

DUNKIRK  
DAM

LAKE  
DISTRICT

Riverfront properties on the Yahara River south of the City of Stoughton,  
within the Township of Dunkirk, extending to and including the Dunkirk Dam

April 2025

# DDLD Newsletter

## Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, April 16, 2025

**TIME:** 6:30pm – 7:30pm

**LOCATION:** Dunkirk Town Hall

### AGENDA:

- Approval of 1.11.25 Minutes
- Old Business **Updates**
  - Township of Dunkirk
  - Dane County
  - Safety Committee\*
  - Lyon's Park Expansion\*\*
- **New Business**
  - Treasurer's Report
  - Recap of:

2025 Wisconsin  
Lakes and Rivers Convention

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of **W** **OR** **DS**  
Working for Our Waters

**Who Should Attend?** 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.

### \*Safety around the dam:

- Fencing reinforcements
- Sherriff support
- Cameras
- No Fishing
- No-Wake Buoys in Spring

### \*\*Project Plans:

- Phase I: Spring 2025  
Shore restoration, ADA parking pad, path, and dock installation
- Phase II:  
Seek funding to complete the path, improve the property south of the dam, and install put-in/take-out



## A Note from the Chair: *Laura Davis*

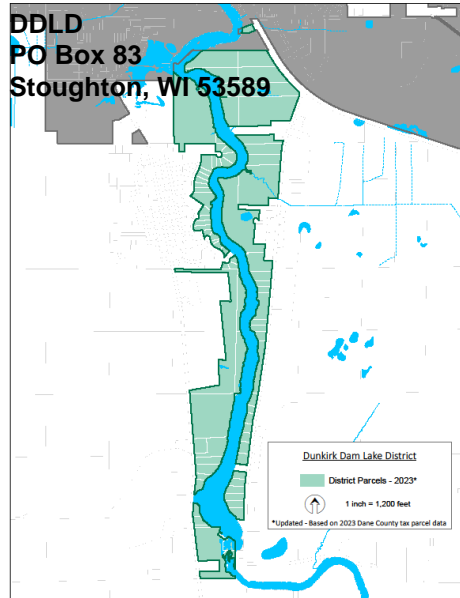


Happy Spring, Lake District neighbors! We know it's nearly Spring because the "Fish Refuge" signs are up all along the DDLD shoreline south of the Dunkirk Dam, all the way to Highway N. The Fish Refuge protects the fish in this essential habitat so they can successfully spawn. People who violate this no fishing law at this time are liable to get a ticket and a fine, but of course anglers have the most to lose by disturbing the fish at this time. So, hopefully it won't happen much. Some people think the refuge only applies to catching Muskie, but it actually **prohibits all fishing until May 15th**. Fishing above

the dam is still permitted. We've started preparations for the installation of an accessible pier and kayak launch above the Dunkirk Dam later this spring. As you recall, the Township received a Recreational Boating Facilities Grant from the DNR Waterways Commission last fall. The DNR will grant half of the \$78K cost, and the DDLD and the Township will split the remaining half. This is Phase I of the development of safe river access above and below the dam. We're already thinking about what we need in order to make a portage route to the southern shore of the river, and a launch that can accommodate canoes and kayaks, and also emergency craft.

Please mark your calendars for July 16! The DDLD and Town of Dunkirk are planning a community picnic at Lyon's Park to celebrate our new accessible pier and kayak launch, and look ahead to the southern shore. Hope you can make it!

The **Town of Dunkirk** is in the process of updating their twenty-year **Comprehensive Plan**. Becky Dakin is a member of the committee and is lending her skills in composition and editing. The updated plan will include an explanation of the Lake District along with the DDLD map. One of the stated goals in the Plan is: In cooperation with the Township, DDLD will develop a Dunkirk Parks and Open Space Plan that will complement the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan to maintain eligibility for State Stewardship grant funds.



## DDLD Newsletter April 2025

### Review: Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention

Ted Christman and I (Becky Dakin) attended the Lakes & Rivers Convention in Stevens Point held March 26-28. Our first session was titled, **"Let's Talk: Lake Districts Who Operate or Manage a Dam."** I had suggested this topic to the conference planners six months ago and hoped we might have a few people join us. The room was standing-room-only with over fifty people in attendance! The session was led by Uriah Monday of the DNR and Peter Jensen, Professional Emergency Planner. They reviewed Chapter 31 of the state statute providing a background for the discussion. We were reminded about the required inspections and reports. Once they opened it up for questions things got exciting. The energy in the room was intense as people needed help and they wanted answers.

Questions were asked like, "One of our Lake District members has removed the dam that's on his private property. Our lake is now a mud hole." "How do we build/re-build our dam?" "We have a member that goes out and adjusts the dam water level to keep his basement from flooding since he built his house below the water level. What do we do?" "Our insurance was cancelled. Did this happen to anyone else?" "If we don't maintain the required water level are we putting ourselves at risk?" "Our dam operator just does whatever he wants. How do we make a formal agreement?"

At the end of the session we were assured that the contact information of each attendee will be shared so we can talk with each other. The conference planners also said they may set up a Listserve to facilitate our ongoing discussions.

The many questions demonstrated that the Dunkirk Dam Lake District *ain't doing too bad!* Ted and I left realizing that we still have a lot to learn but acknowledge that the management and operation of our dam is in good shape. We'd like to talk with our Dam Safety Engineer from the DNR and pick his brain. We'd like to have a long discussion with Tom Reiss to better understand our Emergency Plan and our Inspection Reports. It's exciting to continue our journey into our stewardship of the Yahara River and the Dunkirk Dam.

#### DDLD

E-Mail:  
beckyjdakin@gmail.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

### Living on the River . . . a neighbor's perspective

#### Your neighbors, Grant & Gwen Gundlach

Hello neighbors! We are the Gundlach's, and we moved to Westchester Circle in August 2026, although we have been in the Stoughton area for the last several years. Some of our favorite days are when we get to watch the river shimmer and sparkle in the sunlight. We've made friends with the cranes, eagle, and plethora of geese that call our part of the river home during the winter months. Some of our favorite things to do here include playing with our dogs in the backyard, and getting out on the kayaks to explore the river. We both are lucky enough to work from home and get to enjoy the scenery all the time! Gwen works in IT, Grant in Sales Support, and our son, Lukas is currently a 7th grader at River Bluff. You may also see us walking around the neighborhood with our 2 dogs, Bailey, the Labradoodle and Tilly, a mixed breed lab. We're excited to be part of this wonderful community and look forward to meeting you all soon!

