Meeting Minutes of the Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Spring Meeting
Saturday, May 17, 2025, 9 am, Town Hall, East Troy, WI

1-Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cathy Schulz at 9:06 am

2-Roll Call
Present: Commissioners Cathy Schulz, Chuck DeWall, Bill Roeber, Thad Seymour
MaryJo Jones, absent.
Eighteen constituents from the district were present.

3-Approval of Minutes:
The January 2025 Annual Financial Audit meeting minutes were presented. Chuck DeWall moved to accept them as presented with no changes, and Thad Seymour seconded. The motion passed.

4-Lake Projects 2025 Updates - Jeff Stelzer
Jeff Stelzer shared invasive species meander maps of Potter Lake (attached). Eurasian Milfoil, the red dot on the map, only appears near the boat launch, which seems minimal this year. We have had effective control. The area was treated with ProcellaCOR 3 years ago and needed no treatment the following year. Last year, 9 acres were treated. This year does not require chemical treatment. The green spots on the map show Curly Leaf Pondweed. It is costly to treat, and it dies off in mid-July. Jeff's recommendation – no treatment required. We began sampling the water again last year after not doing this since 2012. The spring sample report (also attached) shows no concern. Currently, the water clarity is decent. The 2025 spring sampling did not show much variability from previous years. Overall, Potter Lake is in good shape. As a side note, weed harvesting will be performed as DNR permitted and on an "as needed" basis this year.

A resident questioned why clumps of algae were growing on the west end. Jeff said this was probably due to phosphates and other causes, such as farm field runoff. Jeff reminded the lake owners to use phosphate-free fertilizers.

Jeff also communicated the proposed updates to the DNR harvesting regulations NR 107 and NR 109. Harvesting fees could increase dramatically. In June, the DNR will host four in-person public meetings to share updates and gather public input on this process, including on June 5th at 4 pm in Oconomowoc. For more information, see the complete news article on the district's website: https://www.potterslake.org/. The last time the DNR suggested changes to NR 107 and NR 109, many state residents sent objection letters. That is why it was postponed. Jeff will update the PLPRD, who will share information with residents if/when needed.

Questions were asked regarding the impacts of wake boat use on the lake. Jeff noted that this is a hot issue right now, but there appear to be negative impacts on vegetation and the potential introduction of invasive species. He did state that these negative impacts were not due to the boats themselves but the actions of those using them.

5-Treasurer's Report
Referring to the report handed out, Treasurer Roeber reported that in 2024, the district had expenditures of $243,492.96. Roughly $63,000 of that was administration and operational expenses; the remainder was related to the dam project. For 2025, to date, $52,104.72 has been collected mainly from tax levies with a small portion from the CBCW grant. Expenses to date are $6,046.75.

Treasurer Roeber summarized the total cost of the dam's project was $216,756.26. This covers the costs from 2022 to 2024 and includes engineering, construction, surveys, permits, and notices.

6- Committee Reports

- **Fishing -**The fish stocking committee has been informed that the DNR won't be helping us because they don't produce panfish (Blue Gills, Perch, Crappie, or Bass). We have received some preliminary prices from private hatcheries but are waiting for responses from more sources. We are also contacting our fishery representative from the DNR to help determine the stunting problem and possible solutions. Because we will be paying for fish stocking, we want to be as accurate as possible in supplying our lake. We will have more information this summer. We hope to stock this fall if funds are available and the plan gets approval.

- **Website** Chairperson Schulz reported that the website is getting good traffic. The goal is for the site to be as user-friendly and interactive as possible, so feedback is always welcome. We are still working toward clarifying the wording of our boating rules, including some inconsistencies with the DNR rules and/or Town Ordinances. The newest feature is a Lost and Found article under Latest News. You need to click on the article to get all the details. Please contact Cathy Schulz if you have lost or found anything. Also, you can subscribe to receive up-to-date notifications. The subscribe link is on the website homepage. Also, photos are welcome for the gallery page. The form for submission is on the Gallery page.

  A question was asked whether we could make a rule on the lake regarding wake boats independent of the town. Town Rep Seymour quoted from the recently created document from the Town of East Troy, reporting that Lake Districts have the right to make rules regarding: *(1) speed, (2) establish time, (3) location standards for different types of boating activities, and/or (4) navigational patterns.* Others in the audience stated the opinion that Potter Lake should probably not get ahead of the town.

- **Welcome Committee-** Johanna Cairns identified 17 property changes, with 14 new owners since the 2022 directory. Of the 14 new owners, 11 have been given Potter Lake welcome packages, and 3 are still outstanding. A packet is provided with lake rules, goose round-up forms, and helpful Potter Lake information. Johanna reminded everyone to let her or Katie Seymour know if anyone moves in so they can reach out and welcome them to the Potter Lake Community. In 2026, a new directory will be coming out. It is updated every 4 years.

7- New Business

- **Thad Seymour** was introduced as the new Town of East Troy Representative. He was officially appointed at the May 12, 2025, Town of East Troy meeting. We welcome Thad to the Board. We also thank Elizabeth Sanders for her work on the PLPRD.

- **Fall Meeting** – There had been a suggestion to move the Annual Meeting to before Labor Day, beginning in 2026. This could be helpful to riparian owners who move away from Potter Lake in the fall. After a show of hands, no one was in favor, so it was determined to keep it the same. Chuck DeWall motioned to keep the same time frame, and Rick Witt seconded. Motion passed.

- **Boat Theme-** Suggestions for theme ideas for this year's Boat Parade were sought. A suggestion had been given to Chairperson Schulz for an "American Bandstand" theme. Participants should choose a band or artist and decorate their boat to fit. Play music and dress accordingly—the stars are the limit! Rick Witt made a motion to accept the theme as presented, seconded by Dale Marciniak, motion carried.

8-Old Business: none

9-Upcoming Meetings/Events

- 4th of July Flares and Boat Parade will be on July 5th. Decorate your boat and meet at the east end of the lake near the opening to the boat launch bay at 6:45 PM and proceed counter-clockwise around the lake.
- Lighting of the Lake. Flares will be sold Saturdays and Sundays from 8 am - 1 pm and then again from 2 pm - 7 pm at the boat launch from June 21st through July 5th, and by Karen Winkleman by calling 414-791-7812.

- Annual Meeting Saturday, September 13, 2025; Budget Meeting-9:00 am, Annual Meeting follows immediately

10-Public Comments:

- Rick Witt asked if there was any leeway in posting slow-no-wake signs as soon as the water level reached 8.8 at the dam. Chairperson Schulz stated that there was discretion in the new policy: The district will determine whether posted signage is necessary based on weather conditions and the current rate of natural spillage over the gate, an engineered design feature of the dam.
- Bob Rice questioned whether the Town is giving money to Lake Beulah. East Troy Representative Thad Seymour will check into this.

11-Announcements

- Chairperson Schulz reminded homeowners to put their street address number on their piers. This could be essential in an emergency.
- Secretary DeWall talked about the East Troy E-Cycle, October 4, 9 am - 2 pm, Town Hall N9330 Stewart School Rd, East Troy. He also spoke about the Walworth County Residential Clean Sweep on June 20 from 3:30-5:30 pm, June 21 from 8 am-12:00 pm, Walworth County Public Works- W4097 County Rd NN, Elkhorn

12-Adjournment Motion made by Dave Bradley to adjourn. Seconded by Dymphna Purvis. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck DeWall
Secretary

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WATER SAMPLING REPORT

Prepared For: Potter Lake
September 4, 2024

LAB RESULTS

SAMPLE DATE	SAMPLE LOCATION	TEST	RESULTS	TROPHIC STATUS	ANALYSIS
6/6/2024	Potter Lake	Chlorophyll a (ppb)	<10	50.00	MESOTROPHIC
		Total Phosphorus (ppm)	0.0185	46.22	MESOTROPHIC
		Secchi Depth (ft)	7.00	49.08	MESOTROPHIC
7/9/2024	Potter Lake	Chlorophyll a (ppb)	<10	50.00	MESOTROPHIC
		Total Phosphorus (ppm)	0.0307	53.53	**EUTROPHIC**
		Secchi Depth (ft)	3.75	58.07	**EUTROPHIC**
8/21/2024	Potter Lake	Chlorophyll a (ppb)	44.4	67.81	**EUTROPHIC**
		Total Phosphorus (ppm)	0.0138	42.00	MESOTROPHIC
		Secchi Depth (ft)	4.75	54.67	**EUTROPHIC**

SUMMARY

Data collected for Trophic Status components shows that ranges for all variables above are in line with previous sampling periods dating back to 2012. The one exception is the August Chlorophyll *a* reading which was the highest ever recorded on the lake. A lot of this is likely due to the near record heat and rainfall we've seen this season causing planktonic algae growth. Despite the concern about water clarity this season along with the aforementioned planktonic algae, Secchi depth (a measure of clarity) is better (3.75' – 7.0") than the last readings taken back in 2012 (3.3' – 5.2') and 2013 (1.1' – 3.6').

WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS DESCRIPTIONS

Total Phosphorus: Usually considered more representative of a waterbody's nutrient level because it remains more stable than reactive phosphorus. Total Phosphorus includes reactive phosphorus plus particulate phosphorus (what is being taken up in growth or contained in suspended sediments). Fertilizers, suspended sediments, animal wastes, and septic systems are the main sources of this nutrient. Average concentrations are 0.025 ppm for natural lakes while impoundments may be around 0.065 ppm. Our extensive data also shows that stormwater ponds typically have average total phosphorus concentrations that are 48% higher than non-stormwater ponds. Total phosphorus can be used to estimate the trophic status (biological condition) of a waterbody. Generally total phosphorus <0.012 ppm oligotrophic; 0.012 – 0.024 ppm mesotrophic; 0.025 – 0.096 ppm eutrophic; >0.096 hypereutrophic.

Chlorophyll a: This is a primary light-harvesting pigment found in algae and a measure of the algal productivity and water quality in a system. Chlorophyll a is considered the best indicator of trophic status (biological condition). Generally, chlorophyll a <2.6 ppb oligotrophic – clear water, low productivity, large game fish; 2.7 – 7.2 ppb mesotrophic – increased production, accumulated organic material, occasional algal bloom, good fishery; 7.3 – 55.4 ppb eutrophic – very productive (fishery and growth), increased organic material, depleted oxygen, declining clarity, rough fish common; >55.4 ppb hypereutrophic – highly productive (growth), excessive organic material, depleted oxygen with frequent winterkills, poor clarity, declining fish population with rough fish common.

Secchi Depth: Refers to the depth at which a black and white disk lowered into the water can no longer observed from the surface. It is a measurement related to water clarity and indicates how deep light can penetrate into the water.

Trophic Status Analysis: Trophic State Index (TSI) was developed by Carlson (1977), which is used to analyze the trophic state of a water body (the quantity of living biomass in a waterbody at a given time). This can determine the likelihood of algal blooms that could cause impaired water clarity and potentially toxic blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). There are 4 main classifications: Oligotrophic (< 40), Mesotrophic (40 – 50), Eutrophic (50 – 70), and Hyper Eutrophic (> 70). Mesotrophic relates to moderately clear water but an increasing probability of anoxia (low oxygen) during the summer while Eutrophic is associated with oxygen deficiencies, algal blooms, plant issues, and possible fish kills.

POTTER LAKE WATER QUALITY DATABASE

Sample Date	pH	Cond (uS/cm)	Alk	T Hard	Ca Hard	React P	Total P	NH3 (N)	NO2 + NO3 (N)	TKN	CL	SO4	Na	K	Turb (NTU)	Color	TN	Chloro a	Secchi
4/9/2024	7.1	530	155	179.0	x	0.007	0.0258	0.1906	0.07	1.06	67.2	x	x	x	3.0	x	1.13	<10	x
6/6/2024	x	x	x	x	x	x	0.0185	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<10	7.0
7/9/2024	x	x	x	x	x	x	0.0307	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<10	3.75
8/21/2024	x	x	x	x	x	x	0.0138	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	44.4	4.75
4/8/2025	8.0	577	181	208	x	0.0059	0.0296	0.2288	0.13	0.85	68.7	x	x	x	1.8		0.98	<10	x

Data collected and compiled by Lake and Pond Solutions LLC

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WATER SAMPLING REPORT

Prepared For: Potter Lake
April 18, 2025

LAB RESULTS

SAMPLE DATE	SAMPLE LOCATION	TEST	RESULTS (ppm)	ANALYSIS
4/8/2025	Potter Lake	Turbidity (NTU)	1.8	LOW
		Conductivity (uS/cm)	577	HIGH
		Free Reactive Phosphorus	0.0059	LOW
		Chlorophyll a (ppb)	<10	OLIGOTROPHIC
		Total Phosphorus	0.0296	NORMAL
		Alkalinity	181	LOW
		Total Hardness	208	VERY HARD
		Total Nitrate and Nitrite	0.13	LOW
		Nitrite	0.02	LOW
		Nitrate	0.11	LOW
		Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	0.85	NORMAL
		Total Nitrogen	0.98	NORMAL
		pH	8.0	ALKALINE
		Ammonia	0.2288	NORMAL
		Chloride	68.7	NORMAL

RECOMMENDATIONS

NONE.

WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS DESCRIPTIONS

Reactive Phosphorus: A measure of readily available phosphorus. The reactive form of this nutrient is in a usable form for aquatic plants and especially algae. Fertilizers, animal wastes and septic systems are main sources of this nutrient. Ideally, reactive phosphorus concentrations during the spring should be 0.020 ppm for natural water bodies and 0.030 ppm for impoundments. Values greater than 0.030 ppm may lead to algal blooms.

Total Phosphorus: Usually considered more representative of a waterbody's nutrient level because it remains more stable than reactive phosphorus. Total Phosphorus includes reactive phosphorus plus particulate phosphorus (what is being taken up in growth or contained in suspended sediments). Fertilizers, suspended sediments, animal wastes, and septic systems are the main sources of this nutrient. Average concentrations are 0.025 ppm for natural lakes while impoundments may be around 0.065 ppm. Our extensive data also shows that stormwater ponds

typically have average total phosphorus concentrations that are 48% higher than non-stormwater ponds. Total phosphorus can be used to estimate the trophic status (biological condition) of a waterbody. Generally total phosphorus <0.012 ppm oligotrophic; 0.012 – 0.024 ppm mesotrophic; 0.025 – 0.096 ppm eutrophic; >0.096 hypereutrophic.

Nitrite plus Nitrate Nitrogen (NO2+NO3): These are inorganic forms of nitrogen important for plant and algae growth. High levels (>10 ppm) are dangerous to infants and expectant mothers. Typically, if the sum of nitrite plus nitrate and ammonia exceeds 0.30 ppm in the spring, there is sufficient nitrogen to support summer algal blooms. Because nitrate is readily mobilized in water, it is often considered an early indicator that a pollution source is reaching a water supply. Common sources include septic systems, refuse dumps, fertilizers, manure, and decaying plant matter.

Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN): TKN is a measure of organic nitrogen plus ammonia (NH3). Typically, the organic-N in TKN is the largest portion and found in proteins, amino acids, urea, living or dead organisms, decaying plant material, and organic based sediments like muck. When TKN is added to nitrite plus nitrate, the resulting value is the total nitrogen of a waterbody which can be used to calculate nitrogen to phosphorus ratios. For our area, TKN values range between 0 and 1.0 ppm. Although the organic portion is usually not available for growth, plants and algae do convert other forms of nitrogen back to the organic form. Ultimately high TKN values can indicate potential growth impacts, runoff issues or organic sediment accumulation.

Total Nitrogen: Total nitrogen (TN) is the sum of all the organic and inorganic nitrogen. It is derived by adding the Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) and Nitrite plus Nitrate. There has been a recent effort to develop total nitrogen related water quality criteria but interpretations above our using our extensive database. The average TN in this area is 0.66 ppm for lakes, 0.90 ppm for ponds, and 1.23 ppm for stormwater ponds.

Ammonia Nitrogen (NH3): Ammonia (NH3) is the first form of nitrogen released when organic material decays which is converted to nitrate if oxygen is present. It is a waste product of fish and aquatic invertebrates and found in organic materials and many fertilizers. If the sum of ammonia nitrogen and nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen exceeds 0.30 ppm in the spring, there is sufficient nitrogen to support summer algae blooms. Animal manure and fertilizers are other important sources of this nutrient. We often find higher levels of ammonia in stormwater ponds.

Alkalinity: A measure of the level of carbonates, bicarbonates, and hydroxide present in water that largely determines a waterbody's pH level. Low alkalinity (0 – 199) is the main indicator of susceptibility to acid rain. High alkalinity (200+) means a low impact from acid rain. Increasing alkalinity is often related to increased algae productivity. Additionally, high alkalinity can result in the formation of marl, which is a combination of calcium (Ca) and carbonate (CO3). It can often be observed as a white precipitate on plant leaves and is responsible for bonding with phosphorus resulting in algae reductions.

Conductivity: A measure of water's ability to conduct electrical current. This number is directly related to the total dissolved inorganic chemicals in the water. Values are commonly two times the water hardness unless the water is receiving high concentrations of contaminants introduced by humans.

Total Hardness: A measure of mineral content, typically calcium and magnesium ions. This value is affected by the type of minerals in the soil and bedrock and by how much groundwater comes into contact with it. Values over 180 ppm are considered to be "very hard". Much of Wisconsin and N. Illinois generally have very hard water.

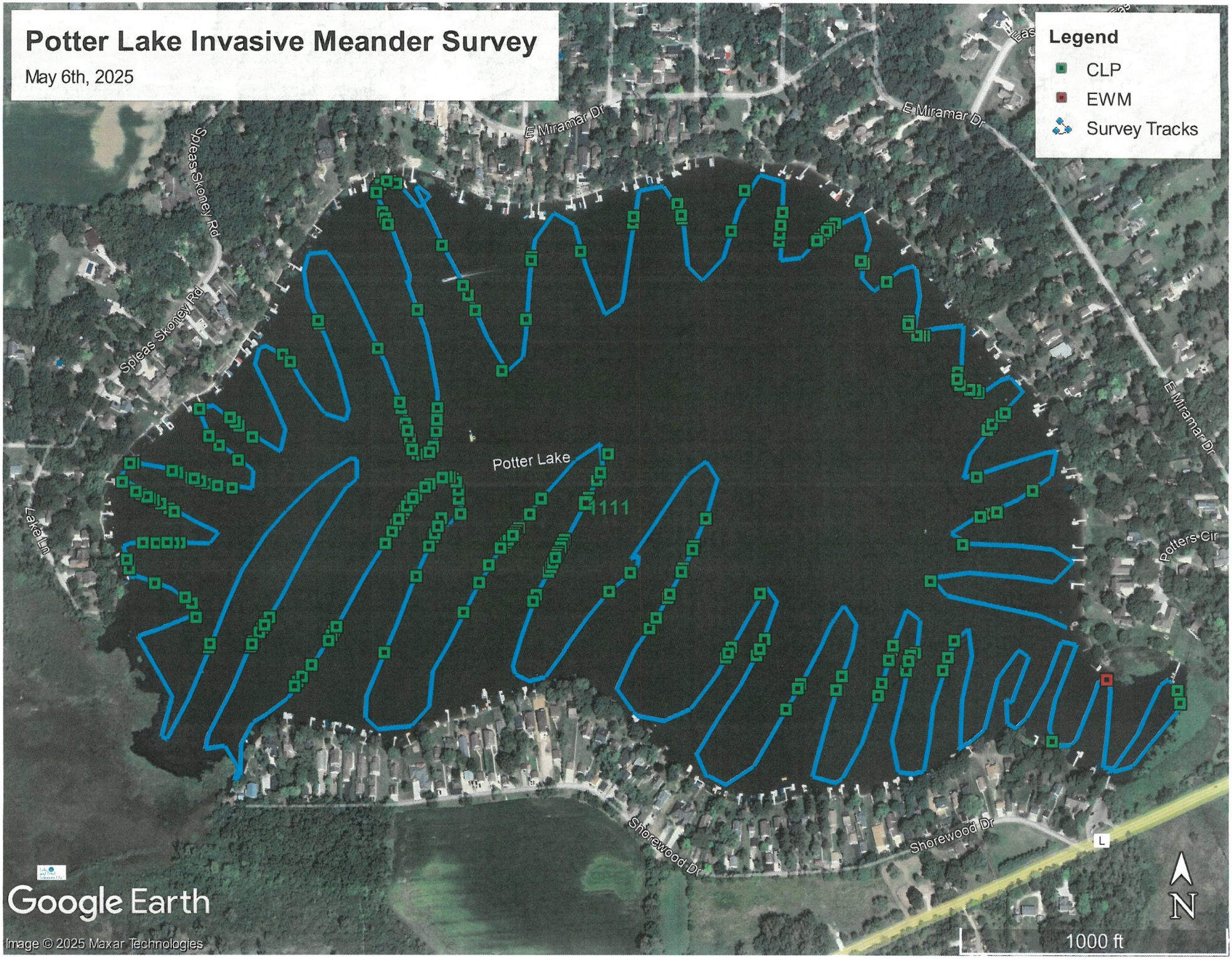
pH: An index of waterbody's acid level. A pH of 7 is neutral, below 7 is acidic, and above is considered basic. Moderately low pH levels do not usually harm fish, but some metals can become soluble and be released into the water which may harm fish. Waterbodies dominated by a large amount of plants or algae can experience large

fluctuations in pH levels from day to night. pH is measured logarithmically meaning a pH of 6 is ten times more acidic than a pH of 7 and one hundred times more acidic than a pH

Turbidity: One of the two components that affect water clarity. Measures the materials suspended in the water such as algae and silt which ultimately affects the depth at which plants can grow. Suspended particulates are an indicator of overland flow (run-off) and disturbances within the water body itself (bottom-feeding fish, crayfish, muskrat activity, etc.). Levels > 50 NTU have the potential to impact aquatic life.

Chloride (Cl): The presence of chloride where it does not occur naturally indicates possible water pollution, commonly from human activity. Human and animal wastes, fertilizers, and road salts are major chloride sources. In the U.S., there is a secondary (non-enforced) drinking water standard of 250 ppm. Additionally, research shows at levels greater than 210 ppm, aquatic life may be impacted. Typically, an increase in chloride is found during the spring turnover due to runoff from roads that have been salted over the winter.

Chlorophyll a: This is a primary light-harvesting pigment found in algae and a measure of the algal productivity and water quality in a system. Chlorophyll a is considered the best indicator of trophic status (biological condition). Generally, chlorophyll a <2.6 ppb oligotrophic – clear water, low productivity, large game fish; 2.7 - 20.0 ppb mesotrophic – increased production, accumulated organic material, occasional algal bloom, good fishery; 20.0 - 56.0 ppb eutrophic – very productive (fishery and growth), increased organic material, depleted oxygen, declining clarity, rough fish common; >56 ppb hypereutrophic – highly productive (growth), excessive organic material, depleted oxygen with frequent winterkills, poor clarity, declining fish population with rough fish common.


Potter Lake Invasive Meander Survey
May 6th, 2025
Legend
CLP
EWM
Survey Tracks
E Miramar Dr
Spleas Skoney Rd
Potter Lake
111
Lake Ln
Potters Cir
Shorewood Dr
N
1000 ft
Google Earth
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