

# DOCK SIDE

## Improving Balsam Lake’s water quality—past, present and future

By Ed McGlynn & Ray Sloss

### From an interview with Milt Stanze and Howard Seim:

*Balsam Lake District residents have strong history of caring for Balsam Lake. When a contaminated Rice Lake threatened Little Balsam, Boston Bay and the main lake, we took decisive action: we purchased a cow pasture from Glenna Farms which had Rice Creek flowing through it. We moved the cows out, razed the old barn, worked with the Town of Milltown to clean up Rice Lake, constructed the Rice Creek settling pond and the water quality in Little Balsam miraculously recovered. There was nothing miraculous about it—it was an intelligent well-planned project which we all supported. The results are that Little Balsam now boasts the cleanest water on the lake.*

*The Lake District residents didn’t stop there. We purchased Lot 77 in the Village of Balsam Lake in 2004; Peterson property on Stumps Bay in 2005; Soltau property on Stumps Bay 2011. All these plots were strategic toward controlling development in sensitive areas of the lake. Their purchase resulted in improving the quality of Balsam Lake’s waters or preventing challenges from development to the quality of water in Balsam Lake. We weren’t working alone on these purchases. We worked together with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The key, we worked together.*

**W**e still have important water quality issues impacting Balsam Lake which still need to be addressed. A key opportunity is the East Balsam Lake basin, which often experiences algae blooms and associated poor Secchi disc transparency readings that occur in the late summer months. The phosphorus levels (P) have been modeled extensively in recent years and suggest that internal loading accounted for more than 70 percent of the P inputs to the East Balsam Lake basin. This internal phosphorus loading is coming from the lake bottom sediment during periods of stratification in the late summer months when a condition of anoxia (water depleted of oxygen) at the bottom releases the P from its normal bond to iron in the sediment and sends it up into the water column.

Based on engineering studies of the internal P loading issue impacting the East Balsam Lake basin, it is believed that the most effective remediation method would be to treat the basin with alum (aluminum sulfate).

Alum, like iron in the sediment, bonds with phosphates in the bottom sediment preventing the P from releasing up into the water column, even in anoxic conditions in the late summer months, minimizing algae blooms. Alum is a nontoxic material and is also used in water treatment plants to improve drinking water clarity.

The board is in the process of working with the UW-Stout’s Limnology Department and Wisconsin DNR to develop a detailed alum dosage and application proposal which will be presented to the District members in 2020 for approval.

The board looks forward to working with all lake stakeholders in this next important step in improving water quality for all of Balsam Lake. ●

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Tom and Mary Kelly  
and family

Hopefully this writing finds you enjoying another great lake season on Balsam. *Mother Nature* appears to have made amends during the winter of 2017-18 as we had winter snows in copious amounts allowing for a solid snow pack. The snow pack and late ice-out affords a significant filter of the sun's rays thereby delaying and hopefully shortening the primary growing season for curly leaf pond weed. Assuming we have been blessed with rapidly rising temperatures in the late spring and consequent rapid warming of the lake waters we may find some form of relief from curly leaf pond weed growth, our primary aquatic invasive species.

**East Balsam.** The board has been working with consultants and monitoring projects that are targeted at mitigating elevated phosphorous and chlorophyll levels in lakes. The board identified in our Long Term Plan and through related studies that East Balsam exceeded acceptable phosphorous content. I believe it was 2014-15 the East Balsam basin was designated as impaired by WDNR. More information to follow in this *Dock Side* on water quality in East Balsam.

**Healthy Lakes returns in 2018-19!** Healthy Lakes native plantings initiative has been relatively well received by our members as we have approximately 40 rain gardens installed or in the process of being installed via the 2017 and 2018 programs. The water runoff mitigation afforded by these rain gardens will make a positive contribution to the water quality of our lake. Having a 10FT+ buffer immediately adjacent to the shore line does wonders for our water quality.

**Harvesting.** A big thank you to Commissioner Preble as he orchestrated the building of our harvester/trailer and truck storage building during the fall of 2017. Also a big thank you the Village of Balsam Lake for a favorable land lease on which the storage building sits.

**Clean Boats Clean Waters.** We started boat landing monitoring with the fishing opener in early May. Monitoring hours have been extended at certain landings in an effort to lessen the always present risk of aquatic invasive species coming to our lake from elsewhere. See page 10 for monitoring details.

**Resident Geese.** A partnership was formed last fall with the Village of Balsam Lake, USDA and local volunteers to address the excessive number of resident geese and the negative effect they were having on our water quality. The Town Bay Beach was closed numerous times during the 2017 summer because of unacceptable E. coli levels believed to be caused by goose excrement. Early indications suggest this initiative was successful in controlling the resident geese population.

In closing, I want to again thank my fellow commissioners for their commitment and contributions to the lake and the board. Without their leadership and efforts the programs we facilitate for the betterment of the lakes wellbeing would not be possible. ●

—Tom Kelly

**Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation  
District Commissioners**

**Tom Kelly, Chairman**

1849 Orchard Hill  
Mendota Heights MN 55118  
612-508-0879  
Email: tkelly56@comcast.net  
Term Expires 2019

**Ed McGlynn**

6900 Agave Cove  
Austin TX 78750  
Home: 512-418-2910  
Lake: 715-857-5202  
Email: edmcglynn@sbcglobal.net  
Term Expires 2018

**Bill Mork, Vice Chairman**

680 Alvarado Lane  
Plymouth, MN 55447  
763-699-7792  
Email: bmork@wmmorkco.com  
Term Expires 2020

**Rod Preble**

815 Park Drive  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
Cell: 715-497-8913  
Email: rod.preble@outlook.com  
Term Expires 2020

**Ray Sloss, Treasurer**

1803 Pine Island Park Court  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
612-965-6455  
Email: slsr01@outlook.com  
Term Expires 2018

**Steve Rediske**

805 Park Drive  
Balsam Lake WI 54810  
Home: 715-485-3780  
Cell: 612-206-3165  
Email: basicallybalsam@yahoo.com  
Term Expires 2019  
(Appointed by the Village of Balsam Lake)

**Dave Mariani, Secretary**

1875 Pine Island Park Street  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
Home: 651-492-3313  
Email: dmmaria@msn.com  
Term Expires 2019

**www.blprd.com**

*Contact us*

Please contact the commissioners with any questions, comments or concerns you have. Commissioners meet on the third Saturday of the month, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Polk County Business Center, lower level conference room. You are welcome to attend the meetings.

**2018 Meeting Schedule**

- July 21**
- September 15**
- October 20**
- November 17**
- December 15**

# Balsam Lake resident geese

In January, Chad Alberg, USDA Wildlife Specialist/Certified Wildlife Biologist presented to the BLPRD board of commissioners on goose management. Following are excerpts of the presentation as reported by Lynda Berg Olds, PC Ledger, from her January 11 article.

Chad Alberg, Cumberland USDA-Wildlife Services office, has been almost exclusively involved in wildlife damage management for 24 years. “That is the only thing my agency, USDA Wildlife Services does. We partner with the DNR as this is kind of a specialty area that we focus on.”

Alberg went on to talk about the many kinds of geese there are, with 13 different subspecies. In Wisconsin, there are four different subspecies of the Canada goose. The *interior* Canada geese are more commonly seen during peak migration times “just passing through.” The *giants* are commonly seen year round. These are largest of the sub-species, weighing up to 18 pounds and they are everywhere it seems, causing beaches to close and public areas to become unsafe due to bacteria in their droppings. They love open grassy areas like golf courses, beaches, parks, football fields, where their predators are easy to see.

Alberg spoke for some time about the different methods of eradicating geese and gave the Village kudos for establishing a hunt, which was quite successful with some 74 geese harvested.

Balsam Lake is not the only place the geese are invading—Amery and Luck are struggling with the geese population as well. One of the first things Alberg recommends is kind of a no-brainer that’s overlooked—posting signs where geese congregate that feeding the geese is prohibited. Scare devices have been employed to repel the geese including wind socks that look like coyotes on Big Butternut and eagles on Balsam.

Alberg made it clear that killing geese is the only surefire way to get rid of them. Oiling eggs in the nest suffocates the unborn goslings. Or they round them up, herding them when they are molting and can’t fly and then euthanize them.

Decimating geese is a harsh reality facing many communities. The Balsam Lake board made the decision to move forward with at least making the applications for the rounding up of geese and the oiling of eggs. It was noted that \$2,500 has been budgeted towards the eradication of the local geese.

The Village of Balsam Lake passed a motion co-funded by the BLPRD, to work with the USDA Wildlife Services to control the resident Canada geese population for 2018. Applications were submitted on January 26, 2018 for both the resident Canada Goose Nest and Egg Depredation Program and the Round-up Program. The applications were accepted and permits were issued.

Canada geese can live up to 20 years in the wild, but average 5-10 year lifespans. Each mature Canada goose deposits about a pound of feces each day in our lake or shorelines bringing E. coli bacteria and increased phosphorus loading into our waters. Any reduction in our resident goose population will improve the quality of our lake waters and shorelines.

Polk County and the Balsam Lake area is excellent goose habitat, and as such, we will never come close to eliminating all of the resident Canada geese on our lake. Our goal is instead to reduce them to a manageable level that reduces urban conflicts.

The Balsam Lake Village Park and Recreation Committee formed a group of concerned citizens to participate in egg oiling, including Nick Elert, Jeff Reed, Tom Poirer, Steve Rediske, Bill Mork, and Kyle Ward. The committee has started the process, each member having a specific mapped out area.

“We have been at the mercy of *Mother Nature* with our late spring and are doing our due diligence in making this first step of egg depredation successful. We will then begin the plans for the actual goose round-up. Our permits cover properties within the Village of Balsam Lake and other properties identified by the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District.” ●



*Learn more*

For useful information concerning options for resident Canada goose management visit [dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/damage/goose.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/damage/goose.htm)



## Public Notice

### BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

41st Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, July 21, 2017, 8:30 a.m.  
Unity Middle School Cafeteria, 1908 150th Street, HWY 46 N, Balsam Lake

### Agenda

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS PRESENT
- 3) APPROVE AGENDA
- 4) Registered commissioner candidates eligible for 2018 election –  
Vote for two:
  - Richard Miller
  - Ray Sloss
  - Andy Wilhoit
- 5) APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2017 ANNUAL MEETING
- 6) REPORTS
  - Opening Comments – Tom Kelly
  - Water Quality
    - East Balsam – Ed McGlynn
    - Water Quality – Cheryl Clemens Harmony Environmental
    - Healthy Lakes 101 – Tom Kelly
  - Aquatic Plant Management / Recreation / Navigation
    - Harvesting – Rod Preble
    - Clean Boats Clean Waters – Bill Mork
    - CLP Treatment – Rod Preble
    - Sediment Remediation – Rod Preble
- 7) TREASURER REPORT
  - Annual Report and 2018 YTD / 2019 Budget
- 8) OLD BUSINESS
  - Long Range Plan Update - Tom Kelly
- 9) ELECTION RESULTS
- 10) NEW BUSINESS
- 11) ADJOURN

### *Voter registration*

At any annual meeting or special meeting of the Lake District where voting will take place, registration is required. The voter registration list is acquired from the Polk County Treasurer and the county real estate tax rolls.

Voting rules are specified by Wis. Stat. §33.01(9)(ar), §33.30(3)(a), §33.30(3)(b)

### *Meeting notices*

Notices of the meeting and agenda are posted several days before the meeting at the following locations:

Village of Balsam Lake  
404 Main St  
Balsam Lake, WI

Jonzy Market  
1043 185th Ave  
Balsam Lake, WI

Balsam Lake Post Office  
308 Pearl St  
Balsam Lake, WI

### *Voting rules*

To vote at annual meetings of the lake district, a voter must be a U.S. citizen over 18 years of age who is either:

1. An elector (a qualified voter who resides in the District);
2. A person who owns title to real property and that person's legal spouse (even if the spouse's name does not appear on the tax roll);
3. A person who is the official representative, officer or employee authorized to vote on behalf of a trust, foundation, corporation, association or other organization owning real property in the District.\*

If a person is not named on the tax roll it is up to that person to provide evidence to the District that he/she is owner of property or a designated representative of an organizational property owner. Evidence may be in the form of

- a copy of a deed indicating ownership, or
- a letter on the stationery of an organization owning property which clearly authorizes the person to vote on behalf of that organization.

Each qualified voter is entitled to cast one vote at the annual meeting. Ownership of more than one parcel of real estate within the District does not entitle the owner to more than one vote. Commissioners appointed by the county or town/village/city are eligible to vote at the annual meeting only if they qualify as lake district property owners or electors. No absentee ballots or proxies are permitted.

\*Corporations, governmental bodies, trusts and other organizational owners are treated as single owners with one vote. When a property is recorded in a trust, corporation, association or other organization, then the members of that organization must designate an official representative to vote on their behalf. Trust members who reside in the District can each maintain their individual voting eligibility at an annual meeting. Trust members who reside outside the District collectively receive one ballot for annual meeting votes.

**Here are the registered commissioner candidates eligible for election this year. You will vote to elect two commissioners.**

**Richard Miller**

**M**y wife, Ruth Ann, and I purchased our property at 1831 110th Street on Balsam Lake in 1999. We live here in the summer and at various times during the other seasons. I am retired from the business I operated in St Paul for over thirty years as a certified financial planner and registered investment advisor.

My primary reason for running is my concern for the entire lake and to do what I can to preserve and improve Balsam's water quality for the enjoyment of everyone who uses the lake.

For many years I have been the volunteer who does water sampling on Balsam Lake. Ray Sloss also takes samples from another part of the lake. We test the water to determine how clarity and water quality changes throughout the summer and from year to year. We send our results and actual water samples to Madison for further analysis. Those results are entered into a data base that gives us a long-term picture of the water quality on Balsam Lake. This data helps us when applying for lake improvement grants and acts as support data as we work to improve the quality of the water.

As a commissioner I would represent everyone who lives on the lake and uses the lake. ●



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**Richard Miller**

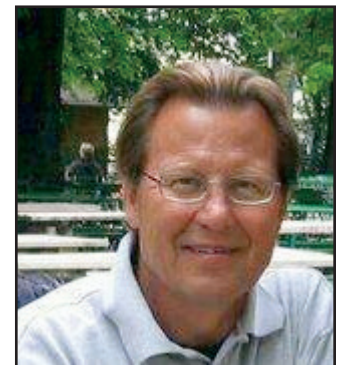
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**Ray Sloss**

**I** have served the Lake District in various positions since July, 2012. My focus has been on improving the water quality of Balsam Lake, protecting the lake from outside invasive species such Eurasian water milfoil and the dreaded zebra mussels which have attacked so many lakes in our area.

As lake district residents we are all acutely aware that a clean, pollution free lake provides an enormous benefit for all of us. It is a privilege to have the kind of access to Balsam Lake as we do—one my dad enjoyed as a young boy, one I have enjoyed for as long as I can remember and one my grandchildren are enjoying today.

For six years I have enjoyed your support. I am asking you to support me for another term as there is still work that needs to be accomplished that will improve our lake. ●



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**Ray Sloss**

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**Andy Wilhoit**

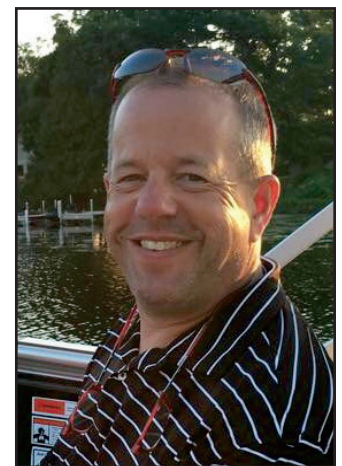
**M**y wife, Katie and I, along with our two children Drew (14) and Megan (12), have had a cabin on East Balsam for the past six years. We spend a great deal of time on the lake and in the area. We enjoy the lake and the area all year long, with all of its beauty, wildlife and many amenities.

When we are not at the lake, I spend my time working in St. Paul. There, with my partners of 26 years I own, manage and develop apartment buildings.

Katie and I have a strong desire to see the water quality of Balsam Lake improve—not only for the benefit of our family and those currently on the lake, but for the benefit of generations to come.

I greatly appreciate the efforts and the improvements the BLPRD has made in the past six years we have been on the lake, and I look forward to continued success for the entire community.

I look forward to volunteering my time and talent toward protecting and improving Balsam Lake, and would be honored to be elected to the BLPRD board of commissioners. ●



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**Andy Wilhoit**

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## BLPRD 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

### BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT: ACTUAL vs BUDGET 2018 and 2019 Proposed

	Actual Dec 2017	Actual May 2018	2018 Budget	2019 Proposed Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>				
TAXES	159,100	104,074	166,500	168,850
INTEREST CHECKING/CD/SAV	231	164	100	250
GRANTS 2016 & 2017 AIS		39,615		
GRANT CBCW	16,000	12,000		
GRANT HEALTHY LAKES 101	3,340			20,000
GRANTS TOTAL	<u>19,340</u>	<u>51,615</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
LOTTERY CREDIT		1,630		
MISCELLANEOUS		350		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>178,761</u></b>	<b><u>157,833</u></b>	<b><u>196,600</u></b>	<b><u>189,100</u></b>
<b>COST OF OPERATIONS / APPROPRIATIONS</b>				
BOARD - ADMINISTRATION	10	180		
Annual meeting expense	166			
Administrative support	600			
Operations equipment	825			
Office supplies	59	7		
Safety deposit box	25			
Software		175		
<b>TOTAL BOARD ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b><u>1,685</u></b>	<b><u>362</u></b>	<b><u>8,000</u></b>	<b><u>5,000</u></b>
COMMISSIONER EXPENSES				
Meetings	3,800	1,775	7,000	7,000
Mileage	2,012	1,033	4,000	4,000
Annual meeting 'Thank You'	214			
Convention expenses	1,613			
Books, subscriptions, reference manuals				
Commissioner Project activity expense				
<b>TOTAL COMMISSIONER EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>7,639</u></b>	<b><u>2,808</u></b>	<b><u>11,000</u></b>	<b><u>11,000</u></b>
DUES/SCHOLARSHIP	750	775	1,000	1,000
POSTAGE	723	20	2,000	1,000
PRINTING	8,992	550	9,000	9,250
RENT	2,250	900	2,000	2,000
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE</b>	<b><u>12,715</u></b>	<b><u>2,245</u></b>	<b><u>14,000</u></b>	<b><u>13,250</u></b>
AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT	75	390		
Permits	1,420	1,570		1,500
Herbicide Contractor	37,101		38,500	37,400
Lake biologist survey	1,100			1,100
Harvesting operations	5,670		7,500	6,000
<b>TOTAL AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT</b>	<b><u>45,366</u></b>	<b><u>1,960</u></b>	<b><u>46,000</u></b>	<b><u>46,000</u></b>
CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS	24,202	6,448	40,000	45,000
WATER RUNOFF PROGRAM	14,410		5,000	7,000
WATER QUALITY PROJECT	3,000		12,500	16,000
LAKE BOTTOM RESTORATION			9,500	7,550
<b>TOTAL WATER QUALITY</b>	<b><u>41,612</u></b>	<b><u>6,448</u></b>	<b><u>67,000</u></b>	<b><u>75,550</u></b>
BCPL LOAN PAYMENT				
BCPL Loan #0201642.02 & .03		16,843	16,843	16,843
INTEREST ON LOAN	2,796	2,755	2,755	2,757
<b>TOTAL BCPL</b>		<b><u>19,598</u></b>	<b><u>19,600</u></b>	<b><u>19,600</u></b>
RESTRICTED USE FUNDS (rebates)		(256)		
LAKE MANAGEMENT SERVICES				
Portable Toilets	4,129	3,615	5,000	4,500
CONSERVANCY	2,700			
VOBL DAM MAINTENANCE	5,000			
LONG RANGE APM PLAN			5,000	
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE & STORAGE	2,708	1,448	10,000	3,000
DOCK REPLACEMENT	4,950			
<b>TOTAL LAKE MANAGEMENT SERVICES</b>	<b><u>19,487</u></b>	<b><u>5,063</u></b>	<b><u>20,000</u></b>	<b><u>7,500</u></b>
<b>CONTRACT SERVICES</b>				
ACCOUNTING	740	463	2,000	1,200
INSURANCE/BOND	6,882	4,343	5,500	8,000
LEGAL			2,500	1,000
OTHER CONTRACT SERVICES		4,148		
Includes Website maintenance	985	403	1,000	1,000
<b>TOTAL OTHER CONTACT SERVICES</b>	<b><u>8,607</u></b>	<b><u>9,357</u></b>	<b><u>11,000</u></b>	<b><u>11,200</u></b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b><u>139,907</u></b>	<b><u>47,584</u></b>	<b><u>196,600</u></b>	<b><u>189,100</u></b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b><u>38,764</u></b>	<b><u>110,249</u></b>		

**BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION FUND REVENUE**

Balance Forward	63,146
Transferred from 2017 Operating Account	47,883
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111,029</b>

	Year Approved	Balance of Authorized as of 01/01/17
<b>LISTED CAPITAL &amp; MAINTENANCE PROJ</b>		
RICE CREEK SEDIMENTATION	2006	50,575
AIS RAPID RESPONSE PLAN	2011	20,00
*DREDGING MACHINE	2015	95,880
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>166,455</b>

		Balance Remaining
BCPL Loan #02016142.01		—
BCPL Loan #02016142.02	24,550	24,550
BCPL Loan #02016142.03	50,442	50,442
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>74,992</b>

**Dredging—  
the next phase**

To date, most of the time spent on the dredging project has been with pre-permit applications and the collection of data and research information necessary to apply for the actual dredging permits.

Many, many hours have been spent by BLPRD commissioners as well as volunteers collecting samples, testing, and the assembly of a narrative to support the need to remove the phosphorus-rich sediment from our bays and lake.

The need to bring in professional engineering assistance has become self-evident. To that end, we have reached out to several specialized engineering firms to ascertain costs and scope of services needed to complete this project. As these questions are answered we will update you, our lake residents. ●

**—Rod Preble**

# CLP management

**What a difference a year makes**

**by Rod Preble**



**L**ast year, as you likely recall, we had a bumper crop of curly leaf pondweed. Fifty-three acres were sprayed in East Balsam and another 100 acres in the west basin was harvested. The post-herbicide survey for East Balsam showed a very successful treatment with the turion count down from previous years.

Twenty-seventeen was the first year that we were able to harvest CLP in areas where spraying was ineffective in the past and like East Balsam, turion counts were down from previous years in these areas.

With the late ice out this year, getting your docks put in was delayed but the good news is the late ice out also stunted this year's growth of CLP. Our lake biologist's pre-treatment survey of East Balsam on May 17, 2018 showed a significant decrease in area and density of the plant; so much so that the decision was made by the BLPRD board, along with Wisconsin DNR to not spray the CLP beds in East Balsam this year. Instead, WDNR has given us permission to harvest these beds during the first three weeks of June.

CLP in the west basin is expected to be down as well, however at the time of this writing, the CLP hasn't grown enough to map.

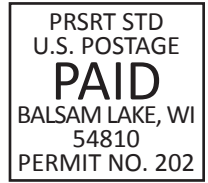
Spraying and/or harvesting CLP anywhere on our lake gives us the flexibility to reduce and hopefully eliminate CLP regardless of what *Mother Nature* throws at us.

In 2017 we harvested the 100 acres in the west basin in the first 15 days of operation. Efficiencies were gained due to the largest area of CLP being very near a landing. We do, however, need to give credit to our two main operators Don Coddington (lead) and his brother Dan. At times they were harvesting 2+ acres per hour—four times the manufacturers estimated efficiency of one-half acre per hour. ●



# Dock Side

Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District  
P.O. Box 202  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810



**The Harvester Storage Building** was completed in late November, 2017 and is located within the Village of Balsam Lake's waste treatment and composting property just off Old Main Street, south of downtown.

The harvester, shore conveyor, and transport truck spent the long, snowy winter inside the building, out of the elements. This spring the harvester crew was able to service the equipment indoors on a clean hard surface in preparation for the 2018 harvesting season. It's nice to be able to work inside out of the weather.

We purchased the building materials from Menards during one of their 11 percent rebate sales which returned to us a \$1,500 rebate coupon. To date we have used this rebate to purchase a fireproof safe for the BLPRD office as well as equipment and supplies for the harvester and the building, all of which was also purchased during other 11 percent sales. Love those rebates! ●



**T**he Clean Boats Clean Waters program is off to a strong start under the leadership of Terry Morton. Terry is a veteran of the program and has recruited several of the same inspectors from previous years. The annual CBCW training was held on April 12th at the Polk County Government Center and was well attended.

This year we intend on monitoring the 46 Store and Town Bay public boat landings from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm five days a week. In addition, the East Balsam and Little Balsam public boat landings would be monitored from 6:00 am to 10:00 am three weekdays and on weekends from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm.

We are working with the local authorities to coordinate our monitoring with the various fishing tournaments.

Please be aware and take care to clean your boats, motors and trailers. ●

—Bill Mork