

Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

- Newsletter -

September 2009

Informational Meeting

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend an important informational meeting at the **Knights of Columbus Hall, 91 Mannville Street, Leicester at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, October 7, 2009.** The purpose of the meeting will be to describe the trial that took place at the Worcester Superior Court from September 1 through September 4, 2009 between Central Water District Associates, the former dam owners, and the Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District.

Despite our best efforts, the outcome was not good. We paid Central Water District Associates \$187,200, less \$100,000 to repair the dam, in 1997 as part of an eminent domain taking. The jury decided that, at the time of the taking, the dam and land under the lake was worth \$1,157,000. We will obviously challenge this decision in the courts.

The trial and its outcome are just too complex to explain in a newsletter. Please plan to attend this meeting to hear first-hand what took place during the trial and the impact of the jury decision on individual members of the District.

Annual Draw Down To Begin October 4

Please plan to **remove your boats and floats from the water by October 11.** The District will again coordinate our draw down with the draw down at Burncoat Pond. The flash boards and lower gate valve will be used to lower water levels. Our draw down will be conducted slowly, ideally averaging about an inch per day over the next 60 days until the water elevation is five feet below the spillway elevation. The water will be held at this elevation until the exposed portion of the lake bottom thoroughly freezes to kill the weeds. The lower gate will then be closed to allow water levels to rise to the spillway channel elevation where the open channel will maintain water levels at between two and two and one half feet below the spillway 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 to bring water levels back up to the spillway elevation.

Final Mortgage Payment

Our final mortgage payment will be paid at the end of September. This will complete our twelve year obligation to the Spencer Savings Bank and reduce our budget by about \$23,000 annually.