

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 2026

DDLD Newsletter

Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, April 15, 2026

TIME: 6:30pm–7:30pm

AGENDA:

- Approval of 01.21.26 Minutes
- Old Business **Updates**
 - Township of Dunkirk
 - Dane County
 - Safety Committee
 - Lyon's Park development progress
- **New Business**
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Questions/Concerns from DDLD Members

LOCATION: Dunkirk Town Hall

Who Should Attend? DDLD Members: 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.

Wisconsin Lakes Leadership Institute

2026

Congratulations to Becky Dakin, DDLD Secretary, for her acceptance into the 2026 Wisconsin Lakes Leadership Institute! Over the next eight months she will attend workshops throughout the state to gain a better understanding of communication strategies, lake/river ecology, and how to work with state and local governments to assure lakes and rivers get the attention they need.



Becky stated, "In my application, I explained that my primary objective for this training is to strengthen our voice on river issues throughout the state. While much attention is given to Wisconsin's lakes, the state's rivers deserve an equal platform to address their specific issues and challenges."

A Note from the Chair: *Jason Mackey*



As we welcome the arrival of spring, I want to take a moment to reflect on the beauty, responsibility, and shared stewardship that define our community. The longer days, warming temperatures, and returning wildlife remind us why we are fortunate to live near and enjoy such a special natural resource. Spring is a season of renewal—not only for the land and water around us, but also for our commitment to preserving the district for future generations. Over the winter months, the DDLD Commissioners continued its regular oversight and planning for the upcoming season. Our focus remains on encouraging responsible shoreline practices, and helping maintain a healthy environment for both residents and wildlife.

Spring is also the time when many property owners begin shoreline maintenance and improvements. We encourage everyone to consider river-friendly practices whenever possible. Maintaining natural vegetation buffers along the shoreline helps reduce runoff, prevents erosion, and supports habitat for fish and wildlife. Small choices made by individual property owners can collectively make a significant difference in preserving the clarity and health of the water.

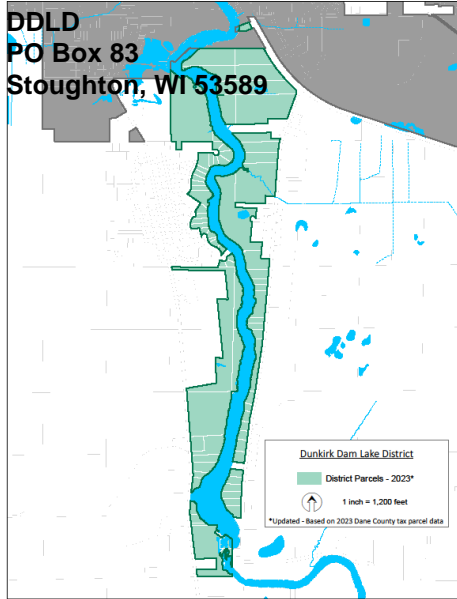
I would like to thank all residents who attend meetings, share feedback, and support district efforts. Your involvement and engagement are what makes our river community strong. The board welcomes continued input, and we encourage anyone with questions or suggestions to reach out and attend our upcoming meetings.

As we begin another season, I hope everyone takes time to enjoy the natural beauty around us—whether that means a quiet morning paddle, time spent fishing, or simply watching the sunset over the water. These moments remind us why protecting this river matters. On behalf of the entire DDLD board, thank you for your continued support and stewardship. We look forward to a safe, enjoyable, and successful season on the river.

2026 Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention April 15-17, 2026 Stevens Point, WI

Thanks to the support of the DDLD, Ted Christman and Becky Dakin will attend this annual conference. During these three days they will **Learn** from respected experts, grassroots organizers, and passionate water advocates; they will **Engage** in the workshops and interactive discussion sessions and, they will be able to **Enhance** our network of water-focused professionals.

Ted and Becky will also attend a pre-conference workshop titled, "*Getting to Know Your Dam: The Who, What, When, and How About Dams and Their Waterway Interests.*"



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Welcome to the Wisconsin "Score My Shore" Shoreland Evaluation Tool!

<https://survey.healthylakeswi.com>

This online "Shore Evaluation Tool" gives you lots of insight into the health of your shoreline.

It also provides you with customized solutions and resources.

The Shoreland Evaluation Tool walks you through questions about the physical aspects of your lake or river property, as well as how you manage it. Questions are set up by property zone - Upland, Transition, and In-Water areas. The Tool also includes a section for you to identify habitat restoration and runoff and erosion control projects that currently exist on your property. This Tool is intended for typical shoreland properties and may not be a great fit for unique properties and locations. There may also be nuanced exceptions to some of the answers; try your best to choose the response that most closely matches your property.

The Tool is smart. Your answers may lead you to different questions and ultimately a custom score. By registering for an account, you can save your results and come back after you have implemented best practices to improve your score. Many questions include help buttons for answers, links to additional information about shoreland management, and clarifying photos. You can click on photos to expand them for easier viewing. Your final score will help you understand the property's management context - entry, restoration, enhancement or protection - and specific projects that could improve not only the score but help your lake or river, too!

What is a typical shoreland property?

Typical shoreland property is relatively flat, doesn't drain a large area, and has some natural area. Homes and other structures are usually within a few hundred feet of the water's edge, and there are not remarkable features like rock outcroppings or cliffs between the home and water. Furthermore, some properties may be beyond the scope of the Healthy Lakes & Rivers Best Practices the Tool suggests. These projects probably aren't a good fit if your property is on slopes greater than 20%, drains more than 2 acres, has substantial visible erosion, or is mostly cleared and covered with hard surfaces like rooftops, driveways, and roads. Learn more about the complexity of your property and where to go for professional assistance (online, there is a link here for resources).

What happens to my information?

Using this Tool is entirely voluntary! You get to decide whether to register for an account or answer anonymously. Registered users also get to choose whether their information can be shared. Finally, responses will **not** be used for regulatory purposes, no matter how you decide to complete the Shoreland Evaluation Tool.

<https://survey.healthylakeswi.com>

The survey takes about 15 minutes as there are 32 questions that provide you with a comprehensive custom evaluation of your shoreline.