

LAKE PEWAUKEE SANITARY DISTRICT



OCTOBER 2025

Lake Operations

At this time of year lake staff is very limited on the lake operations. The focus is on pile pick up on Mondays and Fridays (weather permitting) and we plan to continue this service through October, WEATHER PERMITTING. Picking up the floaters on your shoreline by staff will still occur but it will take weeks to get around the lake so making piles confirms the plants will get picked up. **Thank you to all the people that have participated in the pile pick up whether you are hiring some help or doing it yourself, it is hard work, it is appreciated, and you're making a difference for all the people that enjoy the lake.**

With the heavy 9.7" rain event in August and another 2-3" rain in September, it appears the heavy runoff of nutrients is causing a late season algae bloom. In our last newsletter we discussed the benefits of aquatic plants and how they balance the ecosystem. However, if there is a major surge in nutrients the plants cannot intake enough of the excess nutrients and algae blooms are inevitable, especially when its late season and the growth of the plants slows after seeding. This is the balance we talk about.

We have seen some algae blooms last into the winter. It will be interesting to see if this plays out this year as well. Remember, if we removed all the plants from the lake, it would be pea green soup all year with zero visibility. With no plants taking up nutrients, there are more nutrients for algae use and growth. Toxic blue green algae can then show up and fish kills could rise. This is something to keep your eyes open for this late fall if you are still swimming or your dog is fetching balls in the cool water. Bluegreen algae looks exactly like a turquoise color paint spilled in the middle of the green algae that's typically clouding the water. Perhaps I'll post a picture of a photo from the past on our website or look it up online. Although we are enjoying these calm warm October days, that is what promotes the algae growth. We need some wind and some waves to help break it up.

Sewer Operations – This is almost an exact repeat of last year's October newsletter where we discussed the need for upsizing our facilities to handle flows and avoid bi-passing sewage to wetlands or Pewaukee Lake.

The sewer user fee is going up due to the need to upgrade our lift stations and the constant rise in the mechanical parts that convey the flows. The lift station upgrades have been a long time coming (originally installed in 1976) and we held off as long as we could. Developments that occurred 10 -15 years ago initiated the need for adding pumps, upsizing motors and the impellers that push the sewage through the smaller lift stations and the conveyance system (pipes). They are also considered confined spaces, and the risk and liability issues continue to rise. Our 2 biggest lift stations pose the risk of bi-passing sewage into the lake. With continued development this risk has grown to a level that cannot be tolerated. Creative engineering has figured out a way to bi-pass one of the large lift stations with a forcemain. This will save millions of dollars and avoid the larger risk of bypassing into the lake. However, even upgrading one of the main lift stations is millions of dollars. We are literally reviewing every alternative to minimize costs and still protect the lake area we live in. While we hate to see user fees rise, the alternative of bypassing raw sewage into the lake or the sewer backing up into your basement is NOT an acceptable alternative. We successfully have applied for the WDNR's Clean Water Fund Program in hopes of obtaining a 2.875% loan rate. This would greatly help our cause. We are taking the best path forward to keep rates down as much as possible, but the lift station upgrades, and the support building work must be done to prepare us for the existing and future flows.

We are also working on the best way to address the constant issue of rags in the system and pumps. Either pumps that can pass the rags or pumps that can cut and shred the rags to get them through our system will be utilized to help keep maintenance expenses down.

More news will be shared as we determine the most feasible alternative to protect your home and the lake and watershed we live in.

Step one is getting the right plan of action and then taking well educated methodical steps in the right direction. The proposed budget addresses this upgrade and it is on the back of this newsletter.

For more information, please call the District at (262) 691-4485 or visit our website at www.lakepewaukee.org

A Public Hearing on the PROPOSED BUDGET for 2026 for the LAKE PEWAUKEE SANITARY DISTRICT will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at the Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District Administration Building, located at N25 W27534 Oak St., Pewaukee, WI. A detailed copy of the PROPOSED BUDGET is available for inspection at the Administration Building Office, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00AM and 12:00 Noon and 1:00PM and 3:00PM. The Commissioners encourage residents to attend the hearing and offer their comments.

The following is a summary of the LPSD Tax Levy, Service Fees, Expenditures, and Other Fees based upon the 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET.

	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	Budget % Change
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Community Funding-			
Town of Delafield Tax Levy:			
Lake Cleanup	270,000	283,500	5.00%
City of Pewaukee:			
Lake Cleanup Contract	270,000	283,500	5.00%
Total Community Funding	540,000	567,000	5.00%
Interest Revenue		41,600	
User Fees	1,848,000	2,231,616	20.76%
Other Revenues	12,675	560,000	4318.15%
Total Revenues	<u>2,400,675</u>	<u>3,400,216</u>	41.64%
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Sewer System Operations-			
Operating Expenditures	1,517,600	1,535,797	
Replacement/Capital Fund Contributions	253,000	708,819	
Debt Service	90,000	547,000	
Total Sewer System	1,860,600	2,791,616	50.04%
Lake Operations-			
Lake Cleanup Operating Expenses	340,300	323,101	-5.05%
Lake Contingency		50,000	
Equipment Purchases	30,000	5,000	-83.33%
Replacement Fund Contributions	140,275	153,949	9.75%
Wetland Conservancy Fund	9,000	9,000	0.00%
Debt Service	20,500	67,550	229.51%
Total Expenditures	<u>2,400,675</u>	<u>3,400,216</u>	41.64%
<u>Fees per Residential User Equivalent (RUE):</u>			
Quarterly Sewer User Charge	164.00	197.00	20.12%