

Commissioner's Corner – March 2017

Is it spring yet? Seems too early in the year to be asking a question like that, but whatever happened to old man winter. I think he may have retired! At any rate, a few items for your consideration.

Need for Commissioner: Unfortunately for us, Tim Schmuck has informed us that he can no longer serve on the Commission. We need a replacement for him. His term expires in August 2017. So, a person who volunteers to complete his term would serve until then. Of course, the same person could stand for election at that time.

The Commission meets in January, April, May (at the special meeting), in early August, at the Annual meeting Labor Day weekend and then in November. Our bylaws state we meet quarterly. Our meetings do not last long, 60-90 minutes, so there isn't much of a time commitment to prepare for and attend the meetings. Please give this some thought and let me know if you have any questions about this position. Thanks.

Legislative Activity: There continues to be, what I consider, legislative activity in Wisconsin that could have significant impact on our lakes and natural resources. We sent the proposal to split the WI DNR in January. Another set of hearings have occurred that would allow dredging in our lakes with little oversight.

Here is a link to the proposal: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/construction/dredging.html>

At first review, one could easily ask, so what? Looks OK. As usual, the devil is in the detail. Let me provide one example. If I were to obtain a permit for dredging on my North Pipe Lake shoreline, the dredging would most likely result in a major disturbance of the phosphorus that is now residing in the bottom. This freed up phosphorus would result in more algae growth, something we do not need.

Please give this some thought and contact your elected representatives if you are so inclined.

As we begin thinking about spring cleaning and perhaps some landscape work, in April providing information on native plants and their advantages for attracting wildlife and protecting our shorelines.

That's about it for now. As always please let me know of any questions or concerns. You can contact me at gregpnpl@gmail.com.