



# Potter Lake News

## November 20, 2025

## Fall, 2025

### A Word from the Chair

It was another great summer recreation season on Potter Lake. Though we did not have as much precipitation as in 2024, the water level remained good throughout the summer. Lake and Pond Solutions, LLC, conducted several lake water samplings, and there are no concerns. However, algal blooms can occur for short periods at any time. So, it is essential to be vigilant and avoid swimming or allowing young children or dogs in water with patches of algae that look thicker, like a swath of latex paint, or in water with many tiny particles floating in it.

The Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District continues to work to maintain and protect Potter Lake. In this newsletter, you will find information on:

- Highlights from the Annual Meeting
- Welcome and Directory Committee information
- Harvester and shoreline weed information
- Rules updates and sharing safety concerns
- Introduction of our new treasurer

You can find the most current information on the PLPRD website at [potterslake.org](http://potterslake.org). Fill out the [Subscribe](#) form to receive notifications when new content is posted.

See you on the lake,  
Cathy Schulz, PLPRD Chairperson  
[cathyschulzplprdchair@gmail.com](mailto:cathyschulzplprdchair@gmail.com)

### PLPRD Updates

On September 13, 2025, the Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held a Special Meeting, as well as the Annual Budget Meeting and Annual Meeting. All board members were present, along with 42 constituents. The Annual Meeting, typically held in September, is the most essential PLPRD meeting, as decisions are made that impact the entire next year. We appreciate the riparian owners who attended this meeting and helped us set the direction for 2026.

The homeowners approved the 2026 budget and amended the 2025 budget after voting to purchase a new weed harvester. The electors also discussed updated wording of the Potter Lake rules to improve clarity and align with current DNR regulations, and voted to modify seven rules. Town of East Troy Representative Thad Seymour reported that the DNR recently approved the PLPRD Waterway Marker permit for our buoys. Members of the Fish-Stocking and Welcome/Directory committees gave updates on their work over the past year. We are grateful for the active participation of these volunteers! The complete minutes for the September 13, 2025, meetings are available at [Annual Meeting Minutes](#).

### Information from the Welcome and Directory Committee

By: Johanna Cairns and Katie Seymour

The Potter Lake Welcome and Directory Committee has put together a packet of Welcome Information for each new Riparian owner on Potter Lake. We need your help! We are not notified by the Town when new owners arrive on the lake, so if you have a new neighbor, please let us know so we can welcome them. Or if you are a new homeowner and have not yet received your Welcome Packet, please let one of the commissioners know.

We have also begun early planning for the 2026 directory edition. We will reach out in the spring to verify/update your directory information and identify advertisers. The committee will select several pictures from the gallery page of the website for riparian owners to vote on as the cover of the directory. Please continue to share your photos, so that we have great options from which to choose, using this form: [Photo submission form](#).

Please be on the lookout for more information in 2026!

## New Harvester information

As mentioned above, the riparian owners approved the purchase of a new weed harvester at the Annual Meeting. Our current harvester has served us well for the past 41 years. Over the past five years, more age-related repairs have been needed, and this summer, we were informed that many replacement parts for the future were no longer available. Recognizing that we would be unable to use the current harvester in the event of future breakdowns, the PLPRD board members and our Operations and Maintenance staff researched various options for replacing the machine and/or hiring an outside contractor. It was determined that the best long-term solution was to purchase a new harvester. At the Annual meeting, the electors approved the order of an Inland Lake Harvester (ILH7-250) with a total cost not to exceed \$132,000. The hope is to see this new machine on the lake by early summer of 2026. For now, we can use a “workaround” for the parts needed to run our current harvester until the new one is delivered. Riparian owners voted to pay for this machine from our current reserves. In part because we did not need to do any weed treatments this past summer, we were able to pay the down payment from our short-term reserves. The remainder of the harvester will be funded from the liquidation of the district’s LPL investment. We look forward to many years of service from this new harvester as we work to keep plant growth under control on Potter Lake.



### PLPRD Commissioners

#### Elected Commissioners

Chairperson: Cathy Schulz (2024-2026)  
Secretary: Chuck DeWall (2025-2027)  
Treasurer: Bill Roeber (2023-2025)  
Matt Wessels (2026-2028)

#### Appointed Commissioners:

Walworth County Representative:  
MaryJo Jones  
Town of East Troy Representative:  
Thad Seymour

See the [Contact](#) page of the website for contact information.

## Shoreline Advice for Riparian Owners

Over the past year, the PLPRD has received many questions about whether the harvester can cut weeds near the shoreline. As you may or may not be aware, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources issues a permit for mechanical weed harvesting, which identifies specific areas and conditions under which weeds may be removed from the lake. In conversation with Heidi Bunk, Lakes Biologist with the DNR, she clarified the law.

*The Department became aware that landowners were requesting/pressuring harvesting operators to cut in less than 3 feet with the standard harvesting machine during the period from 2003 to 2010. The Department subsequently reached out to lake managers at lake Districts, Cities, etc., to discuss/remind/reinforce the permit condition that states not to operate in less than 3 feet of water. The Department has utilized enforcement procedures to ensure compliance.*

While the harvester cannot be used to clear weeds near piers and shorelines, there are options! Riparian owners can remove weeds manually by hand-pulling or raking. Using a shovel to dig weeds out is not allowed without a Wisconsin Statutes § 30 dredging permit, as this disturbs the lake's bottom. Weeds can be removed to a maximum of 30 feet along the shoreline and a maximum of 100 feet perpendicular from shore. The 30-foot removal zone should be centered around your pier and moored boats. Although a permit may not be required to remove weeds from shoreline areas, it is recommended that the riparian owner check with the DNR and Walworth County Zoning Agency before proceeding.

Another option is to hire a DASH (Diver-Assisted Suction Harvest) company to hand-pull weeds and feed them into a suction hose for collection. This process requires a permit, which the DASH company will apply for. Here is a list of known providers that Heidi Bunk shared: [Independent Harvesting Contractors](#)

Riparian owners have also asked about using sand or other fill near shorelines. According to the DNR, “the placement of any fill at or below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM), including sand, pea gravel, and rock, requires a permit from the Department under Wis. Stat § Chapter 30. Placement of fill above the OHWM may require a permit from your local unit of government,” in this case, Walworth County.

## Rules Updates

When we were transferring content from the previous website to our current one, we noticed that the rules on the website differed from those printed on the yellow "Lake Rules" cards. We also became aware that the yellow cards have undergone revisions over time, with multiple versions in circulation. This led us to review the wording, most importantly, to ensure that our rules were consistent with both the Town of East Troy ordinances and all applicable Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources laws. Beyond some editing for spelling and punctuation, seven rules required changes to the wording. Those wording changes were discussed and approved by riparian owners at the Annual Meeting. You can read a summary of those changes in the Minutes from that meeting. The website's rules section will be updated soon, and new rules cards will be distributed in the spring of 2026.



## Safety Concerns

The majority of people enjoy the beauty of Potter Lake while observing the rules and showing courtesy to others. However, there are times when safety is a concern. While the Lake District board members empathize with these issues, we have no way to enforce rule infractions. If you observe a watercraft operating unlawfully or unsafely, you can contact the **Town of East Troy Police Department at (262) 642-3700**. Your complaint should describe the problem, including the date and time it occurred. If possible, include a picture or video of the boat or PWC with the registration number clearly visible.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources also operates a hotline staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which you may call or text at 1-800-847-9367. According to their website, "The DNR's Violation Hotline provides Wisconsin citizens with the opportunity to confidentially report suspected wildlife, recreational, and environmental violations using a toll-free number." Information reported on this hotline will be relayed to a DNR officer for possible investigation. For more information on the DNR Hotline, click the following link:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/contact/Hotline.html>

## Welcome to Our New Treasurer

Our current Treasurer, Bill Roeber, will complete his term on December 31, 2025. These past three years have been quite busy and unique, and we are very grateful for all of Bill's work on the PLPRD Board. Matthew Wessels has been elected to serve as Treasurer, beginning in January 2026. Here is some information about Matt:

*Matt and his wife, Laura, purchased their single-story yellow lake cabin on the north side of Potter Lake (Spleas Skoney Road) in the summer of 2023. They feel incredibly lucky to have discovered the hidden gem of Potters Lake after a brief search, driven by a strong desire to introduce their family to the joys of lake life. Their children—Anella (13), Louisa (11), Bo (9), and Waylon (7)—are already embracing the water, the scenery, and the fun! Professionally, Matt has spent the past 22 years as a stock trader at Artisan Partners in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and he's eager to serve his fellow Potter Lake riparian owners as Treasurer while deepening his connection to and knowledge of this special place.*

## Upcoming Events/ Dates to Remember

### PLPRD Spring Meeting:

Saturday, May 16, 2026

### PLPRD Budget and Annual Meetings:

Saturday, September 12, 2026

A highlight of summer on Potter Lake is the fireworks display over the Fourth of July weekend. We appreciate the Froehlich family for organizing this event each year! Donations are being collected for the 2026 show. Please send your contribution via Venmo to Gary Froehlich (Gary@gkfroehlich), or place it in the locked collection box located at the mailbox at W920 Shorewood Drive.