

PAPAKEECHIE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
POW WOW NEWSLETTER
January 2009

With winter in full swing and we prepare for the beginning of our construction projects starting up on the lake this spring, I wanted to give you members another update on what has been happening.

First of all, this is a reminder of who is on the Papakeechee Board. With new Association members moving in, this will be helpful in knowing. Any questions you have regarding the lake, its maintenance, or projects we're involved with please either contact your district representative or myself.

President	Ron Schug	260-786-3562 (home)
Vice President	Jon Korejwa	260-385-8720 (cell)
Secretary	Pat Ebetino	260-639-0046 (home)
Treasurer	Sherry Doherty	260-856-3224 (home)
District 1 Rep	Ron Corson	260-856-2678 (home)
District 2 Rep	Bernie Ebetino	260-639-0046 (home)
District 3 Rep	Randy Mast	260-856-2848 (home)
District 4 Rep	Steve Herendeen	260-856-2998 (Lake)
District 5 Rep	Todd Hoy	260-760-0905 (cell)
District 5A Rep	Steve Yoder	574-457-5340 (home)
District 6 Rep	Jim Whitehead	574-457-4081 (home)
District 7 Rep	Steve Schwartz	260-856-2971 (home)
District 8&9 Rep	Randy Girod	260-856-2669 (home)

OVERVIEW:

PPA will soon be entering into another busy season. The main projects we will be dealing with include weed control/cutting in the lake, and continuing work on the dam and levee project. As a reminder and for the sake of new association members, in 2003 the Indiana General Assembly passed the Dam and Levee Safety Regulations. One of the outcomes of this is we are required to contract qualified inspectors to inspect our dam and levee. The PPA Board entered into a contract with Earth Exploration to inspect the dam and levee. The inspectors were contracted to visit PPA three times over the course of six years. We had our third inspection in June 2008. Their report on the integrity of the dam and levee go to the DNR/State. Based on the information acquired through the inspections, the dam and levee project emerged. In the next several months the Board and volunteers will be attending to the tasks in preparation for the construction projects. Here's a summary of what we have accomplished so far working towards compliance with the State's requirements:

- ❖ Obtained Survey for Dam & Spillway
- ❖ Confirmed that the leak found by the inspectors was not a leak at the dam but is an Artesian well cap that is leaking
- ❖ Removed piers, steps, stairs, trash piles, and personal property from the levee as required by the State in District 5 A.
- ❖ Invited Representative Ruppel to our May 17th meeting and showed our slide show to him and discussed our concerns about the requirements of the DNR.
- ❖ Met with the Syracuse town hall and representatives from Tri-county, Lake Wawasee & Syracuse Lake to discuss the overall project concerning the water shed.

- ❖ Met with DNR Deputy Director Ron McAhron in October 2008, about the requirements of the DNR. State will look in to possible solutions.
- ❖ One roadblock causing a delay with our project is that the DNR would like to see a different order of events than they had previously expressed. DNR wants us to concentrate our efforts on the levee first and then the dam, just the opposite of what they had stated previously. They also want to make changes in their requirements for the levee by raising the top elevation by one (1) foot. Letters for re-clarification have been submitted. Outcome is still pending.
- ❖ The DNR is working with the PPA on whether the three ponds are still going to be declared wetlands or not. Part of Ron McAhron's objective is to get clarification from IDEM on this matter.
- ❖ Permits for any construction requires detailed plans and data from our inspectors and the DNR. Still pending is the data from the inspectors and feedback from the DNR. The PPA will continue working closely with the inspectors and the DNR to make sure we're meeting State requirements. This way the PPA doesn't promote delays from our end.
- ❖ The Board continues researching ways to minimize expenses. Our first attempt at a grant was unsuccessful. We will continue applying for grants as we discover what is available and appropriate.
- ❖ If all goes well, we may be able to shorten our time line and do both toe drains (at the dam and west levee) back to back. We cannot obtain our permit until we receive the re-clarification mentioned above. We'll then be soliciting for quotes from potential contractors for doing the work.

Environmental Cleanup

With this being a new year and people moving in and moving out, I'd like to update my volunteer listing. In the past I have had Association members who've indicated they would volunteer and have come on designated "work days" to help with trimming, mowing of the dam and levee, picking up debris, etc. Volunteers have also helped work on required repairs indicated in our inspection reports. If you are interested in helping this year please e-mail me or call me so I can add you to our list. We appreciate our volunteers that help out. Working together not only strengthens us as an Association, but it also helps in cutting expenses.

Part of maintaining our lake environment also includes property upkeep. We do have a special place here at Papakeechie. We demonstrate our pride by how we take care of our properties. In the past there have been properties neglected: Grass has needed cutting, trash on the property, abandoned cars, boats and deteriorated out buildings are present. When each association owner does their part in taking care of their property, this contributes to enhancing the beauty of our lake. We all chose to live here because it is very beautiful and special. I'm encouraging each property owner to make a difference this year and work on making sure your property is taken care of. The Board has decided if there is the need for clean up around someone's property, the property owner will be billed for the time spent in doing the work. Please refer to your Covenant and By-laws booklet for clarification. The Board has already initiated follow through with this regarding items that needed removed on the west levee. We own the lake. Our lake is a private lake. We are the ones who pay the taxes for this property. We are the ones responsible for caring and maintaining the dam and levee as well as our individual properties. Our lake is very special and unique and I would hope that each and every one of us would choose to take pride in what we own.

Just as a side note regarding information mentioned at the annual meeting about dredging in low areas of the lake. The Board has not made any decision regarding the go-ahead on this matter. It is still under consideration; more information is needed.

DUES:

This is definitely a tough topic to talk about because of the financial situation for Association members. The Association dues plus the special dam assessment billing has already been mailed. Thank you, in advance, for your prompt response. I do need to remind members this money is due April 1st. I really do not want to take anyone to court, but if I need to I will. The member who doesn't pay their assessment fee (or dues for that matter) incurs an additional \$150.00 for having to have it filed by me, plus approximately \$93.00 for court filing fees, plus interest. What is owed to the Association will be collected. Please spare yourself the embarrassment of having to appear in court and save yourself the added expense. The other important piece of information is that a lien on the property will be filed on anyone who doesn't pay.

Weed Control:

Our summer weed control program for the lake will soon begin. Our projected date of application of the weed control chemicals into the lake, weather permitting, is the first of May. As always, numerous signs will be posted around the lake advising PPA homeowners of restrictions and date of application. The chemicals that the Board approves for use in the lake are environmentally safe and not hazardous to the fish, humans and pets. **PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THE SIGNS!** There is a restricted time period for watering of plants or irrigating lawns. The chemicals will do harm to plants and vegetation.

Before you apply any weed control or lawn fertilizer, please read the warnings for ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS. Please do not use products that state that they are toxic to aquatic invertebrates as drift or runoff may adversely affect aquatic invertebrates.

So you see, the agenda is a full one. All of what I've talked about is for the benefit of the Association and our lake. As I mentioned earlier, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. There are no exceptions. If anyone has any problems, concerns or questions, please call me. On behalf of the Board, we really appreciate members' willingness to pull together and see this through.

New Website:

The PPA website is under construction now. We're setting it up so members can obtain information about upcoming meetings, workdays, events, information about the Association. You can visit our new website at <http://www.lakepapakeeche.org>. Please check the website since we continue to work on its development.

One last note before I close this newsletter. We want to continue remembering our men and women serving in the armed forces, many of whom are related to association members in one way or another...

Respectfully,

Ron Schug
President
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