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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 41ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Rep. Dallman Urges the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to do Their Job

Wisconsin DNR reluctant to address local residents' concerns regarding lake levels and invasive plants

Madison, WI – Rep. Dallman (R-Green Lake) issued the following statement in response to the glaring lack of concern and management from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding lake levels and invasive aquatic plant management on Buffalo Lake and Lake Puckaway.

Buffalo Lake has seen drastic, low-water levels in recent years due to the DNR choosing to revert back to an outdated [1976 Water Level Order](#). Despite many local residents, local elected officials, and state legislators requesting the DNR to reassess and update the 1976 Water Level, the DNR has remained stagnant, casting blame on the local lake districts. In 2020, the Buffalo Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District sent the DNR a letter requesting a modification to the 1976 Water Level Order. After the DNR told residents their “goal is to gather data and determine additional study needs by the end of 2021,” local residents and businesses continue to struggle as the lake levels remain extremely low and nearly unusable by tourists and residents.

“I strongly encourage the DNR to more actively address the seriously low lake levels in order to protect not only the lake, but the livelihoods of local residents and businesses on Buffalo Lake,” said Rep. Dallman. “I have been to Buffalo Lake many times and the fact that a large portion of the shoreline is mud and lake residents cannot use their docks or boats is unacceptable.”

The DNR has also become stagnant at addressing the increasing problem of Eurasian Milfoil and the low water levels on Lake Puckaway. While there is no water level order mandated on Lake Puckaway, the DNR refuses to appropriately consider their current practices at the Princeton Dam to ensure suitable water levels.

“Lake Puckaway is yet another example of the mismanagement of DNR to address Wisconsin’s most beautiful natural resources,” said Rep. Dallman. “Residents, visitors, and business owners are losing because the DNR refuses to prioritize these growing issues and concerns.”

“I am calling on the Wisconsin DNR to start making the problems on Buffalo Lake and Lake Puckaway a priority. Wisconsin deserves a DNR that listens to the concerns of local residents and actively works to make our state lakes some of the best in the country for tourism, recreation, and for proper lake management.”

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