

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

July 2024

DDLD Newsletter

Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, July 17th

TIME: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

AGENDA:

- Approval of 4.17.24 Minutes
- Old Business **Updates**
 - Township of Dunkirk
 - Dane County
 - Lyon's Park Expansion**
- **New Business**
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Safety Committee
 - Dunkirk Slow-no-Wake Ordinance
 - Fence/Signage Upgrade
 - Vandalism at the Dam
 - Picnic tables secured

LOCATION: 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.

****Project Plans:**

- Archeology study
- Grant submission
- Project phases

Discouraging News...

The newly installed fence at the Dunkirk Dam has been severely vandalized causing thousands of dollars in damage. The new fencing below the Powerhouse on both sides of the building has been knocked down and pulled apart. This additional fencing was added to greatly increase the safety of anglers fishing in the turbulent waters below the powerhouse.

Additionally, the fencing extending over the water near the front locked gate was pushed to the extent...

Continued on pg 2

A Note from the Chair: *Laura Davis*



Happy Summer Lake District Friends! I hope you are all enjoying our lush green summer on the beautiful Yahara River. The extensive vandalism done to the safety fencing around the hydroelectric dam is frustrating and expensive, and we'll be discussing it at our Quarterly Meeting on the 17th. I hope you'll consider engaging with the Lake District (of which you are a member) by attending our quarterly meetings. Please mark your calendars for the third Wednesday of every January, April, July, and October, and join your neighbors in protecting and preserving our beautiful stretch of the Yahara River.

Now, I want to focus on a happy topic. The DDLD's collaborative project with the Town of Dunkirk to develop safe and accessible kayak/canoe access to the river from the recently expanded Lyon's Park took an important step forward. On June 1st we submitted an application to the Wisconsin DNR for a Recreational Boating Facilities Grant. If awarded, the DNR will provide 50% of the funds for Phase One of the park development, which will be an accessible pier and boat launch upstream from the Dunkirk Dam. The remaining 50% will be shared by the DDLD and the Town of Dunkirk. Having this pier will not only enhance the enjoyment of the Yahara by our own residents and others, but will protect the very delicate shoreline from damage if or when the Stoughton Water Park is built, sending boaters downstream to the Dam.

We hope to pursue Phase Two of the project next year, which will develop a portage route to a second launch into the river downstream from the dam. This launch will be designed to be used by the public and for emergency personnel to launch rescue boats. Stay tuned! Get involved!

New DDLD Officers To Be Elected in October

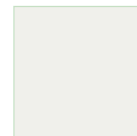
DDLD members are asked to think seriously about the neighbor who is best suited to serve the Lake District as **Chair** and as **Treasurer**. Those nominated must be members of the DDLD (property owners along our two-mile stretch of the Yahara). These two positions are part of the five-person Commissioner team who represent all of the DDLD members.

What's involved?

CHAIR: This person possesses natural leadership abilities and sees the "big picture." The Chair guides fellow DDLD members in their continued journey to protect and preserve the Dunkirk Dam Lake District. This volunteer position takes approximately 2-4 hours of work on a monthly basis and 8 hours of work to prepare each quarterly meeting.

TREASURER: This person has a knack for numbers and experience in simple accounting practices. This volunteer position takes 1 hour of work each month and 2 hours of time in preparation of each quarterly meeting.

Can we count on you to: 1. Nominate a neighbor? OR 2. Step up yourself to join this great volunteer team?



DDLD Newsletter – July 2024

Vandalism continued

. . . that it broke the brackets. A report was taken by the Dane County Sheriff's Department. The DDLD has also written a letter to the Sheriffs explaining the "No Trespass" area around the dam so the department may provide enforcement.

The DDLD Commissioners are very discouraged about the vandalism but recognize this as an extreme demonstration of the anger that anglers cannot walk on the dam to access the west side of the river.

Recently, Becky was told, "We've snuck into that dam for thirty years to get to the good fishing spots. All you guys do is continue to build fences. You need to allow us to fish around the dam!" Becky explained to this person that because the dam is a hydroelectric facility it is regulated by FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). FERC requires that the dam and powerhouse be fenced off from all access to ensure safety.

We will all continue to brainstorm this important issue to develop a win-win solution for the DDLD *and* the anglers.

DDLD

E-Mail:
DDLD@dunkirkdam.com

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, Cody & Hanna Jones

In 2016, we both, country kids at heart, craved a place that echoed the peace of our childhood but offered a touch of convenience. Dunkirk fit the bill perfectly!

Cody works as a Project Manager at Extreme Engineering Solutions and owns Driftless Climbing and runs it out of his house. Hanna thrives as a logistics consultant for warehouses nationwide.

Even after busy days, we love unwinding on our deck, watching the river flow by. It's incredibly calming. Dunkirk's beauty extends beyond the river though – our fantastic neighbors and the welcoming community make it a truly special place. And Dunkirk has been an amazing place to raise our two kids, Raiden (3) and Madden (1). Being surrounded by nature allows us to indulge in our hobbies, like gardening and relaxing poolside, all while the kids have plenty of space to explore. We wouldn't trade it for the world!

Your neighbors, Kathy Peterson & Justin Adsit

We moved here from Verona in 2011 and live just north of the dam. We both recently retired from the Madison Police Department, after 25 years for Kathy and 30 years for Justin. We're really looking forward to having more time now to enjoy kayaking, canoeing, and just sitting on the pier watching the birds fly over and the fish jump.

We love watching all of the different birds at our feeders with coffee in the morning and (after working evening shifts our whole careers) we now get to enjoy watching sunsets over the river with a cocktail on the back porch. Spotting the occasional eagle or hawk and catching twin fawns wandering through our backyard are also some of the many reasons we love living here!