

# LAKE PEWAUKEE SANITARY DISTRICT NEWS      OCTOBER 2014

**REMEMBER - PAYMENT FOR THIS BILL MUST BE RECEIVED (NOT POSTMARKED) IN OUR OFFICE BY 3PM ON NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>. IF NOT, THE BALANCE DUE, WITH LATE CHARGES AND AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE WILL BE PLACED ON YOUR TAX BILL. THE DISTRICT CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR PAYMENT AFTER THAT DATE AND TIME.**

A Public Hearing on the PROPOSED BUDGET for 2015 for the LAKE PEWAUKEE SANITARY DISTRICT will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014, at 6:15 PM, at the Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District Admin. Building, located at N25 W27534 Oak St., Pewaukee, WI. A detailed copy of the PROPOSED BUDGET is available for inspection at the Administration Building Office, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00AM and 12:00 Noon and 1:00PM and 3:00PM. The Commissioners encourage residents to attend the hearing and offer their comments.

The following is a summary of the LPSD Tax Levy, Service Fees, Expenditures, and Other Fees based upon the PROPOSED BUDGET.

	2014 Budget	2015 Budget
<u>Revenues:</u>		
Community Funding-		
Town of Delafield Tax Levy:		
Sewer Debt Service/Capital Funding	55,872	55,038
Lake Cleanup	126,500	136,370
Total Town of Delafield Tax Levy	182,372	191,408
City of Pewaukee:		
Sewer Service Fee	35,128	34,962
Lake Cleanup Contract	126,500	136,370
Total City of Pewaukee Contribution	161,628	171,332
Total Community Funding	344,000	362,740
User Fees	1,049,100	1,083,900
Other Revenues	7,450	9,800
Total Revenues	1,400,550	1,456,440
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Sewer System Operations-		
Scheduled Debt Service	21,280	21,280
Repayment of Advances	243,200	73,600
Total Debt Service	264,480	94,880
Other Expenditures	882,970	1,088,820
Total Sewer System	1,147,450	1,183,700
Lake Operations-		
Lake Cleanup	244,100	243,950
Wetland Fund	9,000	9,000
Debt Service	0	19,790
Total Expenditures	1,400,550	1,456,440
<u>Fees per Residential User Equivalent (RUE):</u>		
Quarterly Sewer User Charge	100.00	103.00

## Lake Operations

At this time we are continuing to provide pile pick up on Mondays and Fridays and we plan to continue this service through October, WEATHER PERMITTING. Your assistance in creating piles has increased the efficiency of our lake clean up operations. The faster we can remove piles, the more time our staff can spend on shore clean up and harvesting. **Thank you to all the people that have participated, its hard work, it is appreciated, and you're making a difference for all the people that enjoy the lake.** We are still working on shore clean up around the whole lake and plan to continue into and possibly to the end of October, as always, weather permitting. We will also continue to harvest into late October in an effort to stunt the growth of the milfoil in the spring and early summer. This year we have seen a big decline in Eurasian Water Milfoil and this late season effort will get us ahead of the game when spring arrives.

## Lake Budget

The proposed Lake budget increase will provide a permanent solution to the battle of where to go with the invasive aquatic plants once removed from the lake.

1. One of the biggest challenges a lake district has is where to go with the aquatic plants once they are removed from the lake. Fortunately the District has had the fore-sight in preparing for the worst case scenario – no place to dispose of plants. We have contacted other lake districts around Wisconsin to see what their solution to the problem has been. The typical positive answer is the closest nearby farm field, if they will take it, but the farm fields are disappearing to development. You must also consider the volume of plants removed as Pewaukee removes a larger volume of plants than any other district in the state. This means more material to dispose of. Unfortunately with our areas development, these farm fields get further and further away. The other problem is you can't dispose of plants in the floodplain or wetland. This means you would have to purchase developable land and we all know the value of that type of property and it isn't getting cheaper with time.

The great news is the District was successful in obtaining a WDNR grant for a large wetland that has a few acres of what might be called less - desirable buildable upland (meaning sewer and water isn't available and therefore decreasing its "buildable" value). We noted in the WDNR management plan for this parcel that we intend to use the upland portion for a future plant management site. It was approved and the WDNR paid for over half of it through a Lake Protection Grant.

The timing of this property and grant opportunity could not have been better as the District lost our existing disposal site to the new Christian School being built off Ryan road. Fortunately the Districts future planning paid off, probably a lot quicker than what we would have liked but what would happen if we had no place to go with the cut plants? Fortunately this new aquatic plant management site is a permanent solution and it will solve the problem for the long run.

2. Although the last few years the lake has had high aquatic growth years, this year we saw a dip in the aquatic plant growth cycle. While last year we had calls from concerned citizens about the appearance of the lake, the effect on property values and recreational use, this year we have had positive comments about the overall appearance and health of the lake.

It is my professional opinion that the lake is healthier and cleaner than it has been over the past 40 years. The variety of native plants has continued to increase and there was a large decline of Eurasian water milfoil. This year the Vallisneria also known as "wild celery" or "eel grass" seemed to really expand as well as other native species such as Sago pondweed. The zooplankton levels were very high which is great for the aquatic life and the young of the year fish. While other lakes suffered from algae blooms and even some with the blue green algae, Pewaukee was in great shape, we didn't even see the filamentous algae (the floating balls of green cotton candy looking material) that are unpleasant for swimming fishing, skiing, etc. In fact the only algae that seemed to bloom was the Chara which is an algae that looks like a plant that covers the bottom and has a "musky" smell and gritty feel to it. While we say the Vallisneria is a native "good" plant it does have the curly Q's that spiral their way to the surface and can cause a negative visual appearance, can get caught up in motors, and causes trouble for fishing and swimming. The WDNR is working on potential permits for cutting native species if a problem becomes a major navigational issue. We will keep you posted on that subject.

3. While we did see the decline in Eurasian water milfoil it doesn't mean we are not prepping for the possibilities of the next peak in the growing cycle. A second shift fund is in process and it will be ready for implementation when the next peak occurs. Hopefully it is 5 years away or better yet 20 but we thought it made sense to let the people know we are planning for peaks in the plant growth cycles and the growing expectations of the people that utilize or live on the lake. We are doing plant studies; we are constantly monitoring water (temp, secchi disc, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus levels, ect and constantly evaluating the current conditions of the streams entering and exiting the lake as well as the ever changing ecology of our lake itself. **The District understands the Lake is the area's biggest asset.** Pewaukee Lake is the largest lake in Waukesha County, it is a class "A" Muskie fishing lake, one of the states top sailing lake (due to its east and west basin configuration and the dominant west winds) as well as one of the biggest local attractions which includes all the entertainment at the beach and lake establishments. This asset is recognized and we need to take care of it.

## Wetland Fund and Tax Deductions

With the development moving at a slow pace it creates a buyers' market. Help us with our wetland fund so we can take advantage of available wetlands and low land prices so we can continue to protect our lake and watershed. These donations are tax deductible and the lands are held in conservancy in perpetuity. This is the ultimate way to protect our lake and watershed for the generations to come.

## Water Resource Fund

The water resource fund is set up to help the school students learn about watersheds, wetlands and river restoration. This very successful program is teaching the youth about protecting the environment and water resources that surround the lake. Teaching these students at a young age creates an ownership and awareness that sticks to them for the rest of their lives. My guess is if you ask an older student what they remember about 6 grade, they will tell you the river boat trip down the Pewaukee river. Help keep this program alive by donating to the Water Resource Fund. All proceeds go back to the students and equipment used to teach them about the watershed, the lakes, and the rivers that surround the area they grew up.

For more information please call the District at (262) 691-4485 or visit our website at [www.lakepewaukee.org](http://www.lakepewaukee.org)