

# Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

- Newsletter -

April 2009

## Mark Your Calendar Now

... and plan to attend the **Annual Meeting** of the Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District in the Community Room of the **Leicester Police Station at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, May 20, 2009.** Your representation is very important. Please have a voice in deciding the fate of your lake and tax dollars.

The Leicester Police Department Community Room is located on the lower floor of the new Police Station at 90 South Main Street (Route 9). Please enter the lower driveway, as if driving to the Little League fields, and drive around to the left and rear of the Police Station and park and enter at the lower level.

If you cannot attend, please consider voting by proxy to help ensure that there is a quorum at the meeting. Enclosed please find a proxy form for this purpose. If you have any questions or need assistance with the form or the proxy voting process, please do not hesitate to call one of your elected officials listed at the end of this newsletter.

## News on the Legal Front

The news regarding the suits being brought by Central Water District Associates against the watershed districts at Cedar Meadow Lake, Burncoat Pond and Stiles Reservoir is not good. A five day jury trial held in February concerning Stiles Reservoir resulted in the jury deciding on a substantial award for the former dam owner despite a great deal of evidence in favor of Stiles Reservoir. This jury award is currently being appealed. The details of the Stiles trial and our District's defense strategy will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

The jury trial concerning Cedar Meadow Lake is currently scheduled to begin on August 24, 2009 in the Worcester Superior Court. The cost of our District's legal defense is estimated at \$75,000. The Warrant for the Annual Meeting will include an article to authorize the Management Committee to seek and secure a loan not to exceed \$75,000 for this purpose.

## Draw Down Update

The annual draw down went well this past Fall. We were able to reduce water levels to 60 inches below the spillway elevation to facilitate planned repairs to the dam and were able to hold water and ice cap elevations to between 31 and 39 inches below the spillway elevation from January through March. The flash boards were reinstalled and the lower gate closed on March 25. Water flowed over the spillway for the first time this Spring on April 11.

## Dam Repairs

A professional dive team was hired to pinpoint the location of leaks in the face of the dam. This team of "hard hat" divers thoroughly inspected the dam from the spillway east, and pinpointed several leaks caused by voids in the masonry coating between stones. They also inspected the lake bottom in front of the dam and found no evidence of any leakage. Armed with this information, a crew from R. H. White Construction, hand packed the entire east side of the dam from the spillway to the left abutment. Hand packing entails the application of concrete by hand around each stone in the face of the dam. Particular attention was paid to the base of the vertical dam wall where it intersects with the lake bottom. Despite this thorough application of concrete, some seepage through the dam appeared this Spring when the lake was nearly full. Follow-up efforts will be undertaken to find this leakage as soon as water temperatures warm up.

## **District Has a Web Site**

Thanks to District Treasurer Terry O'Coin, we have our own web site. Terry created the site and has added a lot of interesting information including contact information, calendar of upcoming events, news bulletins, the latest newsletter, minutes of meetings, the District's Preservation Plan, current Action Plan, Emergency Action Plan, and photos of the dam. The site also includes links to Town and State government and to Massachusetts Boating Safety laws and regulations. Check it out by going to [www.cedarmeadow.org](http://www.cedarmeadow.org). If you have any feedback or new ideas for new content for the District web site, please e-mail Terry at [the.ocoins@verizon.net](mailto:the.ocoins@verizon.net).

## **Beware of Floating Logs**

As a result of last December's severe ice storm and the clean-up that followed, there are large logs and tree branches floating all over the lake that can damage a boat or propeller. If you encounter this floating material, please remove it, or call a District official for assistance.

## **Lawn Fertilizer Reminder**

Whatever you put on your lawn eventually ends up in the lake. Phosphorus is a nutrient that stimulates the growth of weeds and algae. If you fertilize your lawn, please use zero phosphorus lawn fertilizer. It works as well as conventional fertilizer and does not contribute to weeds and algae growth. Zero phosphorus Scott's products are available at Klem's and at other garden centers.

## **Ski Club Information Gathering**

The water is back up already, so can the skiers be far behind? The ski club is seeking to reorganize for a strong and lengthy season. To do so, the club is looking to gather information about levels of interest, schedule availability, and towboat resources. The club is open to skiers of all ages and abilities, offering both instruction to novices, and first class pulls to slalom course veterans, while promoting water safety and boating etiquette. There will be an organizational meeting at 69 Fairview Drive on Monday, May 4 at 7:00 PM. Prior to then, please contact John Moisan at 892-8043 or [Moisan\\_J@charter.net](mailto:Moisan_J@charter.net) so that the meeting agenda can be defined.

## **Annual Meeting Input**

If you would like a particular subject discussed at the Annual Meeting, please contact Dick Johnston at 508 892-1203. There will be time set aside at the conclusion of the Meeting for general discussion.

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

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the lake and dam, please call one of the following elected officials:

Paul Defresne, Chairman, Management Committee	508 892-0173
Tommy Lee, Vice Chairman, Management Committee	508 892-3750
Wayne Ridley, Member, Management Committee	508 892-8684
Dick Johnston, District Clerk	508 892-1203
Terry O'Coin, District Treasurer	508 347-6863

## **Please Be Represented At The Annual Meeting**