

## State of the Pigeon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, 2023

I'm happy to report that the state of the Pigeon Lake District is strong. We have an active agenda of social events in the community that are building trust, an engaged Board that turns out to volunteer, a clear Plan of realistic steps for the next five years emerging through our work with Onterra, a water-quality testing program developing, a decent (and improving) fishery, and a strong financial situation. I'm grateful to our communities of Clintonville and Larrabee, and for everyone in the watershed, for their support and encouragement.

In the next year, there will be some significant decisions to be made that will impact the 2025 Budget process. We will need to decide about Implementation steps following from the Report, including the possibilities of herbicide treatments, partial drawdowns, purchase of a portable dredging platform, ongoing work on shoreline restoration and stabilization, developing new fish sticks, and continued partnerships with the City of Clintonville, Waupaca County, and area farmers. Each of these will require both human resources and financial resources beyond those currently available to us. We'll be aggressive in seeking grants, but we will also want to consider partnering for the long-term with a lake management corporation—Onterra as one possibility, but also through an open-bid process for an expert to assist us in prioritizing implementation steps and moving forward. That bid process will have to happen AFTER we have the Plan in place, but prior to the formation of the 2025 Budget. If all goes well, I hope we can accomplish such a partnership without an increase in the levy—but depending upon which steps we prioritize, there may be the need to ask the public to give us greater resources, beginning in the 2025 Budget year.

Another, related initiative that we need to accomplish is to improve the flow of our financial processes by inquiring with our bank about securing a debit card to be used for small purchases, and about investing a portion of our funds in order to maximize their potential—while NOT taking on undue risk. Any investment bears risk, of course, but we will seek to be prudent and cautious while also improving the current paltry earnings. We seek to be trustworthy and accountable stewards of public funds, so I will be inviting bids to conduct an audit of our finances.

Finally, allow me to thank with deep gratitude our outgoing Treasurer, Tammy Strey-Hirt. Under difficult circumstances, with no precedent or training, Tammy has taken significant work off of my plate, and served the Board well for the past two years. I am personally grateful, and I know the Board joins me in expressing our appreciation for her service.

Thank you all for what you do for Pigeon Lake and for our community.

Jon Pahl

August 16, 2023