

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*

January 2024

# DDLD Newsletter

## Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, January 17, 2024

**TIME:** 6:30pm – 7:30pm ◇ **LOCATION:** Dunkirk Town Hall ◇ **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

*Riverfront property owners along the Yahara River south of the City of Stoughton, within the Township of Dunkirk,  
extending to and including the Dunkirk Dam.*

### AGENDA:

- Approval of 10.18.23 Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- **Old Business Updates**
  - Township of Dunkirk
  - Dane County
  - Safety Committee
    - Fencing repair/expansion this spring
    - Additional/new signage installation this spring
- **New Business**
  - Lyon's Park Expansion Stewardship Updates
    - Scope of Planning Phase
    - DDLD Role
    - Grant funds
    - Lyon's Park Project Committee
    - Town of Dunkirk Support
    - Engaging Parkitecture
    - Groundswell Party January 25<sup>th</sup>

### ***You're Invited to the Groundswell Conservancy\* Thank You Party***

Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-7:00pm, Lucier Family Heritage Center, 3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison

Please RSVP on-line at: <https://groundswellconservancy.org/event/thank-you-party/>

Groundswell plans to recognize the Lyon's Park Expansion acquisition (Adler/Hansen property) with the Town of Dunkirk as their featured project for 2023. This, along with many other projects, will celebrate the many partnerships and put a wrap on their 40<sup>th</sup> year protecting special places forever in Dane County.

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments with a short program at 5:45 pm. You'll also have the chance to win great door prizes from local businesses!

\*see Laura's note below

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



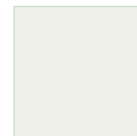
Happy New Year, DDLD Members! I hope your holidays were peaceful and happy, and you're rested and ready for all that 2024 will bring. I'd like to invite each of you to be active in the Dunkirk Dam Lake District, of which you all are members. We ask you to participate in four one-hour meetings each year.

We have an important project getting off the ground this year. Last winter, Groundswell Conservancy purchased the 1.6 acre riverfront property below the Dunkirk Dam, bordered on the west by the Yahara River, on the east by HWY N, and DDLD property on the north. Groundswell immediately transferred ownership of the property to the Town of Dunkirk as an extension of Lyon's Memorial Park. The goal of this park expansion is to develop the park to include safe and accessible kayak/canoe/fishing access around the dam. Because the Dunkirk Dam and the DDLD property surrounding it lie directly between the two park parcels, the DDLD will have a big role to play in the development of the park.

The construction of the Stoughton River Park at the site of the Stoughton Dam is likely to get underway in 2024. We believe that the expected increase in paddlers coming downstream to the Dunkirk Dam **makes it urgent that boating access slips be installed above and below the dam to protect the fragile shorelines and the safety of all paddlers.** Please come to the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> to learn about the project's next steps.

DDLD

PO Box 83  
Stoughton, WI 53589



## DDLD Newsletter - January 2024

### Chapter 33 Lake District Law News

On December 6, Governor Evers signed Senate Bill 85, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 62 (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/acts/62.pdf>).

This law creates an option for lake districts to work with landowners and residents to substitute email notices for regular postal mail notices required in Chapter 33. Each recipient needs to "opt in" to the email method of delivery and lake districts would still be mailing notices to those who do not or cannot opt in.

Mike Engleson, Executive Director for Wisconsin Lakes has been working with the Wisconsin Lakes board and others to gather and collate a range of proposed modifications to the Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin State Statute regarding Lake Districts.

→ **Send us an email to make sure we have your email address – [ddld@dunkirkdam.com](mailto:ddld@dunkirkdam.com)**

### Lake Districts in WI: *Fifty Years of Working Together to Keep Our Lakes & Rivers Healthy*

*By Eric Olson, Director and Lake Specialist, Extension Lakes. Published in "Lake Tides" Volume 48, No. 4 Fall/Winter 2023 Reprinted with permission from Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Partnership*

Wisconsin recently passed a significant milestone in the history of lake organizations in the state through the creation of the 250<sup>th</sup> inland lake protection and rehabilitation district. In 1974, the Wisconsin legislature created and passed the state's unique inland lake law, Chapter 33 "Public Inland Waters". This was a major step forward in caring for the state's lakes [and its associated rivers], as it formalized a co-management relationship between local stakeholders and the Wisconsin DNR. It also included a key role for the University of Wisconsin to educate local advocates and communities working to tackle lake issues. The law essentially gave rise to the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership as we know it today and its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is certainly an occasion worth celebrating.

A major section of the law outlines a process for forming lake districts, (special purpose units of local government that focus on lakes) as well as rules for their operation and management. A typical lake district originates from a citizen-driven petition process to show that the majority of people within a new district support its formation. The primary power of a lake district is the ability to levy taxes and special charges to property owners in the district. The annual budget and tax levy are decided each year by the residents and owners in the district at an annual meeting.

While the initial rate of new district formation was high in the 1970s, things slowed through the 1990s and early 2000s. More recently, lake stakeholders have recognized that organizing as a lake district would provide important financial tools to tackle large and long-running projects. Some examples from across the state highlight the diverse challenges that communities are tackling through new lake districts. *The rest of the article can be read at: [www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes)*