

Phantom Lakes Management District Newsletter

(Bring this newsletter with you to the meeting)

2024 Annual Meeting Agenda **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 @ 6:00PM** **MUKWONAGO TOWN HALL (W320S8315 BEULAH RD.** **MUKWONAGO, WI)**

1. Call to Order
2. Open Meeting Notice
3. Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2023 Annual Meeting
4. Lake & Ice Patrol Update
5. Items from the Floor
6. Fisheries Management/Stocking
7. Harvesting Report
8. Sonar / Bathymetric Mapping
9. Equipment Condition Update
10. Approval of 2024 Audit Report
11. Adoption of 2025 Proposed Budget
12. Approval of Resolution 2024-01: Levy for 2025
13. Election of Commissioners for 2024-2027
14. Set 2025 Annual Meeting Date
15. Adjournment

2024 Organizational Meeting Agenda **TIME: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ANNUAL MEETING**

1. Call to Order
2. Board of Commissioners Roll Call
3. Election of Officers
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Adjournment

ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS

An election for commissioners will be held at the annual meeting to fill

- Two (2) expiring 3-year terms

Contact Colleen at
262-565-3212 or email at
gonefishing@phantomlakes.us
to be listed on the ballot by 9/13/2024.
Nominations also will be taken from the
floor on 9/26/2024.

PLMD PHONE NUMBERS

COMMISSIONERS

Joe Graczyk262-716-9891
(Chairman)

Adam Miller 414-406-1994
(Treasurer)

Jake Jagmin 414-350-7670
(Secretary)

Scott Babinat 262-389-9699

David Dubey 414-588-2004
(Town Representative)

Darlene Johnson414-916-3876
(County Supervisor)

HARVESTING MANAGER

Dawn Wilson262-441-1475

CONNECT WITH US

Join our resident email list to keep current with PLMD.

Email us to sign up:
gonefishing@phantomlakes.us

PHANTOM LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

GENERAL OPERATING FUND - GOF	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Actual 2024(8-22)	Estimated 2024	Budget 2025
2 GOF Beginning Balance	34,121	50,000	39,914	39,914	50,000
3 REVENUES:					
4 Interest	19	50	50	50	50
5 Storage	0	0	0	0	0
6 Sale of 1994 10' ILH Harvester	0	30,000	50,000	50,000	0
7 Grants:					
8 Clean Boats Clean Waters 2024	1,000	2,500	1,000	2,500	0
9 Lake Surface Water Grant	0	0	0	0	0
10 Harvester Grant	32,091	66,554	66,553	121,550	0
11 Donations:					
12 Fireworks	3,850	0	5,257	5,257	0
13 Fish Stocking	1,250	500	1,000	1,000	500
14 Legal	3,000	0	0	0	0
15 Town Mukwonago	0	0	0	0	0
16 Village Mukwonago	2,000	0	1,500	1,500	0
17 Misc	408	0	1,276	1,276	0
18 Levy	150,000	165,000	165,000	165,000	126,352
19 TOTAL REVENUES	193,618	264,604	291,636	348,133	126,902
20 Transfer in from Equipment Reserve Fund:	70,000	88,358	0	0	0
21 New/Refurbished Equipment	0	0	0	0	0
22 Transfer in from Lake Protection Fund:					
23 Well Study (2014 Offset 2013 Expenditure)	0	0	0	0	0
24 Lake Study	0	0	0	0	0
25 Total Revenues + Fund Transfers In	263,618	352,962	291,636	348,133	126,902
26 Total Revenues + Transfers In + Beginning Balance	297,739	402,962	331,550	388,047	176,902
27 EXPENDITURES:					
28 Operating Costs:					
29 Administrative:					
30 Accounting Expense	621	1,000	595	1,500	2,500
31 Conventions	0	0	0	0	0
32 Assistant	4,295	5,000	1,029	4,000	5,000
33 Harvesting Manager	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	3,000
34 Miscellaneous	205	500	493	500	500
35 Newsletters/Notices & Web Site	1,529	2,000	539	2,000	2,000
36 Office Expense	103	500	287	500	500
37 Publications Legal	0	0	0	0	0
38 All other Account Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
39 Total Administrative	9,753	12,000	2,943	11,500	13,500
40 Other:					
41 Commissioner Pay	2,816	3,200	0	3,200	3,200
42 Contingency Fund	0	7,000	0	0	1,000
43 Clean Boats Clean Water Program	4,558	2,500	0	2,500	0
44 Fish Stocking	6,400	6,000	0	7,150	6,500
45 Insurance	7,411	9,000	6,788	6,788	9,000
46 Lake Safety	1,250	1,350	1	1,350	1,400
47 Aquatic Plant Management / Survey	10,110	3,000	0	0	3,000
48 Legal Fees/Consultant/Well Study	8,870	20,000	11,583	115,83	3,000
49 Water Monitoring and Lab	0	0	0	0	300
50 Fireworks	10,365	6,500	13,300	13,300	6,500
51 Wildlife Control	3,500	3,750	3,500	3,500	3,750
52 Total Other	55,280	62,300	36,521	49,371	37,650

53	GENERAL OPERATING FUND - GOF	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Actual 2024(8- 22)	Estimated 2024	Budget 2025
54	Harvesting:					
55	Fuel and Oil	4,314	5,500	3,594	4,500	5,500
56	Harvesting / Waste Permit	0	200	0	0	200
57	Labor	37,689	50,000	21,039	30,000	45,000
58	Remove/Put in Harvesters/Storage/Winterization	4,247	1,500	1,287	2,500	2,500
59	Repairs and Maintenance	25,126	13,000	4,950	10,000	10,000
60	Other Harvesting/Land Rental	1	2	1	1	2
61	Contractor Channel Harvesting**	0	0	0	0	0
62	10' Harvester & Trailer Purchase	81,033	162,066	163,037	163,037	0
63	PLMD Property Expenses	0	5,000	0	5,000	5,000
64	Total Harvesting	152,410	237,268	193,908	215,038	65,202
65	Total Expenditures	217,443	311,568	233,372	275,909	116,352
66	GOF Fund Transfers to:					
67	Equipment Reserve Fund (savings)*	40,382	32,000	0	62,138	10,000
68	Lake Protection Fund (savings)	0	0	0	0	0
69	Total Fund Transfers Out	40,382	32,000	0	62,138	10,000
70	Total Operating Costs (including fund transfers out)	257,825	343,568	233,372	338,047	126,352
71	<i>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</i>	46,175	41,394	58,264	72,224	10,550
72	GOF Ending Balance	39,914	59,394	98,178	50,000	50,550
73	EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND (savings)	Actual 2023	Budget 202	Actual 2024 (8/22)	Estimated 2024	Budget 2025
74	Beginning Balance	30,304	56,333	1,025	1,025	1,025
75	REVENUES:					
76	Transfer from GOF	40,382	32,000	0	0	10,000
77	Interest	338	25	6	10	25
78	EXPENDITURES:					
79	Transfer to GOF -New/Refurbished Equipment	70,000	88,358	0	0	0
80	Transfer to GOF -Repair & Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0
81	Ending Balance	1,024	0	1,031	1,035	11,050
82	LAKE PROTECTION FUND (savings)	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Estimated 2024	Budget 2025
83	Beginning Balance	4,257	4,256	4,269	4,269	4,256
84	REVENUES:					
85	Transfer from GOF	0	0	0	0	0
86	Interest	11	1	9	9	1
87	EXPENDITURES:					
88	Transfer to GOF	0	0	0	0	0
89	Ending Balance	4,268	4,257	4,278	4,278	4,257

GOF to maintain a balance of \$50,000.00 any surplus to be transferred to Equipment Reserve Fund

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM by Chairman Joe Graczyk.

Open Meeting Notice:

The meeting was noticed and posted according to law.

Approval of Minutes September 28, 2022 Annual Meeting:

Caroline Jagmin motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 9-28-2022, seconded by Peter Brierton. Motion carried (unanimous).

Items from the Floor:

Steve Todd, former chairman and Waukesha County employee presents details about Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program that was ran over the summer. 235 boat inspections. PLMD expense is ¼ of total.

Residents are concerned about lack of launching fee at Phantom Glen launch in the village. Residents would like to see the board present the idea to the Village. PLMD encourages residents to attend Village meetings and voice concern.

Secretary Jake Jagmin presents details about lawsuit with DNR concerning Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM). Between 2021-2022 PLMD has spent \$20,000 gathering data in a 88 page document supporting a small increase in harvesting. The APM was sent in over the summer, DNR denied increase in harvesting and approved previous APM. PLMD seeks opinion from residents on how to proceed. All residents present expressed a strong need to pursue more aggressive harvesting.

Fisheries Management/Stocking:

Steve Verduyn provided an update. The permit was approved by the DNR. 1000 Walleye, 1400 Black Crappie and 1000 Bass will be stocked in early October. PLMD thanks the private donors that contributed funds for fish stocking, a total of \$1150. A couple of walleye caught this season were measured at 16 and 24 inches. Bass population has taken a hit since the Covid influx of recreational fishing on Phantom.

Harvesting Report:

Harvesting Manager Dawn Wilson and Senior Harvesting Operator Chad Klawitter provided an update. Overall, the season was uneventful, consistent weather and infrequent repairs. The crew was reliable. Scheduling to remove harvesters for the season at the end of September.

Sonar / Bathymetric Mapping

Proposing a sonar and bathymetric mapping of Phantom Lake, the current map is 50 years old. The mapping would be performed by Lake & Pond Solutions at a sum of \$3,000. Mapping would take place in early spring right after the ice thaws.

Deb Jaeck makes a motion to postpone sonar and bathymetric mapping to reallocate budgeted fund to the legal fund. Patty Redlin seconds. Motion carries (unanimous).

Equipment Condition Update and Replacement:

Treasurer Adam Miller reported. Approval to seek grant for a new 10' harvester was granted at the 2022 annual meeting. PLMD did receive 50 % grant approval in August to purchase a new 10' harvester and trailer. The current 10' harvester is 29

years old and has needed \$80,000 in repairs over the past 5 years. The new 10' harvester is projected to be built by mid 2024.

Pete Brierton makes a motion to sell the existing 10' harvester at a minimum of \$30,000 , available to the public. Adam Miller seconds. Motion carries (unanimous).

Replacement of 10' Harvester

Adam Miller makes a motion to purchase a 10' harvester and trailer from Inland Lake Harvesters not to exceed \$250,000 with the stipulation of the 50% grant. Caroline Jagmin seconds. Motion passes (unanimous).

Approval of 2022 Audit Report

Treasurer Adam Miller presents the audit report completed by Anthony G. Henika on September 18th, 2023 for the year 2022. No issues.

Joanne Tlachac-Hehn makes a motion to approve the 2022 audit. Deb Jaeck seconds. Motion carries (unanimous).

Adoption of 2024 Proposed Budget:

Budget presented by Treasurer Adam Miller.

Steve Verduyn motioned to move line 47 (sonar bathymetric reading) to line 48 (legal). Adam Miller seconds. Motion carried (unanimous)

Jake Jagmin makes a motion to approve the 2024 budget with change voted on above. Pete Brierton seconds. Motion passes (unanimous).

Approval of Resolution 2023-24: Levy for 2024:

Treasurer Adam Miller read the resolution. **Adam Miller makes a motion to approve the levy at \$165,000 for calendar year 2024. Joanne Tlachac-Hehn Graczyk seconded. Motion carried (unanimous).**

Election of Commissioners for 2023-2026:

Two open seats. Joe Kirchner volunteers to step down after 7 years with PLMD. A big thank you to Joe for his service over the years. Scott Babinet and Adam Miller placed their names on the ballots.

33 ballots were cast with 33 votes for Adam Miller and 30 votes for Scott Babinet. PLMD welcomes Scott Babinet to serve on the PLMD board and Adam Miller to continue for the appointed 3-year terms.

Set 2023 Annual Meeting Date:

Jake Jagmin motioned to have the PLMD annual meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 6:00PM. Seconded by Dawn Wilson. Motion carried (32-1).

Adjournment:

Jake Jagmin made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 PM. Joe Kirchner seconded. Motion carried (unanimous).

FISHING THE PHANTOMS

BY STEVE VERDUYN

Despite the continued heavy fishing pressure on the Phantoms, fishing has been pretty good this summer for most species other than bass. The number and size of bass being brought in on the weekly Wednesday night bass tournament that is run out of Castaways is definitely down this year. The biggest bass of the year so far this year is 20 5/8" and only two others over 18" have been brought in. All bass brought in for the contest are immediately released alive back into the lake. Some very nice northern pike are being seen and caught, especially on Lower Phantom. Good reports of walleyes being caught are coming in, though the vast majority are under the 18" size limit. The State has not stocked any walleye in the Phantoms in years, so all those being caught now are those that the Phantom Lake Management District stocked. Panfishing has been good, but many feel the size seems to be down somewhat on the bluegills, although some very nice pumpkinseeds (sunfish) are showing up. Both upper and lower are producing bluegills.



Above : Bob Pfeil

The Phantom Lakes Management District is pleased to announce that the District will be stocking more fish again this fall! While the specifics haven't been determined yet, the stockings have traditionally

been a mix of both panfish and gamefish. Stocking occurs under permits issued by the Department of Natural Resources and is done once the water cools down, usually in late September or early October.

Good luck out there! If you catch a big one, the Phantom Lakes Management District would like to post your picture on the PLMD website. Please email the picture to: gonefish-ing@phantomlakes.us

PHANTOM LAKES BOAT PATROL

2024 BOAT PATROL RECAP (SEASON TO DATE)

Members of the PLMD,

While the past several years have been extremely challenging for several reasons, including staffing levels and equipment restrictions, we continue to do our very best to provide excellent service to our lake community. We could not begin to achieve this goal without the continued partnership with the PLMD. We value the relationship we have been able to forge through our shared commitment to making Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes a safe and enjoyable recreation destination during all seasons. We appreciate your commitment and look forward to maintaining our valuable partnership into the future. We cannot say "thank you!" enough.



As of the time this document was created, we are just entering the home stretch of the 2024 boating season. So far, we have had a good season. To date, we have patrolled Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes for 110.25 hours. The hours break down to 30.25 hours of patrol time, and 20 hours of administrative time, we are within the 30% administrative hour threshold set by the DNR. During our patrol time, we have conducted a total of 26 boat stops, resulting in 12 citations and 26 warnings. The most common violations this season were registration violations, battery violations, and PFD violations. Overall, boating traffic seems to continue a downward trend from the very busy seasons experienced during Covid.

As we always do, I would like to invite any lake residents to contact our boat patrol to have a free inspection of their boats conducted by our lake patrol officers. The officers will do a complete safety check of the boat, in order to ensure that all boats have the proper safety equipment on board and in proper working condition.

On behalf of Chief Czarnecki and the entire staff of the police department, I would like to thank the members of PLMD for your continued support and partnership to ensure the safety of all who use our beautiful lakes.

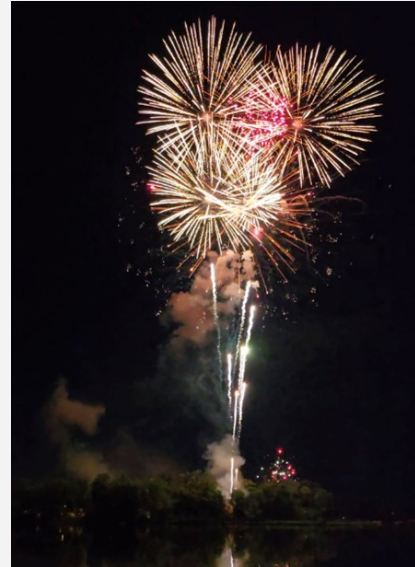
Assistant Chief Eric Schmidt

FIREWORKS OVER PHANTOM LAKES

ARTICLE BY JAKE JAGMIN

Phantom Lake Management District celebrated this year's Independence Day with a July 3rd, 2024, public fireworks display. The fireworks were launched over the water from Phantom Glenn Park, adjacent to the Andrews Street boat launch, at approximately 9:30PM. Although the park was closed during the show, spectators had a spectacular view from the water and the surrounding area.

PLMD budgeted \$6,500 in 2024 to support the July 3rd, 2024, fireworks show and has the same amount allocated in the 2025 preliminary budget. This amount is the minimum level that reserves the contractor and crew ensuring a display is possible. Additional private donations totaled approximately \$6,800 in 2024 and greatly enhanced the display, making 2024 the biggest yet! For more information on the show or if you are an individual or business interested in donating, addition details can be found at: <https://phantomlakes.us/2024-fireworks/>



(Left) 2024 Fireworks debris clean up volunteers at Phantom Glen Park: [Left to Right] Lisa, Hailey, Colton & Sean Momsen, Caroline & Jake Jagmin, Jason Hilgert, Darlene Johnson, Dawn Wilson, Joanne Tlachac-Hehn, Leanne & Gary Eastlund, Karalyn, Nolan & Scott Babinat, Adam Miller, Chelsea Hilgert. Not pictured: Ken Johnson

FIREWORKS DONATIONS

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS (\$2,000 or more)

Marvel Designs
Teko Mechanical

SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS (\$250 or more)

Citizens Bank of Mukwonago
Fait Real Estate
Darlene Johnson

BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS (\$100 or more)

Pat & Beth Scanlon	Karen Wember
Gator & Amy Pieters	Michael Riley
Jeff Jaeck	Scott Babinat
Ryan Fait	Katy Miller
Sean Momsen	Chelsea Hermann
Peter Brierton	Jake Jagmin
Jason Hilgert	Adam Miller

FRIENDS LEVEL SPONSORS (any amount)

Kowalicki Family	Lisa Krewer
Megan Eckes	Anonymous
Mary Heuver	Joanne TlachacHehn
Cindy Dobberke	Scott Judd



CITIZENS BANK

Thanks to our sponsors and donors, this 2024's show was the biggest yet! Please take a moment to recognize them.



PLMD Dump truck featured in the 2024 Mukwonago Lions Father's Day Parade



Please congratulate the team of volunteers for taking **FIRST place** for their entry within the 2024 Mukwonago Lion's Father's Day Parade!



LETTER FROM SUPERVISOR DARLENE JOHNSON

Dear PLMD Residents,

As your 25th District Waukesha County Supervisor, I extend greetings to all of you and thank you for attending the 2024 Annual Phantom Lakes Management District meeting. I appreciate being your elected representative on the Phantom Lakes Board and want to share what a great job the board has done on behalf of the residents of Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes:

- Many thanks to Dawn Wilson for doing an excellent job with Harvesting staff and daily weed collection. Speaking of collections, the USDA wildlife search went well and thank you to all for your assistance signing consent forms allowing for the gathering of the nuisance waterfowl.
- PLMD Secretarial Assistant, Colleen Mutchler, has been keeping up with agendas, emails, correspondence, the annual meeting, and informing lake district members of current events, as well as sharing beautiful photos on the PLMD website.
- Board Secretary Jake Jagmin ran our Fourth successful "3rd of July Fireworks" event which was set off from Phantom Glen Park. We appreciate the Village of Mukwonago including our PLMD Fireworks as their finale for the Phantom Junction stage performances. With Phantom Lakes contribution, and additional donated funds, we had the best Fireworks display ever per reports from the large, cheering crowds who gathered to watch.
- I am acknowledging all the time and effort of Chairman Joe Graczyk, and our Board Treasurer Adam Miller, who pursued filing the circuit court case vs DNR to expand our harvesting lanes.
- The Board recently got our newest 10 Foot Green Harvester working well with our 7 Foot "Baby Blue" Harvester. We're grateful we sold the previous 10 Foot Harvester, which stops those costly repairs we were seeing in past budgets. Unfortunately, the old Harvester, was en route to its new home and damaged in a tornadic storm. Unbelievable! Anyway, we thank the Big Blue Harvester for many years you gave us cutting those nasty weeds in our lake district.
- I, also, appreciate PLMD board members Joanne Tlachac-Hehn, Dave Dubey and newest member Scott Babinat, who all want to expand our Weed Harvesting lanes, although we all realize we must work within the designated DNR Lake District water lanes to keep our harvesting permit.

As your Waukesha County Supervisor on this Phantom Lakes Management District Board, I am honored to work with your hardworking PLMD board members, who share their time and effort to make our Phantom Lakes pristine. As always, please contact me with any concerns.

~Darlene M Johnson, Waukesha County Supervisor

dmjohnson1@waukeshacounty.gov

(414) 916-3876



Commissioning of the New 2024 ILH10-1000 10' Harvester

Harvesting Permit Update:

WAUKESHA COUNTY CASE NUMBER 2023CV001333 PHANTOM LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT VS. WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PLMD hears resident's seaweed concerns and is attempting to make changes; however, we are restricted by WI DNR.

Every five years PLMD is required to renew our mechanical seaweed harvesting permit with the WI DNR. The renewal process requires the lakes to have a Point-Intercept (P/I) survey preformed. During the 2021 annual meeting residents voted in favor of having Jeff Steltzer (owner) of Lake and Pond Solutions collect the P/I survey data. This consists of using a rake to collect and record the amount and types of plant species detected throughout 300 points on lower Phantom and 276 points on upper Phantom. You may have seen this crew on the lakes in August of 2022.

An Aquatic Management Plan (APM) is also required every five years to renew the harvesting permit. The APM consists of a biologist(s) deciphering the P/I data collected and analyzing trends to make a recommendation regarding harvesting amounts and locations. During the 2022 annual meeting residents voted in favor of contracting Lake and Pond solutions to generate the APM.

In April 2023, the draft APM was submitted to PLMD's DNR biologist to review. The APM is an 88-page report filled with Phantom Lakes specific data and recommended expansion of the current harvesting lanes, an additional north/south lane, and additional harvesting around the condo piers. This additional harvesting would increase the total mass of harvesting on Lower Phantom from 12% to 14%. The APM cited data and studies to support these revisions. Despite requests for feedback from the DNR, none was provided. PLMD submitted the harvesting permit along with the APM and required documents to the DNR in July. While the DNR approved an APM, no additional harvesting was approved, nor any rationale for the decision other than the fisheries biologists didn't recommend changes. The PLMD board feels the DNR biologists failed to give the APM, along with the documentation provided, full and complete review and consideration.

During the 9-19-2023 annual meeting, residents voted in favor of **hiring Attorneys at Amundsen Davis to file a petition against the WI DNR**, due to the lack of and invalid reasoning for denying the harvesting increase request.

Despite PLMD providing additional time to review the data as requested, WI DNR, was unwilling to compromise or reconsider allowing any additional harvesting areas. On 7-16-2024, the case went to judicial review and Judge Aprahamian remanded the case back to the agency for further action. It was determined that **WI DNR did not provide acceptable rational for denial** per NR 109.05(4). However, the language of the law requires the matter to be remanded to the overseeing agency for re-review and thus, the court ordered WI DNR to re-evaluate the data PLMD provided and the permit request.

WI DNR again denied any additional harvesting on 8-16-2024; however, provided reasoning sufficient to satisfy the legal requirements. Reasoning including and not limited to: endangered fish species, threatened fish species, special concern fish species, endangered mussel species, threatened mussel species, special concern mussel species, endangered bird species, and 6 documented high value aquatic plant species.

Although the WI DNR requires PLMD to provide the P/I data and APM (at a significant cost) with the harvesting permit, it is not evident that WI DNR references this data more so than their own rationale and blanket statements for denial, such as documented endangered fish.

Please see PhantomLakes.us for the permit, rational for denial and restrictions in their entirety.

**Phantom Lakes Management District
PO Box 391
Mukwonago, WI 53149**

E-mail: gonefishing@phantomlakes.us

Website: PhantomLakes.US

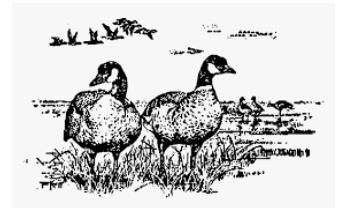


Phantom Lakes Management District Newsletter

September 2024/Volume 20

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Important Meeting Reminders

- ◆ Bring this newsletter with you on September 26, 2024
- ◆ Bring a pen for ballot voting of commissioners
- ◆ Consider filling out a permission slip for wildlife control

LAKE PATROL CONTACTS

If you see something suspicious on the lake, please use the following numbers accordingly.

Mukwonago Town Police: 262-363-5188

Emergency: 911

Mukwonago Village Police: 262-363-6434

DNR: 1-800-TIP-WDNR

Please consider putting your address at the end of your pier for those needing to receive assistance at an exact location.