

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

October 2024

DDLD Newsletter

Annual Meeting Wednesday, October 23rd

TIME: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

AGENDA:

- Approval of 7.17.24 Minutes
 - Old Business **Updates**
 - Township of Dunkirk
 - Dane County
 - Safety Committee*
 - Lyon's Park Expansion**
 - **New Business**
 - Treasurer's Report: 2024 income and expenses, Audit
 - Proposed 2025 Budget
 - Election of Treasurer & Chair
 - "PFAS in the Yahara Lakes" – Becky's notes
- www.dunkirkdam.com/documents

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.

*Projects around the dam:

- Fence repair
- More signage?
- No-Wake Buoys in Spring

**Project Plans:

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



LOCATION: Dunkirk Town Hall

A Note from the Chair: *Laura Davis*



Another fall arrives after a very busy summer for the Dunkirk Dam Lake District. In partnership with the Town of Dunkirk we experienced great progress toward our ambition to create safe, accessible river access above the Dunkirk Dam, and a portage route to the river below. Ever since the Dunkirk Dam was rebuilt in the mid-1990's, there has been no portage route around the dam for canoes or kayaks, except to take out onto the dike to the west of the dam and put back into the often turbulent river flowing south. The reason for this flawed solution was that the land to the south of the dam on the east side, which could offer a portage route, was private property.

In late 2022, Groundswell Conservancy secured grant support from the DNR to purchase the property bordering the eastern shoreline below the Lake District, with the condition that safe boating access be developed above and below the dam. Groundswell then donated the property to the Town of Dunkirk. Ever since this beautiful property was acquired, the DDLD and the Town of Dunkirk have collaborated toward creating safe, accessible river access around the dam. The Town funded the engineering and budgeting for the project and the DDLD funded the writing of a DNR grant application and an archaeological survey.

We're so happy to let you know that in late August, the Wisconsin Waterways Commission awarded the Town of Dunkirk a Recreational Boating Facilities Grant to fund the development of an ADA accessible pier and kayak launch on the shore of Lyon's Park just north of the Dunkirk Dam. We're planning to accomplish this first part of the larger project in late spring of 2025. There's still a lot of budgeting and planning work to do, but we hope you'll celebrate the collaborative work the DDLD and the Township are doing to improve and protect our beautiful stretch of the Yahara River.

DDLD
PO Box 83
Stoughton, WI 53589



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Proposed DDLD Budget 2025

At our Annual Meeting, we'll be looking at our new budget. Gone are the days when we only had to figure out who would cut the grass around the dam. You'll find that our budget is growing as we've expanded our agenda to enhance dam safety, fulfill our mission to protect and improve the river, and partner with the Township to create a beautiful park with safe and accessible river access. The budget can be found on our website at www.dunkirkdam.com/documents.



DDLD

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(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, Lauren & Jim Schneider

Hello neighbors! When we bought our property on Taylor Lane, a lot just north of us was included. We had the good fortune of selling that extra lot to Laura Davis and Rich Morris! We've lived here since 2005 and love every minute of our life here.

Lauren, retired pharmaceutical rep, has a son who lives in California and a daughter who lives in Madison. Jim, a retired physician, comes from a family of 11, so you can imagine the craziness of our time with them! Just two years ago we bought a home in Florida and have been doing a lot of updating there.

Hope to meet each of you soon!

Your neighbors, Mike & Kristin Drewieck

We moved to Dunkirk in January of 2020 after living in Madison for a few years. We love the peace and beauty of the area – campfires in the backyard, sitting on the pier soaking up the sun, the various wildlife that visit including the skunk that decided to hang out on the front stoop for a while and the bald eagle that perched in a big tree in the backyard for a rest.

Dunkirk was a wonderful place to raise our two kids, Hannah and Jacob. Now we're mostly empty nesters. The house is quiet but the river still brings joy and peace to our family. There is just something special about this area and the wonderful community here. We are not actively involved in DDLD business, but are grateful and appreciative of the hard work that goes into caring for this beautiful area.