

PRESS RELEASE: Pigeon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Receives \$19K Grant from DNR
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The Pigeon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District was recently awarded a grant in the amount of over \$19,000. from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The funds will be used to reduce the amount of tax dollars spent on a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan, and to conduct a wide range of testing, surveys, and measures to improve the quality of the Pigeon Lake watershed.

"We're delighted to receive this vote of support from the DNR for our efforts to make Pigeon Lake as user-friendly and beautiful as possible," said Dr. Jon Pahl, Secretary of the District Board. The grant will allow the District to spend less than \$10,000 of taxpayer dollars for over \$30,000 worth of services.

Since a contentious brouhaha over dredging in 2018, and the draw-down to repair the dam in 2019, the District Board has seen a significant turnover in leadership. Pahl will take over as Chair of the Board in April, replacing Dennis Kussmann, who is retiring from the position. "Dennis provided real stability during a turbulent time," Pahl said. "The community owes him a big thank you."

After an open bid process, the District Board voted to partner with Onterra Lake Management, a company out of Green Bay, to steer the planning process. "We received three strong bids," Pahl said, "and Onterra's was the best scientifically and reduced costs the most."

Among the testing to be performed will be seven different water-quality monitoring tests between early spring 2022 and winter 2023. "It's important that we know the lake chemistry," explained Myron Radtke, a long-time District Board member who works with the DNR on the lake's fishing population. Since the lake was refilled after the drawdown, the District has partnered with Shadows on the Wolf, an area non-profit, and the DNR to restock the lake with over 15,000 Largemouth Bass, 9700 Northern Pike, 8000 Crappie, 8000 Bluegill, and 3000 Perch, according to Radtke.

Another area that will be included in the planning process will be an acoustic survey (bathymetric mapping) of the lake floor, done with a precision sonar system. "This will give us a clear picture of lake depths and contours," Pahl said, "something that will assist us with the best steps to take to keep the lake clean and clear."

Onterra will also conduct aquatic plant surveys, mapping where different native and invasive species are located. The lake has frequently been overrun by invasive plants in previous years. "The process is called eutrophication," Pahl explained, "too many nutrients and too shallow a lake. With Onterra's help, we'll be examining all steps we might take to keep the lake clear."

The Pigeon Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District was established as a specialized tax district in 1977, by a vote of citizens who realized the lake was in trouble, and that the water body could provide important benefits in quality of living, recreation, natural beauty, and making the area attractive to employers and families. Both the City of Clintonville and Township of Larrabee contribute tax income to its work.

Public input on the planning process is welcome, and it will be sought through meetings and surveys with property owners and citizens in coming months. For more information, contact Jon Pahl, by email at jonpahlwi@gmail.com, by phone at 610-909-7107, or by USPS at P.O. Box 54, Clintonville, WI 54929