

# **Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District**

[www.cedarmeadow.org](http://www.cedarmeadow.org)

- Newsletter -

**April 2012**

## **Mark Your Calendar Now**

... and plan to attend the **Annual Meeting** of the Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District at the **Knights of Columbus Hall, 99 Mannville Street, Leicester at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, May 16, 2012.**

## **You Must Attend The Annual Meeting**

**A vote will be taken concerning payment of the \$1.7 million judgement against the District. The average member share of this judgement, with accumulated interest, is \$20,000. As has been stated in previous newsletters, no money will change hands until the members vote. After all the years of fighting the lawsuit, the time to vote has arrived. You must attend to have your opinion heard.**

**Members will be provided a hand-out showing each member's share of the total judgement based on current assessed evaluations provided by the Leicester Board of Assessors. The District's legal counsel, David Nickless, Esq., an attorney specializing in bankruptcies and collections for 25 years will present the pros and cons and to answer questions.**

**An attempt will be made by your elected officials to contact each of you in person to encourage attendance at this critical meeting. Voting by proxy is possible but will be discouraged. Such an important issue should be voted in person.**

## **USDA Long Term Financing**

An application for a low interest, long term U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development loan has been made on behalf of District members. The judgement can be financed over a period as long as 40 years to minimize the annual financial impact on each member. No commitment on this loan will be made unless the District members vote to do so. Clark Rowell, Vice President of UniBank, the District's financial advisor, will be present to answer questions. Conversations are taking place with the State's Department of Revenue and Municipal Finance Bureau concerning payment options. If advanced approval can be obtained, a vote will be taken as to whether to pay the judgement by way of betterments, a method that would allow members to make lump sum payments, or through taxation as a part of annual operating budgets for the full term of the loan.

The services of attorney Richard Manley have been secured to act as the District's bond counsel to ensure the article appearing on the Annual Meeting Warrant is worded, and the resultant voting completed, correctly and in accordance with lending standards and regulations.



## **April Showers?**

Although the flash boards have been reinstalled and the low level outlet has been closed for several weeks, lake water levels are still down almost two feet. We are, of course, dependent on rainfall to fill the lake at this time each year. A very dry Spring has not made this possible at our lake, as well as many other local lakes that draw down during the Winter. Last year, at this time, our newsletter reported problems associated with having too much precipitation.

The ability to fill the lake this Spring was complicated by the need to plan for, and make, repairs to stop the leak that caused the sinkhole to develop in the dam crest last August. Test digging had to be performed, and engineering plans completed, before permanent repairs could be made. Until permanent repairs are made, the lake level must be held down at least one foot to minimize leakage. Your Management Committee has engaged the services of Lenard Engineering. Representatives of this well respected engineering firm, with offices in Connecticut and Auburn, MA, are currently completing engineering drawings and seeking Office of Dam Safety approval to make the necessary repairs to allow the lake to be filled this Summer. As is described below, work to permanently repair the leak was delayed until the Management Committee had the ability to pay for the required engineering and repair work.

## **Line-of-credit**

The taxes associated with budgets approved at Annual Meetings in May of one year are not received until the March to June period of the following year. The District has been dependent on a line-of-credit loan to pay for dam repair and other operating expenses pending receipt of these annual tax revenues. When the judgement against the District was finally issued by the Superior Court in December, Commerce Bank decided not to renew our loan because, in their judgement, the risk of repayment was too great. Based on past experience, your elected officials knew that a line-of-credit, or any other form of short term loan, could not be obtained from any other source.

This meant that expensive dam engineering and repair work would have to be delayed until late Spring and that it might not be possible to fully fill the lake this Summer. This was brought to the attention of a long-time supporter and, now benefactor, of the lake and District. This person, who prefers to remain anonymous, stepped up and made contact with the Spencer Savings Bank and personally guaranteed repayment of a \$30,000 line-of-credit for the District. As soon as verbal approval was provided by the bank, your elected officials contacted Lenard Engineering and R. H. White Construction and put them to work on an expedited plan to repair the dam.

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

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

Paul Dufresne, Management Committee	508 868-7301	pd0173@hotmail.com
Wayne Ridley, Management Committee	508 892-8684	nebackpacker@aol.com
Dick Johnston, District Clerk	508 892-1203	Rjohn56503@aol.com
Terry O'Coin, District Treasurer	508 347-6863	the.ocoins@verizon.net

Tommy Lee is currently unable to take your calls.

## **Your Attendance At This Annual Meeting Is A Must**