



Potter Lake News

July 30, 2026

Mid-Summer

A Word from the Chair

Hello Potter Lake Riparian Owners,

It has been an interesting summer recreational season, to say the least. We have seen everything from record-setting rainfall, stretches of high temperatures, and windy conditions to near-drought, poor air quality from smoky fires, and periods of cooler temperatures. All of these conditions impact our lake community.

One highlight of the year has to be our Fourth of July Celebration, held on July 3rd. Thank you to all for enjoying the water safely that weekend. The Boat Parade was truly spectacular, and we enjoyed the shoreline celebrations as well. If you have photos from that weekend, please share them for the website using this link: [Photo submission form](#). The fireworks were especially great this year. Thank you to the Froehlich family for organizing this event, and thank you to everyone who contributed! It is not too early to start donating for next year's show. You can do this via Venmo at @gkfroehlich. If needed, the last 4 digits of his phone number are 5907.

Read on in this newsletter for information on various pertinent topics, including:

- Weed-control
- The new directory
- Water Sampling
- New PLPRD commissioner

See you on the lake,

Cathy Schulz, PLPRD Chairperson
chairperson@potterslake.org



Help Wanted: Water Sampling Committee Members

We are looking for 1-2 more people to assist with water sampling. If you are interested in learning more about the clarity and quality of the water in Potter Lake, please email me at chairperson@potterslake.org. We will organize over the winter to begin sampling in the spring/summer of 2027.

What's with the Weeds?

If you have felt that it seems like the lake has more weeds this year, you are not alone! I reached out to Biologist Jeff Stelzer of Lake and Pond Solutions for some answers. There are many factors that influence weed growth, and Potter Lake is not the only lake experiencing issues with native plant growth and/or algae. Early in the season, we had 10 inches of rain in a one-week period that brought in nutrients from many sources, including fertilizers. Then, there was a 2-week stretch in which we had 10 days above 90 degrees. The lake is a natural system, so plant growth will vary from year to year. The researched approach we have been taking is well-timed treatments for invasive species and an effective harvesting program. Riparian owners can help prevent weed growth by limiting fertilization, avoiding blowing grass clippings into the lake, and even planting a beneficial buffer at the lakefront to reduce runoff.

With Jeff's assistance, we have identified Bushy Pondweed as one native weed that appears to be growing throughout the lake this year. This is a native species that we cannot treat unless navigation is impeded. This weed, along with our other native plants, has kept our harvesting crew very busy this year. Between June 22nd and July 20th, our crew was out four days a week to get on top of the situation. They have cut and hauled away 108 truckloads of weeds so far this year. In comparison, we hauled only 47 loads of weeds all of last year! While the harvester cannot cut in less than three feet of water or close to the shoreline, riparian owners can manually remove weeds in an area 30 feet wide, measured parallel to the shore. This area must include a pier, boatlift, or other recreational or water-use items.

(article continues on next page)



Independent Harvesting Contractors

List from the DNR (link)

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. If the process requires a permit, the DASH company will apply for one. Click on the link above for a list of known providers.

Eric Sweeney from Sweeney's Aquatic Weed Removal LLC, a company on the list, has done work on Potter Lake. He explained the services of an independent harvesting company. His company removes weeds by hand-pulling them to the roots, without using any mechanical tools. They will focus on the 30 feet around piers, boat lifts, and shorelines to create areas for swimming, boating, or for aesthetic appeal. Because the water gets so stirred up on the first day of weed-harvesting, the process is usually a two-day one. This does not include any "muck" removal. That is dredging, which is much more complicated and expensive.



2026 Directory News

The 2026 PLPRD Directory is at the printer!! A huge shout-out to our directory committee for their hard work. One special note is that we covered the cost of printing the directory from ad sales. Please consider supporting the businesses that have advertised in the directory. Thank you, also, to the many riparian owners who responded promptly to the notices and emails. This will make for an accurate directory. Depending on when the final booklets are published, the plan is to distribute the directories using door-knob bags, as we did with the new lake rule cards. This should happen before the end of August. The committee will also have extra copies of the directory for sale at the fall meeting for \$5 each.

Upcoming Events/ Dates to Remember

PLPRD Special Informational Meeting:
Saturday, August 8, 2026

PLPRD Budget and Annual Meetings:
Saturday, September 12, 2026

PLPRD Commissioners

Elected Commissioners

Chairperson: Cathy Schulz
Secretary: Chuck DeWall
Treasurer: Matt Wessels

Appointed Commissioners:

Town of East Troy Representative:
Thad Seymour
Walworth County Representative:
Chris Boziel (beginning 8/10)

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

Welcome to Our New Walworth County Representative

As you know, MaryJo Jones stepped down from the PLPRD Board after serving for many years as treasurer and then as our Walworth County Representative. We appreciate her valuable service to the district. The Walworth County Representative is appointed by Walworth County. Chris Boziel has gone through the interview process and will be officially appointed to this position on August 10, 2026. We appreciate Chris volunteering to serve in this capacity. Here is some information about Chris:

Chris, his wife Liz, and their four-year-old daughter, Madeline, are proud to be part of the Potter Lake community. With family roots in the East Troy area dating back to his childhood, Chris has enjoyed the lakes and outdoors of southeastern Wisconsin his entire life. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoys hunting, fishing, hockey, and is a lifelong water skier.

Chris is a pilot for American Airlines and previously served in elected leadership roles within a large aviation safety organization, representing thousands of pilots and working on safety, operations, and governance. He looks forward to serving as the Walworth County Representative and helping preserve Potter Lake for future generations.