

# DDLD Newsletter

## Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, January 21, 2026

**TIME:** 6:30pm–8:00pm

### AGENDA:

- Approval of 10.15.25 Minutes
- Old Business **Updates**
  - Township of Dunkirk
  - Dane County
  - Safety Committee
  - Lyon's Park development progress
- **New Business**
  - DDLD Financial Picture 2026
  - Treasurer's Report
  - Questions/Concerns from DDLD Members
  - Review of 2026 meeting dates (April 8<sup>th</sup> not 15<sup>th</sup>)

**LOCATION:** Dunkirk Town Hall

**Who Should Attend?** DDLD Members: Riverfront property owners on the Yahara River south of the City of Stoughton, within the Township of Dunkirk, extending to and including the Dunkirk Dam.

## 2026 Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention

### "Decades of Dedication"

**April 15-17, 2026**

When tackling a monumental challenge, it sometimes takes a long time to see results. This three-day conference will look back on the long-term programs and the accumulated actions of countless people who persevered through many decades. Their dedication has ensured that the programs developed in the 70's, 80's and 90's are still in place in the 2020's and beyond. This convention will celebrate the people who will continue to carry the torch for water protection and restoration into the future.

Convention website: <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/>

Registration: \$180(by Feb 1) \$225(after Feb 1) for three-day convention (other fees apply for pre-conference workshops, awards banquet, and single-day)

*See page 2 for more conference info*

## A Note from the Chair: *Jason Mackey*



The start of a new year is always a meaningful moment—one that invites reflection on where we have been and anticipation of where we are going. Thanks to our collective efforts, we enter this year on strong footing, guided by continued shared goals and a clear sense of purpose. This New Year offers the opportunity to reassess our priorities, identify areas for growth, and ensure that our resources are aligned with the objectives of Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin statute defining Lake Districts.

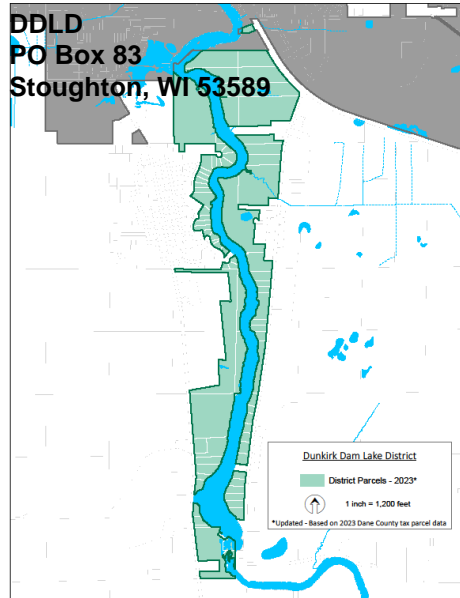
One of the most important items in our upcoming agenda will be a discussion of the new fiscal budget.

The budget reflects our values, our priorities, and our vision for the DDLD. Continued careful consideration of how we allocate resources ensures that we can operate effectively while planning responsibly for the future.

I encourage all DDLD members to attend and actively participate in our upcoming quarterly meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Open dialogue and diverse perspectives are critical to making informed decisions that serve the best interest of our 65 riparian neighboring DDLD properties and their owners.

In closing, I want to thank you for being a part of the DDLD community. The strength of this organization lies in the people who support it, and I am confident that, together, we will make this year a productive and successful one. I look forward to our continued collaboration and to seeing you at the January 21 meeting as we work together in 2026.

On a personal note, since I'm new to this role, I'd like to tell you a little about myself. My wife Mary Ellen and I bought our home on the river almost five years ago. I am a Chiropractor and manage clinics throughout the Madison area. I grew up in Middleton, played many years of baseball, and am getting better at fishing. Mary Ellen is a Realtor specializing in residential properties. She grew up in Whitewater, played roller derby for many years, and is working to develop her green thumb. We have a Golden named Oakley who peers out the windows every day, keeping a close eye on all the animals.



## DDLD Newsletter January 2026

### DDLD

E-Mail:  
ddld@dunkirkdam.com  
(Secretary, Becky Dakin)

DDLD Website:  
**dunkirkdam.com**  
Reports/documents, resources  
committees, photo gallery

Dunkirk Dam Lake District Group  
Facebook Page:  
Join the ongoing casual  
conversation with your  
DDLD neighbors

### Getting to Know Your Dam: The Who, What, When, and How About Dams and Their Waterway Interests

*Pre-Conference Workshop April 15 • 1-4pm • \$40  
2026 Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention, Stevens Point, WI*

This workshop is designed for dam owners/operators and those with riparian interests/stakeholders on waterways controlled or impounded by a dam. Key topics discussed will include the responsibilities and liabilities of owning or operating a dam, understanding the basic laws and regulations involving water control structures, and a review of reference tools and training relating to dams.

*Becky Dakin and Ted Christman will be attending this three-day conference as well as the "dam" workshop with registration fees being covered by the DDLD.*

Please consider joining Ted and Becky at the conference. You will be able to expand your knowledge of lakes and rivers in Wisconsin and also represent the interests of the Yahara River. <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/>

### Winter Behavior of Canada Geese

Like most species of geese, Canada Geese mate for life. Some pair bonds are apparent even in winter. The few mated pairs of adults that are usually present in family groups are readily recognizable; they stay together nearly constantly. The male is larger than his mate, which he dominates. In later winter, their behavior becomes more restless. They begin to exhibit a number of display postures, most of which involve motions of the head or neck. Threat or aggressive displays by the male include folded-neck or extended-neck postures with head lowered and pointed at an opponent, sometimes preceding a direct attack.

A characteristic behavior pattern known as the Triumph Ceremony occurs when partners meet after a time of separation or after the male has driven off an intruder, with mutual head waving and honking, opening of the bill, and protrusion of the tongue. A typical female behavior pattern is facing away and assuming a submissive posture in response to the honking male, but she may also either ignore or walk away from the male. <https://swibirds.org/fff/2025/03/14/canada-goose>

