2018 Lake Associations & Lake Districts Guide on Voting. LSID is seeking a written legal opinion on interpretation and application of the statute. As soon as we receive that legal opinion, we will publish it on our social media platforms and include a copy of it with the DRAFT Lake Management Plan at Hustisford Village Hall and the Hustisford Public Library.

Chapter 5: Operating a Lake District

Voting

Who Can Vote?

To vote at annual meetings of the lake district, a voter must be a U.S. citizen over 18 years of age who is either:

1. An elector (a qualified voter who resides in the district)⁹
2. An owner of property within the district:
 - A person whose name appears as an owner of real property on the tax roll¹⁰
 - A person who owns title to real property even though the person's name does not appear on the tax roll (i.e. a spouse)
 - A person who is the official representative, officer or employee authorized to vote on behalf of a trust, foundation, corporation, association or other organization owning real property in the district

Wis. Stat.
§ 33.01(9)(ar)
Wis. Stat. § 33.30(3)

Wis. Stat.
§ 33.01(9)(ar)(1)

Wis. Stat.
§ 33.01(9)(ar)(2)

Wis. Stat.
§ 33.01(9)(ar)(3)

Buoy Placement Update

by Christine Lilek

There have been several additional buoys placed around the lake to protect boats from hazard areas and protect shorelines from more erosion in slow wake zones. Please follow all buoy markers to keep yourself safe and protect the shorelines.

MARKER BUOYS

Any placement of informational and regulatory buoys must be approved by the local DNR Conservation Warden and by the local unit of government.

For more information you can refer to:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Boat>



2022 Surface Water Grant Awarded – Lake Management Plan (LMP) Continued from page:1

Listed below is a summary of LMP goals, tasks, and timelines. These will be discussed in detail at the Annual Meeting. We will provide a link to the entire plan on our webpage in the next couple weeks at <https://lakesinmississippi.org/2017/environmental-documents/>. We will then schedule a Question-and-Answer meeting at the Hustisford Library in September 2023 (and a September 2023 Zoom meeting) and then finally a meeting in October 2023 will be set to vote on the lake management plan before submitting to the DNR. Only funding feasible actions will move forward into an implementation plan. Electors will have an opportunity to review and approve the implementation plan in the future before we proceed with project implementation.

No tax increases are included in the Lake Management plan.

Goal 1-Establish functional Lake Management Work Group (LMWG) – Sept 2023 – March 2024

- Identify preferred individuals to serve on LMWG (method of selection can be vote, open discussion, other).
- Issue letter (email, call, other) to preferred individual requesting their assistance and means to address or answer questions pertaining to LMWG intent and function.
- Address questions and solidify commitments.
- Confirm commitments and identify or recruit additional advocates as needed.
- Inform individuals for assignment and upcoming schedule with meeting schedule intended to be quarterly or bi-monthly.
- Hold first LMWG meeting

Goal 2-Focused Sediment Management Plan

Option 1 - Sediment removal/Island Development (2014 design) 2 yrs.

Option 2 - Rock Ledge Modification 2yrs.

Option 3 - Sediment removal traditional-navigation dredging 3 yrs.

Option 4 - Sediment removal hybrid 5 yrs.

50,000 CY of navigational dredging

Development of reusable sediment dewatering facility (SDF)

Optional: Raised vegetation for sediment passage

Goal 3-Shoreline and habitat restoration and protection – January 2024 to November 2024

- Develop GIS version of shoreline by type (based on LSID volunteer inventory)
- Host Map online through website.
- Host informal meeting for property owners identified in prioritized shoreline area(s).
- Discuss opportunity for LSID sponsored bulk shoreline or large shoreline grant with WDNR (LSID would sponsor the application and serve as fiscal agent, but not fund the projects).
- Prepare application for identified property owners (optional).
- Finalize decision for shoreline projects.
- Submit for DNR Surface Water Grants to support identified prioritized shoreline projects.

Goal 4 - Develop Water Management Level Guide – December 2023 – October 2024

- Meet with WDNR to determine eligibility for monitoring equipment for lake level recording.
- Meet with Village of Hustisford (as dam owner) to facilitate application for Municipal Dam Grant.
- Prep Municipal Dam Grant package.
- Submit Municipal Dam Grant package prior to March deadline.
- Follow up with alternate program if dam grant is not applicable.
- Meet and have preliminary discussion with WDNR staff.
- Prep and develop petition support.
- Submit formal petition to WDNR and then submit permit application.
- Hold public meeting and prepare follow up materials.
- Issue public notice.
- Coordinate water level changes in operation with Village of Hustisford

The **Lake Sinissippi Improvement District (LSID)** is a local unit of government that has been Authorized by Dodge County under the guidelines covered by Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 33, Public Inland Waterways. LSID has a Board consisting of a Dodge County Commissioner, a representative of Hubbard Township, and five locally elected commissioners. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. LSID Board develops lake improvements plans and implements the plans, reporting to the district residents annually. The board prepares an annual budget for voter approval. After approval, it establishes the tax levy in accordance to Statute guidelines.

Notice of Annual Meeting

Hustisford Community Hall —Hustisford, Wisconsin

Saturday, August 19, 2023

Agenda:

8:00 AM	Registration, Coffee, and Doughnuts
8:30 AM	Call to Order/Review and Approve 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes Treasurer’s Report and Approve Financial Statement for 2022 Lake Survey Results and Lake Management Plan Review Vote on Annual Borrowing Resolution for \$10,000 Line of Credit Nominations for two Board positions and Vote Budget Hearing and Vote on Budget (2024) Present election results
10:30 AM	Adjourn

First Name
Second Name
Street Address
City, State, Zipcode

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Lake Sinissippi Improvement District
PO Box 89
Hustisford, WI 53034