



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 173

Stoughton, WI 53589-0173

July 2025

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President's Message ~ John Bottorff

Welcome to summer on Lake Kegonsa! June ushered in warm weather and people are on the water enjoying lake activities – fishing, kayaking, boating, skiing, or simply enjoying the view and nature. As a Board member since 2018, I am pleased to serve you as the new President of FOLKS.

Annual Meeting

Thanks to everyone who attended the FOLKS annual meeting on June 7. The meeting turnout was good. James Brodzeller from the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department presented an informative update about sediment removal and the new meandering route being established for Door Creek which enters Lake Kegonsa on the north shore. Stoughton County Club did an excellent job with food and drinks and continues to be a great host for our events. We learned about FOLKS projects and business from George Corrigan. Members elected new and returning members to the Board of Directors. This is a fun event and an opportunity to socialize and meet new and familiar neighbors on the lake.

Thanks to the FOLKS Committee who worked hard arranging and hosting the meeting – Anne Meisner, Deb Kundert, Kim Walz, Claudia Quam, and Mike Krueger who set-up the online reservation and payment system.

Advance Reservations and Online Payment System

We are pleased to report that a large number of members made their reservation for the annual meeting using the new online payment process and reported that it was easy to use. This was our first experience

requiring advance reservation and payment for the annual meeting. It worked well and avoided a wasteful expense for FOLKS. In the past, some members made reservations, but did not show-up for the meeting for a variety of reasons. However, that caused FOLKS to incur several hundred dollars of unnecessary expense because we had committed to a number of meals based on reservations. FOLKS was obligated to pay for those meals, including for the "no shows." The online reservation and prepayment requirement has eliminated the expense for "no shows." We strongly recommend that members use this system for making reservations and payments. For those not using the online system, please make arrangements to drop off a check at the Treasurer's home. This will avoid mail delays that could cause you to miss a payment deadline. On the evening of this year's meeting, there was some confusion with a few members who missed the reservation deadline and arrived without making an advance reservation and wanted to pay at the door. This year we permitted that but explained to those members that FOLKS has to order meals in advance and "arrivals without reservations" could result in not having enough meals for everyone. We understood that people were getting used to the new reservation requirement and online payment system, so we accommodated a few attendees this year. However, for future annual meetings and other events where FOLKS has to make an advance binding commitment for meals, we will ask for your help and cooperation by making reservations in advance and paying online. This is a convenient method for members and avoids wasteful expenses for FOLKS. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

Board of Directors

At its June 10, the FOLKS Board of Directors elected officers as provided by our bylaws. You can read about the background of Board members and officers on the FOLKS website. For new Board members (Dave Gilles and Mike Moss), we will be adding their bios soon. The officers and full Board of Directors are as follows:

John Bottorff – President
Vice President – vacant
George Corrigan – Interim Treasurer
Janice Kellogg – Secretary
Dave Gillies
Mike Krueger
Deb Kundert
Anne Meisner
Mike Moss
Kim Walz
Melissa Whittinghill

On behalf of FOLKS, I want to thank Claudia Quam for her service on the FOLKS Board since June 2021. Claudia decided to step down from the Board of Directors after her very active service. Claudia was Chairperson for the Leaf Collection Program which is among our most popular and beneficial programs. Leaf collection provides direct benefit to Lake Kegonsa by preventing phosphorous-laden run-off flowing into the lake from uncollected and decaying leaves. Claudia managed all of the many details for leaf collection including coordination with FOLKS partners – Towns of Pleasant Springs and Dunn and the City of Stoughton. In addition, she was a key member of the Fish Camp committee, water monitoring committee, and social committee working on numerous member education and social events and annual meetings. Thanks for your service, Claudia!

Thanks to all of our members for your support. We hope you have a great year on Lake Kegonsa!

John Bottorff
President

FOLKS Annual Meeting

FOLKS Annual Meeting and dinner was held on Saturday, June 7 at the Stoughton Country Club. 114 people attended and it was great to come together as a community. This year online sign up and payment were introduced. This allowed us to provide more accurate numbers to Stoughton Country Club which reduced FOLKS paying for no-shows. We've received positive feedback of this new feature and will continue to use it moving forward.

The annual financial reports and membership data were presented. Posters showed project updates and board members were on hand to answer questions. A new Board of Directors was elected: John Bottorff, Kim Walz, and Deb Kundert were re-elected and new board members Dave Gillis and Mike Moss. Thank you to Connie Hagen, John Quam, Eric Olson and Claudia Quam who have retired from the board.

Door Creek is a major input to Lake Kegonsa and are very important to the health of our lake. Our featured speaker at the annual meeting was James Brodzeller (Watershed Coordinator at Dane County Land and Water Resources) who spoke about the ongoing Door Creek Restoration Project. Check out the county website lwr.danecounty.gov/CurrentProjects/Detail/Door-Creek-Watershed for more information.



Get involved with FOLKS!

Membership is \$20 per household or \$30 for business membership (\$10.00 extra if you want the newsletters mailed to you in addition to e-mailed to you). The on-line payment option has been made available and is used by many members. If you pay using a credit card there is a \$3.00 service fee to cover FOLKS costs. Members receive four newsletters each year and are kept up-to-date about important lake-related issues. We ask for e-mail addresses for newsletters and alerts, but we NEVER share or sell addresses.

FOLKS has a number of very active Committees that carry out a wide variety of programs that are beneficial for Lake Kegonsa and lake residents. This allows members to participate in activities that align with their interests and schedules. These are great ways to meet neighbors from around the lake and get more involved in fulfilling our mission of *protecting and enhancing the environmental and recreational values of Lake Kegonsa and its surroundings*. Here are just a few examples:

- Join the parks and Door Creek committee to get more involved in activities at Fish Camp and with Dane County Parks
- Participate in the communication committee to contribute newsletter and social media content
- Connect with the fisheries and wildlife committee to support the habitat around the lake and southeastern WI
- Social and Education committee offers fun and educational programs about our lake, annual meeting and the popular ice on/off contest!

Check out the [FOLKS website](#) for more details about all our committees and projects. Member involvement in our committees can increase the impact of FOLKS on our lake and in Dane County. Email kegonsafolks@gmail.com with your name, email and phone number and areas of interest to learn more about how to get involved!

Village of McFarland and Town of Dunn Agree on a New Boundary Agreement

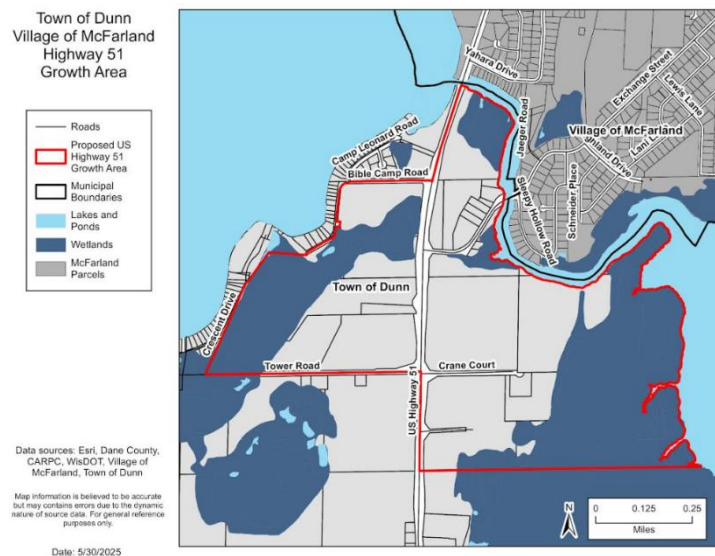
The McFarland Village Board and the Town of Dunn Board approved a new twenty-year Boundary Agreement on June 12, 2025. This agreement is important because it provides protection from development for the Waubesa wetlands, Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area, and Yahara River for a period of ten years. These areas are adjacent to and drain into Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa. This will provide time for careful planning for this environmentally sensitive area. The new agreement replaces a similar one that expires at the end of 2025. Negotiations for the new Boundary Agreement between the communities began in 2022. The proposed agreement was the subject of joint public meetings on January 29 and April 29, 2025. The Village and Town held separate public meetings on May 13 and May 20, respectively. There was also opportunity for public comment at the joint meeting on June 12, 2025 where a number of people spoke prior to both Boards approving the agreement. Both McFarland and Dunn are good neighbors and have cooperated on other beneficial governmental initiatives and services. In that spirit, they worked cooperatively and made compromises in reaching the new Boundary Agreement which will be mutually beneficial for both communities. Both the McFarland Village Board and the Town of Dunn Board have expressed their desire to protect the wetlands and waterways now and in the future. The next step in the process is approval by the Wisconsin Department of Administration and the effective date and duration of the agreement will begin with that approval.

The overall duration of the new Boundary Agreement is twenty years, same duration as the prior agreement. The agreement provides for a ten year period of protection for an area defined as the "Highway 51 Growth Area" (see map). The governmental boundary between McFarland and Dunn in the Highway 51 Growth Area runs along the center of the Yahara River between Lake Waubesa and Mud Lake. McFarland borders the eastern shore of Lake Waubesa north of the Yahara River. There are a significant number of large wetlands in this area as shown on the map below. The protection provision for the "Highway 51 Growth Area" prohibits annexation of properties into McFarland that are currently in Dunn and will postpone all development in this natural land for ten years. The concern is that residential, commercial or industrial development would increase impervious surfaces causing an increase of water run-off. This increase in impervious surfaces would result from the construction of buildings, parking lots, sidewalks, streets, roads, and other surfaces that do not absorb or filter water like the wetlands do.

It is important for property owners and others to understand that the Boundary Agreement does not, in itself, provide for annexation of any properties into McFarland. Rather, the agreement prevents annexation of properties in the Highway 51 Growth Area for ten years. After ten years, property in the

Highway 51 Growth Area may only be annexed using the normal statutory annexation methods, all of which require approval of at least half of the voters in the territory being annexed and the territory must be contiguous to McFarland. Those methods would have been available beginning in 2026 if the new Boundary Agreement had not been approved. Property owners would need to agree and petition to be annexed into McFarland. According to the Village of McFarland, a non-resident property owner who was part of a previous annexation petition (in approximately 2001 which ultimately led to the prior Boundary Agreement) would like to annex to the Village of McFarland now. This area is identified in the McFarland Comprehensive Plan as an agricultural preservation area, so there is not yet a plan for what type of development the property owner or McFarland envisions. If McFarland were to move forward with expansion south of the Yahara River, it would first need to update its Comprehensive Plan which includes a public input component.

At the June 12 joint public meeting, a number of property owners bordering McFarland, who are Town of Dunn residents, spoke and expressed their opposition to annexation into McFarland. A number of other speakers voiced their desire for protection of the wetlands and waterways in the area. The new Boundary Agreement prohibits considering annexation petitions for ten years. That period will provide McFarland the time and opportunity necessary to update their Comprehensive Plan and describe what type of development is desirable and allowed in this area and how quickly growth should occur considering a number of factors such as costs required for new public infrastructure and will provide ample opportunity for public input.



Why did the turtle cross the road?

The Fish and Wildlife Committee are highlighting turtles as they are on the move around Lake Kegonsa in the spring and summer! Wisconsin is home to 11 different types of turtle species with the Painted Turtle, the most abundant, and the Ornate Box Turtle, the most endangered. Many turtles live for 50 years, and most of them first reproduce between 12 and 20 years. Turtles will move to higher, drier land in May and June to dig a nest and lay their eggs. They can also be seen moving to change their habitat. Because of this movement, road mortality is the

number one cause of turtle deaths. There are many ways we can help the turtles in our community.

- Keep an eye out for turtles and drive slowly in known turtle crossing areas.
- When assisting a turtle across the road, place it on the side of the road in the direction it was going. Remember to use a shovel or stick when moving Snapping Turtles.
- Call the Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center at 608-287-3235 if you find an injured turtle and go to their website for additional information: www.giveshelter.org/wildlife-center. This link can also be found on the FOLKS website.
- Report turtle crossings and deaths to the Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Wildlifehabitat/TurtleConservation>. This is a WI DNR citizen monitoring program aimed to identify turtle distribution and high mortality locations to manage and conserve turtles better.

To help protect turtles in the Lake Kegonsa community, FOLKS, with the help of Pleasant Springs Township, has installed Turtle Crossing signs on Williams Drive and Williams Point Drive. Let's protect our turtles!



Wildlife Committee Hosts International Crane Foundation Tour

Recently, 23 FOLKS members enjoyed a guided tour of the International Crane Foundation. We walked the crane trail observing and learning about the 15 crane species and the extraordinary conservation efforts taking place around the world!



Water Levels

Check out Dane County Land and Water for the most current lake levels and dam status information: <https://lwr.danecounty.gov/Lake-Levels>

Water Safety

Lake Kegonsa is full of water activities – boating, tubing, water skiing, jet skiing, paddle boarding, kayaking and more! Please remember important water safety rules so that we all can enjoy the lake!

- When you are within 200 feet of shore you must operate at a slow no wake speed – it's the law!
- Be aware of the amount of wake you are generating and respect shorelines, small water crafts, and swimmers.
- Powered boats must give way to sail boats

Learn more about water rules and regulations in the [Wisconsin DNR Boating Laws Handbook](#).

Door Creek Dredging

As we heard during the annual meeting, the Door Creek dredging project is heading towards completion! This is great news and will hopefully be an improvement to Lake Kegonsa with the removal of phosphorus laden sediments and the slowing of flow during high water events. The equipment being used to dredge and re-meandering the creek has been spotted by members from the bike bridge over Door Creek. To get to the bike bridge it's about 0.5 miles from Springers or Fish Camp on the new Lower Yahara Trail.

FOLKS Native Plant Garden Tour

Do you need some ideas for adding native plants to your property? Your neighbors will display what they have done on the morning of July 19th from 9-11 a.m. FOLKS members (and a guest) will be able to tour seven gardens on Lake Kegonsa. There will be shoreline gardens, rain gardens, a butterfly garden, a steep bank garden and hybrid gardens where native plants have been incorporated into existing gardens. Property owners will be available to answer questions about their gardens onsite. A gathering at Fish Camp Park will conclude the morning at 11:00 with a visit to the four native plant gardens there. Native plant resources will be available and experienced gardeners will be at Fish Camp Park to answer your questions.

If you are interested, please sign up using this link by July 15th. <https://www.kegonsa.org/event-details/native-plant-garden-tour>. There is no fee but the addresses for this private garden tour will only be sent to those FOLKS members who have signed up by the deadline.

FOLKS Calendar of Events

Date	Activity
July 14-17	Aquatic debris pier pick up
July 19	Native Plant Garden Tour
July 28-31	Aquatic debris pier pick up
August 11-14	Aquatic debris pier pick up
September 8-11	Aquatic debris pier pick up

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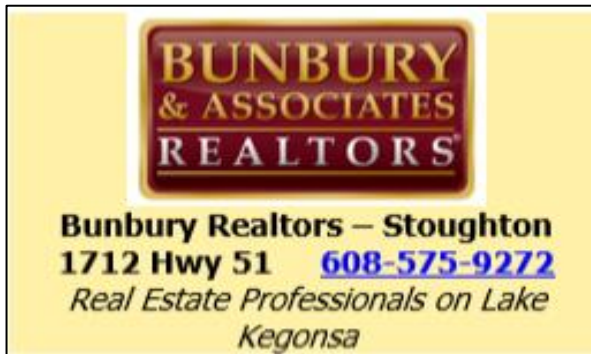
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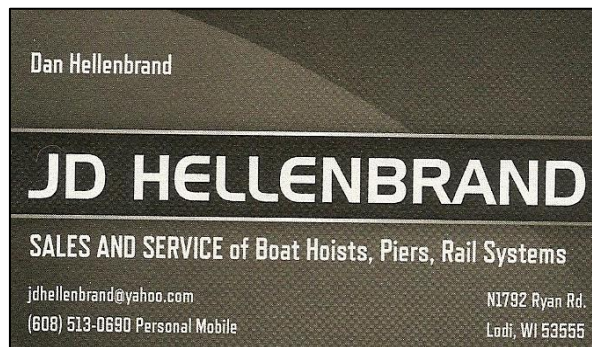
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Madison, WI 53704



1016 Nygaard St.
Stoughton, WI 53589
608.354.3389

Steve Schmitt



Warner Park



Black Earth, WI 53515



Madison Night Mares

FOLKS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2025

John Bottorff

George Corrigan

Janice Kellogg

Kim Walz

Anne Meisner

Deb Kundert

Melissa Whittinghill

Mike Krueger

Dave Gillis

Mike Moss

Email kegonsafolks@gmail.com to
connect with the Board

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Stoughton, WI 53589

For More About **FOLKS**,

Visit our website at www.Kegonsa.org and

on Facebook  at facebook.com/kegonsa/

or on X (Twitter)  @LakeKegonsa

Please Support Your Lake Association - Renew
Your **FOLKS** Membership.

This year's dues remain \$20.00 for households
and \$30.00 for businesses.

If you have any questions regarding
membership, please send a message to
kegonsafolks@gmail.com

Send news of interest to **FOLKS**:

P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589 or
kegonsafolks@gmail.com

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authors and publisher do not represent that
information herein is the official position of any
agency or governmental unit.

FOLKS Lost and Found

List lost and found items on the Website
(www.kegonsa.org) or Facebook page

FOLKS board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month except for a
couple of months in the winter. The public are always welcome.
Next Board Meeting is August 12 , 2025, 6:00 PM, Stoughton Country Club

