

# Formation of a Lake District Q&A



## What is the Beaver Dam Lake District?

**A:** A specialized unit of government (like a school district) formed by petition of the lake property owners to identify and address threats to water quality, habitat and recreational uses. It would be guided by and operated by those that own property in the district.

## Who would be members of the Lake District and how is it governed and financed?

**A:** The Lake District would be comprised of all property owners on Beaver Dam Lake. These “members” elect a board of commissioners and approve the annual budget at the yearly meeting. The budget, after approval by the property owners, is divided among the lake property owners and this Lake District Fee is then added to the annual property tax bill.

## What would the cost be per property owner?

**A:** The fee depends on the budget approved by the property owners. But according to UW-Extension survey most lake district fees are under \$100 per property. See the sample budget on the reverse side.

## Do other area lakes have a Lake District?

**A:** There are over 200 Lake Districts in Wisconsin. Locally, Fox Lake, Green Lake and Lake Sinissippi have Lake Districts.

## Does BDLIA have a role to play if we have a Lake District?

**A:** The Lake District would focus on lake management issues while BDLIA would focus on programs for the members like Summer Celebration and activities on the lake such as Fish n’ Fun, The Great Beaver Paddle Festival, pontoon rides on the lake and many others.

### Beaver Dam Lake PROBLEMS:

- Poor water quality
- Eroding shore lines
- Excessive carp
- Algae outbreaks
- Periodic excessive growth of invasive aquatic plants
- Non point runoff of sediment and nutrients into lake

### Beaver Dam Lake District SOLUTIONS:

- Protect and restore wetlands
- Remove invasive plants and establish native species
- Help establish watershed programs to reduce sediment and nutrient run-off
- Reduce carp with installation of carp gates and restrict other spawning areas
- Promote shoreline restoration and protection programs
- Improve fish and wildlife habitat by providing coarse woody habitat

### Beaver Dam Lake District BENEFITS

- Improved chances of better water quality
- Better fishing through better habitat
- Increase tourism
- Better recreational opportunities
- All these actions would increase the lake property values

# Sample Budget and Cost Per Property

The budget below is for illustrative purposes only as the Beaver Dam Lake District Budget would be proposed by the Lake District Commissioners but could be increased or decreased by the district members at the annual meeting.

Administrative and general expenses (including rent, printing, postage, accounting, staff and supplies) . . . . .	\$ 19,000
Insurance . . . . .	\$ 2,000
Website, newsletter and social media . . . . .	\$ 2,000
Storage rent, electric and maintenance . . . . .	\$ 2,500
Conferences, meetings and dues . . . . .	\$ 1,500
Aeration maintenance . . . . .	\$ 1,000
No-wake buoy (operation and maintenance) . . . . .	\$ 1,000
Clean Boat Program (our 25% share) . . . . .	\$ 750
Carp gate operation and maintenance . . . . .	\$ 3,000
Aquatic Invasive Species Management . . . . .	\$ 5,000
Shoreline protection and rehabilitation . . . . .	\$ 21,000
Engineering study . . . . .	\$ 7,500
Beaver Dam Lake District's 25% share of implementation grant . . . . .	\$ 20,000
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 86,250</b>

Once the Lake District general operating budget is approved by the property owners it is divided among all property owners in the district. In the above example the property tax imposed on each lake property owner would be approximately \$80.00. This tax would appear on your annual property tax bill. This amounts to about 22 cents per day.

This is an example only and depends on budget approved at the annual meeting of the Lake District.

## Lake Districts and Grants

Lake districts have a greater chance of obtaining grants. Lake districts are recognized as a governmental body with ability to raise funds and the stability of elected commissioners, as opposed to a lake association which is operated by volunteers who raise money through donations and banquets.