

Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

- Newsletter -

September 2010

Annual Draw Down To Begin October 10

Please plan to **remove your boats and floats from the water by October 17**. When planning to remove your boats for the season, keep in mind that the water level is already down more than a foot due to the dry summer weather. 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.

Legal Update

The District continues to mount a legal defense in the matter of Central Water District Associates ("CWDA) v. Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District. Previously, CWDA sought a higher interest rate on the jury verdict than the statutory rate established by the Legislature. Our attorney filed a Motion for Summary Judgement regarding the interest manner. Judge McCann allowed this motion and ended the interest portion of the case. CWDA appealed Judge McCann's ruling to the Massachusetts Court of appeals. Briefs have been submitted to the Court by both sides, and the District is currently awaiting CWDA's reply brief to our brief submitted on September 17. The next step in this process, which could be as long as a year from now, will be oral arguments before the Court.

Dam Seepage

Relatively small volumes of water continue to seep through the dam at several locations. Past efforts to pinpoint the source of these leaks through the use of professional divers have been only partially successful. The entire face of the dam was professionally hand packed with concrete during the 2008 draw down to solve some, but not all leakage. Plans are currently being drafted to undertake another low cost repair during the upcoming draw down to seal the leaks.

Hot, Dry Summer

While this past summer was great for recreation, the lack of rain had both positive and negative effects on the lake. The positive effect appears to be that there was very little nutrient enriched run off from the surrounding watershed into the lake. Samples collected in some lake locations over the past few years have contained relatively high, but acceptable, concentrations of total phosphorus, a nutrient. It has been speculated that these higher concentrations were attributable to run off following heavy rain conditions. High nutrient levels encourage the growth of weeds and, in the worst case, algae blooms. Water sample collected late this summer contained very low levels of total phosphorus. Weed growth this summer appeared to be less severe than in previous summers in the coves on the north end of the lake. The conclusion is that there is a direct correlation between rainfall, and resultant run off, and the nutrient content of lake water.

The negative effect is that water loss in the lake due to evaporation during the hot weather was not replaced through rainfall. Most area lakes and ponds experience water loss and lower than usual water levels this past summer. This was exacerbated, in our case, by dam leakage.

Tax Collections

The last tax collection cycles sought to collect amounts more than three times the amount collected on average over the past ten years. This was necessary to pay the \$100,000 cost to defend ourselves in the lawsuit brought by Central Water District Associates. Despite difficult economic conditions, our members came through again. As of this writing, 90% of taxes due in February and May have been paid. We extend a big “thank you” to those that have paid. To those members that have not yet paid, if you are unable to pay the full amounts due now, please, in fairness to your fellow District members, pay what you can as soon as possible.

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, Vice-Chair, Management Committee	508 892-0173	pd0173@hotmail.com
Tommy Lee, Member, Management Committee	508 892-3750	tlee@wjgei.com
Wayne Ridley, Chairman, 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

Have a Great Fall and Winter