

DDLD Newsletter

Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, October 18, 2023

TIME: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

AGENDA:

- Approval of 7.19.23 Minutes
- Treasurer's Report & Audit 9.30.23
- Old Business **Updates**
 - Township of Dunkirk
 - Dane County
 - Safety Committee*
 - Yahara River Park in Stoughton
- **New Business**
 - Lyon's Park** Development (grants, planning, and funding)
 - 2024 Proposed Budget (parking lot expansion, reserve fund)
 - DDLD by the Numbers
 - Electing Officers (staggered terms)

LOCATION:

In-Person: Dunkirk Town Hall

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.

***important issues:**

- Fencing repair & expansion
- Additional/new signage

****Lyon's Park three areas:**

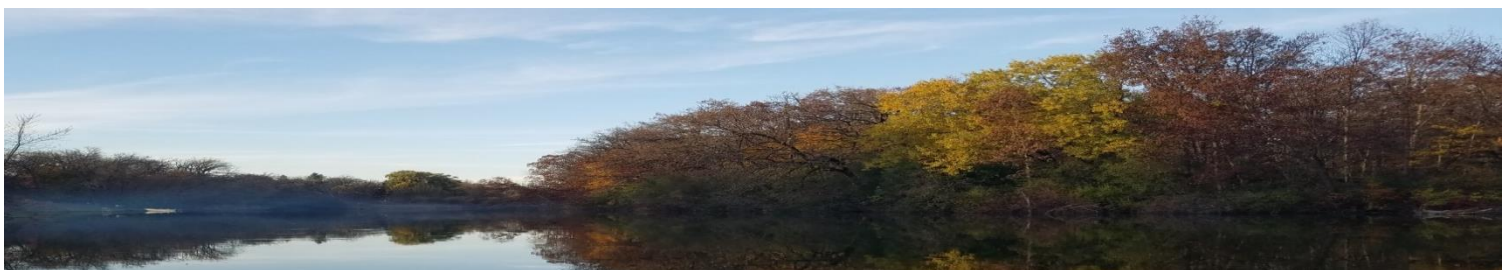
- Lyon's Park North (existing area north of dam)
- Park area around the dam (owned by DDLD)
- Lyon's Park South (Adler/Hansen property below the dam)

A Note from the Chair: *Laura Davis*



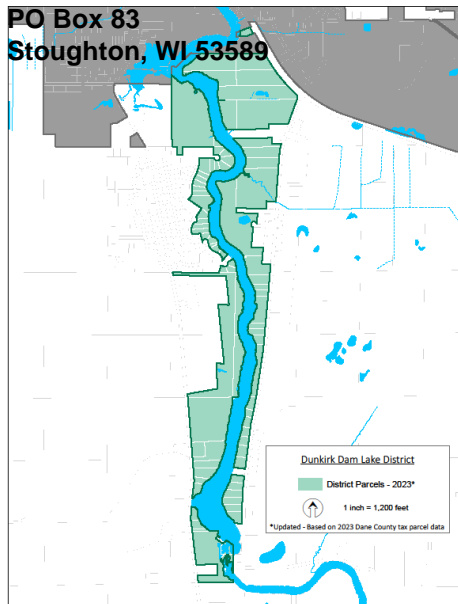
Preparing for our annual meeting leads me to reflect on all we've accomplished in the last few years. These accomplishments seem to have rung in a new era in which the Dunkirk Dam Lake District is fully working toward our original charter: **to maintain, protect, and improve our two mile stretch of the Yahara River.** In 2020, the DDLD applied for and received a Surface Water Planning Grant from the DNR. The \$15K grant was used to measure the depth of silt and bedrock within the Dunkirk Dam Millpond, and to map the variety and density of aquatic plant life within our 2 mile stretch of the Yahara River. This data laid the groundwork should we need permits for future dredging or plant harvesting within the DDLD.

About the same time, Judy Adler reached out to the DDLD. Her family had owned the 1.6 riverfront property south of the Dunkirk Dam for generations. A commercial company had approached her about buying the property, but she wanted the land to be preserved and protected for public river access. The Town of Dunkirk and the DDLD partnered with Groundswell Conservancy, who used grant funding from the DNR to purchase the property. Groundswell then transferred ownership of the land to the Town of Dunkirk as an expansion of Lyon's Memorial Park. The DDLD owns the property that connects the original Lyon's Park north of the Dunkirk Dam and the expanded park land south of the Dam. Thus began our current project to collaborate with the Town to develop the expanded park, including the DDLD property surrounding the dam, to create safe, accessible kayak/canoe and fishing access to the river, with portage in between. Please consider coming to our annual Meeting on October 18 to learn more about the plans for the project, and hopefully consider participating in turning this little park into a gem we can be very proud of.



DDLD

PO Box 83
Stoughton, WI 53589



DDLD Newsletter – October 2023

New Neighbors?

As you know, the Dunkirk Dam Lake District consists of property owners along the two-mile stretch (shown above) of the Yahara River in Dunkirk. Let us know if you have new neighbors along the river so they will receive the newsletter and notification of meetings. **Send Becky an email if you have new neighbors. beckyjdakin@gmail.com**



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, Amy & Tom Nordin

After twenty years in Hawaii, Amy and Tom felt a desire to return to Wisconsin, reacquainting themselves to favorite childhood memories and adventures. Independently, both listed living near the river along with a friendly community as high on their list of must-haves for their next home. Each missed the waters of their childhood—Amy from Lake Winnebago and Tom from the Oconto River. They discovered a peaceful refuge in Dunkirk, beside the tranquil Yahara River where they enjoy the flow of the river, birds, and the colorful scenery.

Amy continues working remotely in HR for the Hawaii aquaculture company, Cyanotech. Tom works as an engineer at UW-Madison. Their dogs, Sagan and Nyquist, happily adjusted to WI and have new furry friends to investigate near the river's edge. Their move back has been a rediscovery of the outdoors, forming bonds with neighbors and becoming part of the warm community of Dunkirk. They feel immense gratitude to the champions of the Yahara, who've maintained its beauty and appeal, making it a place they're excited to call home. For them, the Yahara is more than just a river; it's a place of ever-changing seasonal beauty that provides new adventures and reminds them of happy memories.

Your neighbor, Judy Meyers-Smith

Judy has lived on the river for more than thirty years on several acres south of the Dam. Her three grown sons and two grown stepsons now have families of their own. The next generation of grandchildren and great-grandchildren are experiencing river life as well. Boating, fishing, swimming, and the beauty of rural life is being enjoyed by their extended family. They will all be visiting soon for a grand get-together on the river.

Judy grew up in Southern California and as an adult quickly learned to love Wisconsin as she and her first husband raised the boys in "town" – in Stoughton. When their youngest, Jamison, was thirteen, they moved to their large acreage on the river. Jamison went to Jr. High and High School in Stoughton. Sadly, the boys' Dad died just six years after moving to the river. That was a tough time for them.

Years passed and Judy was blessed with a second marriage where they traveled a lot spending summers in Canada and winters in Florida. She's now widowed a second time and Jamison now lives with her on the river. Judy's son Bryan lives nearby and her third son lives in Hawaii. She spent last winter with him and his family. Rural life brings a great deal of joy to Judy and her family of boys, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.