

# Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

www.cedarmeadow.org

## Newsletter - Fall 2015

### Would You like to Save the District Money?

Please help save the district money by opting to receive District mailings by email. By opting for an electronic version of the newsletter and other mailings, the District will save money on postage and copying costs. As an added bonus, you are helping the environment by using less paper! So, please take a moment to complete the enclosure card with your preferred method of receiving District news and information. For your convenience, the postcard as been stamped and addressed.

### Annual Draw Down To Begin October 15th

Mr. Richard Johnston represented at the District at the September 16, 2015 Leicester Conservation Commission meeting to gain approval for the annual lake draw down program. The order of conditions was received on September 24, 2015 and filed with the Worcester Registry of Deeds. The annual draw will begin on October 15, 2015. The District will, again, coordinate our draw down with the draw down at Burncoat Pond. The flash boards and lower gate will be used to lower water levels. The lower gate will be opened on October 15, 2015. The flash boards will be removed from the spillway about a week later. The District aims to maintain water levels between 2 and 2-1/2 feet below the spillway elevation for the remainder of the winter. The lower gate will be opened as necessary during the winter to achieve the desired ice and water levels to minimize ice damage to shoreline structures. The flash boards will be reinstalled in the spillway channel after the final ice cap melts in the Spring 2016 to bring water levels back up to the spillway elevation. During refill and in accord with DEP standards, a minimum flow though the lower gate will be maintained to mimic typical Spring brook conditions until water goes over the spillway. **Please plan to remove boats and docks accordingly.**

### Weed Control

The herbicidal weed treatment of Cedar Meadow Lake was performed by Aquatic Control Technologies (ACT) under the guidance of ESS Group and according to the Order of Conditions issued by the Leicester Conservation Commission (DEP File # 197-0579). On June 17, 2015, the lake was treated with Reward (diquat) and Clipper (flumioxazin) herbicides to control nuisance fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*) and variable watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*). ACT applied herbicides to four areas of the lake (totaling 22.7 acres) as specified by the weed mapping performed by ESS Group. The four areas treated were (1) 3.0 acres north of the Rawson Street Bridge, (2) 9.2 acres south of the Rawson Street Bridge, (3) 4.0 acres in the northeastern cove, and (4) 6.5 acres on the south side of the lake by the dam. The boundaries of the four areas specified for weed treatment were loaded into a GPS to guide the application. Using ACT's airboat, a total of 22 gallons of Reward and 45 pounds of Clipper were applied, which equates to approximately 1 gallon of Reward per acre and 2 pounds of Clipper per acre.

ESS Group completed a post-treatment weed mapping in early July and reported that the treatment appears to have had the desired effect because there was little evidence of milfoil or fanwort. There were 2 strands of fanwort floating in the northeastern cove, and those strands were non-rooted, showed evidence of severe decay, and would not be viable for reproduction. Furthermore, lake proprietors have not reported any floating weeds in the lake, such as the Najas weed that was a nuisance in Summer 2014.

In early July when ESS Group group did the post-treatment mapping, it was noted that the lake visibility was reduced to approximately 4 feet to the presence of blue-green algae. Clarity of the lake was monitored weekly using Secchi disc analysis. On September 14, ESS Group assessed the algae in the lake, and testing of lake

water samples revealed the presence of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria), which is comprised of *Microcystis* sp., *Aphanocapsa* sp.; *Woronichinia naegeliana*, and *Dolichospermum* spp. (x2). It was hypothesized that algae growth in the lake had been exasperated by hot and dry conditions, but the algae growth could also be related to the weed treatment performed on June 17, 2015. ESS Group recommended that no treatment of the algae was necessary at this time. On August 3, 2015, the District posted a bulletin & informational pamphlet regarding blue-green algae to the District's website & Twitter account; the District also distributed the bulletin and pamphlet via email to proprietors who have supplied an email address to the District.

### **Dam Maintenance & Inspection Update**

Lenard Engineering conducted an inspection of the dam as required by the Office of Dam Safety on June 10, 2015. The report is currently under review by the Office of Dam Safety. Lenard Engineering rated the dam in fair condition and cited several minor deficiencies: such as missing cap stones along top of downstream wall, small voids behind downstream masonry wall, large trees and brush growing near the dam, and multiple vertical cracks in the spillway training wall. Many of these minor deficiencies can be remedied through the continued course of regular maintenance. Some deficiencies will require additional attention, such as obtaining permission to cut trees and remove brush near the dam. District officials will continue our efforts to gain access to the property below the dam in the hopes of removing the trees and brush. District officials will meet with Lenard Engineering to develop a long range strategic plan to towards repairing the minor deficiencies cited in the inspection report.

### **Boating Safety and Respect Reminder**

Please remember, it is illegal to operate a vessel at more than headway speed within **150 feet** of shorelines. Several proprietors reported boats operating at high speeds within 150 feet the shorelines this summer. Please be mindful of the safety of your fellow proprietors and our neighbors using the beaches.

Please be respectful to the buoys and signage at the Rawson Street Bridge because as the buoys and cables are delicate. Therefore, no boats should be anchored to or floating upon cables, buoys or signage in this area.

To review the full text of MA Boater Safety Handbook, go to the District's website, [www.cedarmeadow.org](http://www.cedarmeadow.org), or the MA website at [www.boat-ed.com/ma/handbook](http://www.boat-ed.com/ma/handbook) .

### **Your Elected Officials Want to Hear From You**

**The District is now using Twitter, @CMLWD, to distribute District news in addition to the Newsletters.** Please remember to report any unusual lake activity. **Please note that the District has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 320, Leicester, MA 01524.** Finally, If you have any questions or concerns regarding the lake and/or dam, please contact one of the following elected officials.

Tommy Lee, Chairman Management Committee	508 892-3750	<a href="mailto:tommyjoelee@gmail.com">tommyjoelee@gmail.com</a>
Paul Dufresne, Vice-Chairman Management Committee	508 868-7301	
Tom Forsberg, Management Committee	508 832-3249	<a href="mailto:tforsberg15@gmail.com">tforsberg15@gmail.com</a>
Michele Cospers, District Clerk	508 439-2443	<a href="mailto:clerk@cedarmeadow.org">clerk@cedarmeadow.org</a>
Terry O'Coin, District Treasurer	508 347-6863	<a href="mailto:the.ocoins@verizon.net">the.ocoins@verizon.net</a>

### **Have a Great Fall & Winter!**

The Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.