

the Watershed

Lake Management Taking Shape

Joe Olliges, Fish Stocking Program Manager, presented the LMC/Fishing Club recommendations for creel limits to the RCD at their 4/5 meeting. They were passed and will be prominently posted next week. Joe asked for \$3000 to be budgeted for stocking in the RCD's 2007-2008 budget. This amount was unanimously approved. Joe will proceed with our consultant to ascertain the appropriate species and number of each species of fish.

Steve Larry, who is managing the LMC fish barrier program, has contacted and interviewed an engineering firm, as well as state offices that will be involved in the barrier permitting process. We are hopeful of putting some cost figures for the RCD budget together in the next couple of weeks.

Wildlife Program Manager, Frank Durkin, has solidified a date of June 2nd for all shoreline property owners to meet. As mentioned in the Winter 2006 Watershed, these property owners are critical to the lakes health and beauty. Significant information will be forthcoming to this group in April and May prior to the meet-

ing. Jerry Sellers, in the absence of a shoreline stabilization manager, continues to work with outside consultants and Frank to integrate these two disciplines. It is hoped as stated previously that an ad hoc committee of shoreline property owners will form to help develop a set of standards to be presented and adopted by the RCD.

The RCD received our final **Sediment Mapping Report** this past March. It is currently being analyzed to develop a long term dredging program, as we now know how much silt and where it is located in the lake. In the near term the silt basin will require dredging this fall. A longer term program requires careful planning and implementation. The cost of the last major dredging program in 2003 was \$184,000.

The **Voluntary Lake Management Program**, headed by Ron Berger, will run from May 2nd through October. Concurrently, the IEPA monitoring program will be initiated.

(Continued on page 2)

It's Budget Time Again

The RCD is considering items for its fiscal 2007-2008 budget at this time. This process is done annually as a prelude to our levying process, which dictates how much tax revenue that the District will receive from the county.

At the April meeting, the board discussed ball park numbers for major items and projects that will be on its agenda this year, as

well as the automatic items such as employee salaries, maintenance costs, utilities and the like. While the numbers are not final, it appears as though the budget for the upcoming year will roughly be the same as last year's budget. This is because we plan to do a lot more on the same amount of money as a result in efficiencies brought to us by the hard work of our vol-

(Continued on page 2)

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the Watershed is a periodic publication containing information relevant to our District's constituents. Contact *the Watershed* at thewatershed@rcdinfo.com

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Lake Management | 1 |
| Budget | 1 |
| Bits And Pieces | 2 |

Did You Know...

- The RCD board of trustees are volunteers who are appointed by the Ogle County Board?
- Summer is the busiest time of the year for Lake Court Center rentals ?
- The RCD Web site, at web address www.rcdinfo.com, is constantly updated with important District information ?
- RCD office hours are: Mon & Wednesday from 2-6 pm and Tuesday & Thursday from 10 am – 2 pm?
- You are required to obtain Board approval before starting any shoreline improvement on your property ?

RCD Board

Marty Portner, Pres.
Dan Dummett, V.P.
Vacant Position, Treasurer
Herb Hill, Secretary
Betty Lou Finn, Member

Becky Breckenfelder
Administrative Manager

www.rcdinfo.com

Bits and Pieces

A FAREWELL TO BILL PIPER | The April, 2007 meeting was the final meeting for Treasurer Carl William 'Bill' Piper. He has served the RCD for a full term of 5 years (quite a feat in recent times) and has faithfully executed his duties as keeper of the treasury for that entire time. Bill plans to retire (this time, for sure!) with his wife, Joyce. Enjoy your family, Bill and stop by now and then to let us know how you are doing!

BOARD POSITION OPEN | As of this writing, there is an opening on the RCD Board for one individual. It has been extremely difficult to find good people that also want to take on a 5-year commitment to the District and its management. We make no promises or try to sugar-coat the position. It is demanding work, but rewarding in the end because you get to have a powerful impact in the future of Lost Lake, arguably the most important asset that the surrounding community has. Please consider applying for this open position. Ob-

tain answers to your questions and the necessary paper work from Becky at the RCD office. Call **815.652-2006** today.

LCC SOUND SYSTEM INSTALLED | A new sound system has been installed in the Lake Court Center and has been used by both POAs and related committees with great success. With the rise in population and demand for more meetings at the LCC, this system fills the need for people to hear and be heard at these meetings. The cost of the system is being shared between the RCD and both POAs. This is another example of the new spirit of cooperation that has grown since June of last year.

BOAT RACK STICKERS | Starting this year, you will be required to display a sticker on your boat should you desire to store on one of our boat racks. You will receive information in the mail regarding this program.

LMC

(Continued from page 1)

We received the completed **IDNR Clear Creek** study from our neighbor, the Nature Conservancy. It is an "index of biotic integrity" (IBI)..... a what? **Joe Rush** advised that the IDNR fisheries office in Sterling will explain the creeks score of 36. Stay tuned for the results in the next *Watershed* issue.

Our establishment of a **Clear Creek Watershed Committee** took a hit in April when we were advised that the **Natural Resources Conservation Services** (NRCS) did not have the staff resources to assist with watershed planning at this time. The LMC is trying to effect this situation in any and every way possible to get this program back on track. In any grant application, the first thing asked for is a comprehensive Water-

shed Plan. We desperately need help in this arena!

It is never too late to participate in this program. Living on any lake is a privilege. However, like anything in life that is worth having, it comes with a price. That price is an ongoing commitment to maintaining the lake so that it is a source of recreation, but it must be done in harmony with Nature—quite a time-consuming task for volunteers. Are you one of the vast majority of District members who has benefited from the activities of volunteers, but never felt that **you** could make a difference? The truth is that you can! If you have not yet made your contribution of time and energy to this effort, now is the time. Call **815.652.2006** to volunteer.

Budget

(Continued from page 1)

unteers and the fine work done for us by our Lake Management team, including Joe Rush of JadEco.

Highlights of the upcoming year's projects include design and installation of a fish barrier system on the dam; outreach program for the shoreline property owners as part of the shoreline improvement program; formation of a Watershed Planning committee; additional Lake Management activities such as analysis and preparation of periodic dredging; design and installation of an outdoor lighting system in

preparation for installation of a parking lot surface for the Lake Court Center. These projects are what the board hopes to accomplish over the next fiscal year. All ideas are welcome. If you have an idea, please let us know by attending our meetings.

It takes money to maintain the Lake and we are still pursuing funding through the cooperative Federal and State governmental grant systems. This is a slow process, but we are making progress with the help of the USDA and other area conservation organizations.