Bone Lake Management District

Fact Sheet

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INTRODUCTION

The Bone Lake Management District (the District) was formed in 1977. A Bone Lake Association had been in place prior to the District formation since approximately 1965. A public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district is a special unit of government formed under Chapter 33 Wisconsin State Statutes to address lake management issues. Property owners living within the District boundaries may be assessed fees as part of the property tax levy. A lake district is empowered to operate on its own initiative, independent of its creating entity and the state, but subject to local ordinances and state law. Lake districts can act together with other municipalities and agencies to undertake lake protection and rehabilitation projects.

LAKE DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGEMENT POWERS

Lake districts can perform a wide variety of lake management activities such as:

- evaluate lake management issues
- carry out lake management activities such as lake aeration, dredging, and aquatic plant management
- develop long range lake management plans
- undertake projects to enhance recreation
- monitor water quality
- cooperate with non-profit organizations on projects
- operate water safety patrols
- form a sanitary sewer district

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The District is managed by an elected board of commissioners. Commissioners receive no payment for their work. The board meets at least quarterly. Commissioners are assigned committee leadership. In the past, additional volunteers served on lake management committees. In recent years, volunteer participation on committees has decreased dramatically.

Commissioners	
Cary Olson, Chair caryolson@comcast.net	Mike Musial, At Large mbmusial@lakeland.ws
Shelley Rose, Vice Chair shelleykayrose@gmail.com	Jeff Traynor, Town of Georgetown jeff@lakeservicesunlimited.com
Karen Engelbretson, Secretary karenengelbretson@icloud.com	Andy Brown, Town of Bone Lake scandman71@gmail.com
Alex Chorewycz, Treasurer achorewycz@yahoo.com	Doug Route, Polk County Supervisor dargcr@lakeland.ws

Bone Lake Committees

The following is a list of historical committees created or operating during the last planning period.

Bone Lake Committees	Activity
Waterfront Runoff	Education and ways to reduce runoff from lakeshore properties
Watershed	Reduce nutrient loading from the watershed beyond lakeshore properties, e.g. streams and culverts
Fisheries	Assess and improve fish habitat; maintain desirable levels of game fish
Wildlife and Natural Beauty	Protect and enhance natural beauty, wildlife populations and habitat
Lake Monitoring	Check for new and invasive species in a designated part of the lake
Clean Boats Clean Waters	Educate lake users and inspect boats at the landings
Communications	Assist with our newsletter, website and other communications
Boating Safety & Buoys	Inform boaters of safety courses, maintain navigation buoys

Annual Meetings

An annual meeting of members is held each August. The annual meeting has a variety of functions:

- Vote to tax properties within the District.
- Vote to elect commissioners.
- Review the current year's budget and spending.

- Approve the District's budget for the coming year.
- Vote for items costing in excess of $10,000.
- Establish compensation to be paid to the District Board of Commissioners.
- Create a fund to finance specific capital costs.

Lake Management Planning

Lake District activities are guided by two planning documents. A 10-year Comprehensive Lake Management Plan addresses water quality, watershed management, fisheries, wildlife& natural beauty, and lake safety. The District is updating this plan in 2025-26. The 5-year Bone Lake Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan presents a strategy for managing aquatic plants by protecting native plant populations, alleviating nuisance conditions, and preventing establishment of invasive species. The plan was prepared in 2020 with an amendment to include harvesting as a management method in 2023. Another APM plan update will be needed in 2028.

District Communications

The Bone Lake Communications committee is led by Karen Engelbretson. Primary communication tools include the website (https://www.bonelakewi.com/), a biannual newsletter (mailed and posted to the website), and eNews sent via email. The Bone Lake Property Owners Survey confirmed that these were the best ways to reach owners who preferred receiving District information from the mailed newsletter (~84%), eNews via email (~60%), and the website (~41%).

District Partners

The Bone Lake Management District has no enforcement authority and relies on local and state government partners to carry out and support lake management activities.

Polk County Environmental Services Division

- Land and Water Resources Department
  - Manure and Water Quality Management Ordinance
  - Stormwater and Erosion Control Ordinance
  - Illegal Transport of Aquatic Plants and Invasive Species Ordinance
  - Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance
  - Technical Assistance for Water Quality Projects
  - Technical and Financial Assistance for Agricultural Conservation Projects
  - Annual Tree and Shrub Sale
- Planning and Zoning
  - Comprehensive Land Use Planning
  - Zoning, Shoreland, and Subdivision Ordinances
  - Land Use Permits
  - Sanitary Permits
  - Regulation of Short-Term Rentals

Towns of Georgetown and Bone Lake

- Boat Landing Ownership

Luck Lions Club

- Manages North Landing

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

- Boating Regulations and Enforcement
- Fisheries Management
- Shoreline Stabilization Regulations
- Aquatic Plant Management Planning and Regulation
- Dredging Regulations
- Surface Water and Recreational Facilities Grants

RESOURCES

Bone Lake Management District: www.bonelakewi.com

Town of Bone Lake: https://www.townofbonelake.org/

Town of Georgetown: https://townofgeorgetownwi.com/

Luck Lions Club: https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/luck/

Polk County: https://www.polkcountywi.gov/index.php

Polk County Land and Water: https://www.polkcountywi.gov/government/divisions_and_departments/environmental_services_division/land__water_resources/index.php

Polk County Zoning: https://www.polkcountywi.gov/government/divisions_and_departments/environmental_services_division/division_of_zoning.php

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/

Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 33: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/33