



DEAD RIVER CAMPERS NEWS

1ST QUARTER 2012

ISSUED APRIL 2012

ISSUES OF INTEREST

Board Activities: The Board had meetings last quarter on January 30, February 13 and 27, and March 12 and 26. Members of the Board also met with the UPPCO on February 13.

Annual Meeting Announcement: The Board has set the date for the 2012 Annual Meeting for Dead River Campers, Inc. The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 30, 2012 at the Westwood High School Auditorium. The meeting packet that will arrive in the mail will be addressed to you as a shareholder, or to one of the shareholders if the property is in multiple names.

There is one position open on the Board of Directors this year. Shareholders interested may submit a nomination for another shareholder or themselves, which must include a biography and resume stating qualifications, goals and the type of information that will assist the membership in making an informed vote. This information must be received by the Board by May 21, 2012.

Resolutions – Any DRCI shareholder wishing to submit a resolution must also do so in writing by May 21, 2012. Please send written resolutions in the format prescribed in the DRCI Bylaws to DRCI, P.O. Box 323, Ishpeming, MI 49849. Any questions, please e-mail the Board at:

drcicampers@gmail.com

Wireless Update: What seems to be taking an extended period of time, is what you call due process. Iron Bay is still working very hard to accomplish a wireless system that will provide high

speed wireless to those of us that want to contract for it.

The process has included an extended review in Lansing, and now the final stages are being handled with Marquette County. It centers around the final usage agreement for the primary tower to the east of the Basin, which was State Owned and is now being transferred into County hands.

Fireworks on the Hoist Basin:
Save the Date: June 30, 2012
Back up Date: July 1, 2012

The Date is set (June the 30th at sunset). The location is the bay at Turtle Island. The Fund is approaching \$4,000 dollars and we very much appreciate the contributions that have come in. If you have not given please consider contributing. Contribution forms are included. The event last year was awesome, and someone counted about 70 boats watching the celebration.



This is a great way to watch fireworks in a controlled environment, with a professional team of launchers doing the work in an insured businesslike manner. It is also a great way to protect your property from miss launched fireworks and potential fires around the Basin in campers front yards.

Thanks again to all those who have contributed so far!

E-mail address acquisitions: The Board is preparing to provide the newsletter via e-mail and is asking that all the shareholders provide their e-mail address please. The expense associated with the newsletter is certainly controllable and via e-mail the cost will drop dramatically and the delivery will be fast to any location you are at during the year. The Board of course will not share or sell the e-mail addresses that we will have in our control.

The annual meeting packet will continue to be provided by U.S. Mail as it has always been presented to the shareholders.

Please use the e-mail address below to send your electronic contact info. If you have multiple shareholders who would like to receive the newsletter please provide their addresses also.

Thanks for helping us control expense and provide better service.

drcicampers@gmail.com

Lot price update: The Board over the winter took bids to provide Real Estate appraisal services. We selected Swanson, Mercier & Associates, Inc. to appraise the lots that we own, of which there are seven. The appraisal company submitted their findings and the Board approved changes to the pricing that had been in place. The seven lots include the original remaining four from the Corporation inception days, the two lots that were purchased on the west side of the Little Dead, (which now makes them part of the Corporation) and the original west end launch ramp lot. These are all lots that can be sold and it is totally appropriate to have them presented at the most accurate market pricing. For your review and also help selling them we are listing the seven lots as follows, with their acreage, frontage, and price.

	Location	# of Front Feet /Acre	List Price
Parcel 1	Clark Creek Ishpeming Twp	300 Front Feet / 1.07 Acre	\$89,900
Parcel 2	Stickney Road Champion Twp	200 Front Feet /3.18 Acre	\$89,900
Parcel 3	Barnhardt Drive Ishpeming Twp	450 Front Feet / 3.6 Acres	\$198,000
Parcel 4	#9 Road, CR GGG Ishpeming Twp	905 Front Feet / 12.19 Acres	\$225,000
Parcels 5 & 6	North Camp Road Ishpeming Twp	218 Front Feet / 1.9 Acres	\$44,000
Parcel 7	South Camp Road Ishpeming Twp	704 Front Feet / 2.8 Acres	\$169,000

Spring pick up in the neighborhood: Welcome to accelerated spring! With the ice gone, and blue skies, it seems like summer even if it is 27 degrees at night. May we suggest that before the grass turns green and the ferns come up, it would be a wonderful time to do some spring cleaning along our roads. The attached picture is only one of the many surprises that seem to arrive with the melting snow. If you have barrels, culverts, bottles and cans please consider a neighborhood effort to make things look better for all. If you have large metal debris along our roads that you cannot find a home for, please ask for help from the Board, maybe we can make some suggestions. It will look better for all of us.



Fire prevention is everyone's business: The very dry conditions are clearly reminding all of us as campers to be most cautious with any type of open flame, or spark creating device. There has been relatively little moisture this spring and the very dry conditions continue. The normal fallen leaves and pine needle burning of yard waste needs to wait until such time as the forest greens up and we get some significant rain. There is a procedure for acquiring a burning permit from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources during these dry conditions and intermittent Red Flag warnings lately. Please keep a watchful eye out for any kind of smoke in the wind and if necessary call 911 as soon as possible if a fire is detected. Thank you for keeping the Dead River Basin free of Forest Fires.

The lots for sale can be viewed by visiting DRCI's website and follow the menu to the link to Century 21 Prime Realty

www.deadrivercampersinc.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Jim Grundstrom

Hoist Basin Water Elevation Change in Procedure: At the request of the Board I wrote to all the agencies when UPPCO most recently talked to all of the participants via e-mail concerning the 1342.8 water level. The actual e-mail that was sent is included for your reading. It speaks to the need for a greater starting elevation in April and May which would match the 1341 elevation in June, July and August. Given the extreme drought conditions that are present, it was the perfect time once again to make our opinions known to all the players that have an influence on our water elevation situation.

I am not sure what made the difference this time, but we received support from MDEQ and MDNR to hold the start of month for May at 1341. UPPCO and all the agencies concur that this year's moisture levels are extremely low and given that a change was made for this year as an experiment.

Silver Lake is currently discharging at 25 CFS and its elevation is about 1480.5 at the end of April. It still needs to get to 1485 so the 3 year study can commence.

Your Board works on the subject of water elevation 12 months of the year with conversations to all the agencies and UPPCO. This is the very first time that our pleadings found receptive ears.

Jim

E-mail Response to agencies related to Dead River / Hoist Basin E-mail From Robert Meyers of UPPCO dated 3/30/2012

From: Dead River Campers, Inc. - Jim Grundstrom

To: UPPCO, MDEQ, MDNR, USFWS, Inetgrys

Dated: 3/30/2012

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input concerning the elevation of the Hoist Basin as of 3/30/2012, and the most unusual moisture conditions that we currently find in the area. We concur with Bob and his assessment that the ice is completely gone, which of course eliminates any potential shoreline ice damage. We also concur that there is no snow remaining to melt, the ground is drying quickly, and small streams feeding the Basin are dramatically relaxing in volumes of water flowing. We also concur that 1342.8 is high and has potential shoreline erosion. Although there is also potential

shoreline erosion when the elevation is lower than wished for, and more importantly low elevations make recreation almost impossible in the western 1/3 of the Basin and locations on the eastern end.

It is also once again important to remind any participants viewing this document that in the past Dead River Campers, Inc. and its member campers voted for a target elevation of 1342, and this information had been conveyed to the "agencies" in the past and once again as a reminder. It is also important to know that Dead River Campers, Inc. is also aware that the "agencies" have determined that the start of month target elevations should be set in April at 1337.5 and in May at 1340, and in the summer recreation months of June, July and August that number is increased to 1341.

We believe that without starting high and generating down to the target elevations there is no documented evidence that it is possible to manage the target elevation in the past since the failure of the fuse plug at Silver Lake. Very pointedly you cannot make water fall from the sky and Silver Lake has not been able to provide any sustainable volume of water to make the target elevations happen.

We also believe that the target elevations of 1337.5 and 1340 in the months of April and May respectively are actually counterproductive to maintaining the 1341 elevations in June, July and August as the need to generate power combined with evaporation makes the elevation drop almost no matter what UPPCO attempts to do. Guaranteed consistent rain during the summer is something that cannot be counted on.

We believe that this year in particular is the perfect time to suggest that in the months of April and May the start of month target elevation be increased to 1341, which would match June, July and August and allow the Hoist Basin Reservoir to start higher than in the past and help create a sustainable elevation during the summer months.

We all probably agree that no matter how you calculate the relationship of "water in as compared to water out", and if you view the measuring stations till you are literally blue in the face, and do the math, the Hoist Basin elevation needs to be higher in April and May if we are ever to find a mutually agreeable

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Jim Grundstrom (cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

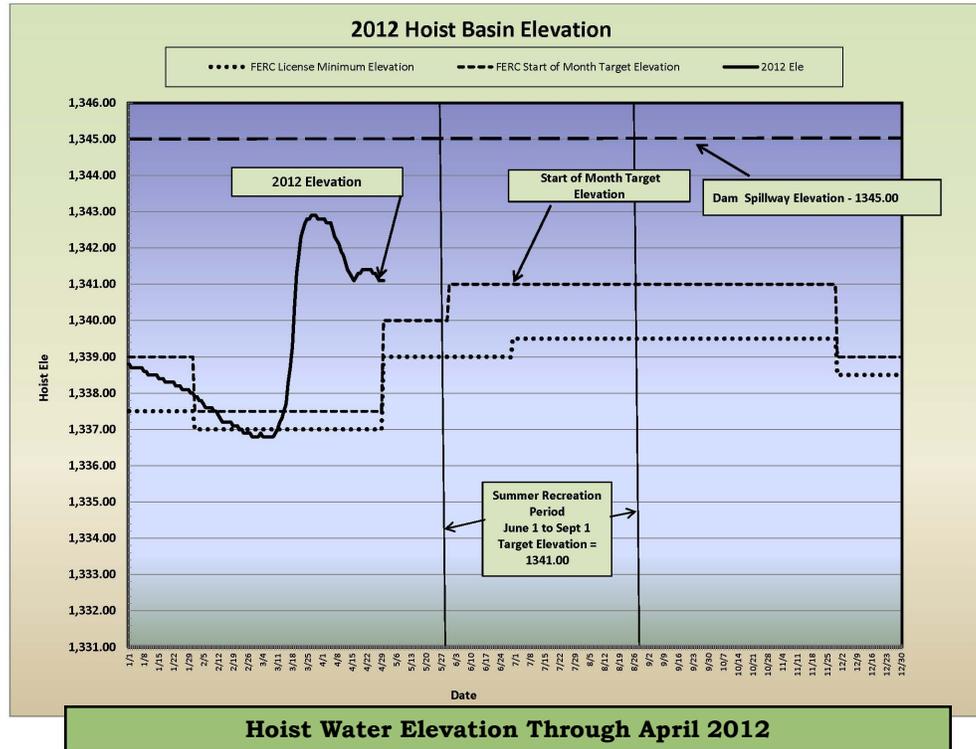
level of water during June, July and August. So, Dead River Campers, Inc. wants to respectfully encourage and support generating down to 1341 without the use of the low volume discharge. We also would strongly encourage the process of changing for this year as an experiment the start of month target elevation in April and May be increased to 1341. We all seem to concur that the amazing drought conditions experienced this past winter, seem to be continuing this spring, and for the next possible 30 to 60 days it does not seem to be changing. The potential for the driest summer on record recently could easily take place.

We would like to have more water longer in the Basin. To do so, we all need to work together to make this happen. Slowly generating down to an increased target elevation has not been tried since the Silver Lake failure. We know that the past practice of using the hope system in April and May to increase the elevation from 1340 to 1341 in June, July and August is at best most difficult to acquire and hold 1341.

Please consider our suggestion as an experiment that just might work.

Now, if Silver Lake water is able to support the Hoist Basin elevation in any substantial format during the months of June, July and August for the first time since the failure of Silver Lake that of course has not been tried either, and might be the solution, as history would show.

Bottom line, more water in the spring, being displayed as a higher starting elevation in the appropriate months, (1341 start of month for April through August) would be our suggestion for the management of the Hoist Basin this summer.



Thank you again for listening to the Dead River Campers, Inc. suggestions and thoughts. — Jim Grundstrom, President

Response from MDEQ to Robert Meyers of UPPCO received as follow up to the above e-mail:

Robert – as you are aware, under normal operating conditions prescribed in the 401 cert/license, UPPCO would draw the Silver Lake Basin down over the summer to maintain Hoist Basin water levels. Since Silver Lake still isn't full, this is unlikely to happen this summer. We, therefore, concur with UPPCO and Dead River Campers that it would be prudent to draw Hoist Basin down to the summer operating level of 1341 rather than 1340. This will likely reduce the duration of license noncompliance during the later summer and fall months of 2012. The DNR and DEQ concur with this plan of operation.

William H. Taft, Aquatic Biologist
 Surface Water Assessment Section
 Water Resources Division
 Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
 517-335-4205



A VISITOR ONE MORNING AT PETE AND SHARON DISHNOW'S DOOR ON MARRA DR. IN THE FINGERS AREA

50 Years ago ... or so: The Big Dead Bridge on CR AAO (Red Road), in Champion Township

BIG DEAD BRIDGE, SEPTEMBER 1925



COMMITTEE REPORTS

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE: by Dave Laitinen

Hi to all from your fish and wildlife committee. Since the last newsletter, not a lot has happened. We have been working with the DNR on our fish sampling survey that was scheduled for May. Due to the mild winter, early spring and expected early spawning season, the survey will probably be completed by the time you get this newsletter. The survey will be an electro-shocking process that is done from about 9:00P.M. to 4:00A.M. The total number of nights that the survey will be done is still in question. We are pleased that the DNR has allowed a few of our members to accompany them on the boat and be able to observe first-hand what surfaces. We should be able to have a complete report for the annual meeting. There also is a good possibility a follow up survey to evaluate the minnow population will be conducted in June. We are looking forward to both

of these surveys and continuing to work with the DNR to improve our fishery and fish habitat. Thanks to Earl Hawn for volunteering to coordinate these efforts and thanks to all who volunteered to accompany the boats if needed. We have a list of members that offer to help with projects and wish we had slots for all to participate, but there is not enough room available. We'll have upcoming projects so make sure you let us know if you're willing to help. Thanks again to all our members for your ongoing support and hope the upcoming fishing year is a safe and successful season. Let us know your observations - Thanks.

Committee Members: Dave Laitinen, Chairman, Gordy Chinn, Brendan Biolo, Earl Hawn, Buffy Ervin, Tom Polkinghorne, Bruce Turino, Dennis Sippola.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY AUGUST 11, 2012

RETURNING A TRADITION FROM OUR RICH HERITAGE!

A FISHING DERBY ON THE BASIN

FOR OUR YOUTH!

Children, Grand Children and Great Grand Children of our shareholders up to sixteen years of age are invited to participate in this special event. Prizes for all participants and a picnic lunch will be provided following the tournament.

Additional information to follow

HOSTED BY OUR FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

FORESTRY COMMITTEE: by Bruce Bussone and Dave Jarvi

Although the Forestry committee did not have any meetings during the first quarter, we were busy with several projects. There was a forty acre parcel that came up for sale along the Braastad Rd. area. We researched the property and gave the Board a do not buy recommendation. We felt this property was not in the best interests of the corporation as it has already been cut, and there were also other issues that would involve significant cleanup efforts.

There were 3 areas that were cut during the 4th quarter and the beginning of the year that have been completed. We had an income of \$5,674 from the 3 Mile Rd. area, estimated income of \$15,555 from Rd. 10 area and \$24,400 from the Tonkin Dr. area. We will have more income from the sale of veneer logs

yet to come. Final clean up will begin shortly in those areas.

We are still working on the new forest plan with Holli Forest Products. This is taking longer than anticipated, but the new plan will be more comprehensive and allow us to do our job more efficiently. Y o u r Forest committee wishes all a great spring and summer!

Committee Members: Dave Jarvi, Chairman, Dave Carriere, Don Duhamel, Gerry LeSage, Greg Johnson, Bruce Bussone, Pete Dishnow.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: by Joe Ervin

The DRCI Finance Committee met in March with our financial advisors from Wells Fargo. We reviewed the changes to several of our investments that had been authorized at the end of last year. All changes were executed in accordance with our previous directions. We also reviewed the year-to-date, as well as, last quarter's investment results through the end of February 2012. There are not any investment portfolio changes recommended at this point. The portfolio is performing in close alignment with comparable benchmarks for this level of risk tolerance – Balanced with an Income Bias.

The Committee also discussed the upcoming DRCI Annual Meeting and reviewed different approaches to provide our shareholders with pertinent and timely information pertaining to our overall financial position. While we did not finalize the specific content and approach to our update at the annual meeting, we do believe a brief update from our partners at Wells Fargo would be included.

The Committee also revisited our primary objectives, as we have done annually and confirmed both the objectives and priority of those objectives.

1. Avoid future assessments to shareholders for the ongoing operations of DRCI.

2. Generate funds to support continued operations of DRCI.

3. Preserve and develop the financial assets of the Corporation.

4. Minimize tax liabilities to DRCI.

5. Generate sufficient financial reserves to invest in improvements to water quality & navigability, camp road quality, maintainability and fire/safety vehicle accessibility and other improvements beneficial to all shareholders.

Following an overall financial assets review, the Committee ended the meeting with an agreement that our first four objectives are being met and are projected to be met for the foreseeable future. It was further agreed that the Finance Committee chair would draft a communication to the DRCI Board indicating that the DRCI Finance Committee believes we have sufficient funds to make some focused investments in the "water quality and access road improvements" over the next two years. (Thus starting to address our objective # 5).

This communication was developed and forwarded to the DRCI Board in early April.

Committee Members: Joe Ervin, Bill Stream, Denise Albrecht, Steve Gutierrez, Jim Grundstrom, Darryll Sundberg

REMINDERS

Water Surface Elevation. If you are interested in the water surface elevation, log onto <http://www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/news/hydro/hydrodata.asp> or get to this same website via the DRCI website link for current information. We thank UPPCO for making this information available to us.

Tree Removal Issues. If you have trees to remove please fill out a cutting permit and send it in to DRCI or contact Bruce Bussone at 485-5901 or 362-2325. In an effort to maintain some control on time limits, the Board has put a limit of 1 year from date of issue for tree cutting permits. Each shareholder is responsible for any trees cut by contractors you have hired. You are reminded that tree cutting on common /CFR lands is prohibited.

Road Improvements. Shareholders are reminded to get permits from the Board for road improvements. This would include any changes to current roads as well as tree removals to widen access. Each shareholder is responsible for roadwork done by any contractor you have hired. Be mindful that changes to a road easement, or adding a new road easement within a plat must be done in compliance with the Michigan Land Division Act provisions for plat changes and DRCI Rules. See the web page for more information. This also applies to utility easements within a plat.

Bridges. DRCI committed to maintain two bridges in our original documents; they are located on North Basin Drive and Three Mile Road. Please report any bridge damage you observe to the Board immediately.

Stock Certificates. You are reminded to update your stock certificate ownership and addresses when something changes that would change those certificates. This would include a death, divorce, move, etc. Your ballot must be signed by all owners for it to be valid. There is no charge to change the certificate and it can be done easily by sending the certificate to DRCI with supporting documents for the change. Please let new shareholders know that they should submit a copy of their recorded deed and obtain a stock certificate upon purchase of their camp. Additionally, the corporate bylaws, declarations, rules and regulations can be found at our [web page](http://www.deadrivercampersinc.com) at www.deadrivercampersinc.com

Utility Easements: Please keep all utility easements such as overhead power line areas clear of boats, trailers and other items so that UPPCO has clear access to the easement areas at all times. This is especially important during the winter months when they may have to get in an easement area to repair power lines or transformers.

Zoning Violations. Shareholders should report perceived zoning violations to their respective townships. These violations would include multiple camps on single lots and excessive blight or junk. The townships can be contacted at, Ishpeming Township-485-5411, Negaunee Township-475-7869 and Champion Township-339-2920.

Renting of Shareholder Single Family Residences. DRCI Declaration Section 4.1 reads "Lots shall be used solely for the construction of one single-family residence and structures and outbuildings incidental to the use of it (including, without limitations, barns, stables

and garages for private, and not public or commercial, use) and shall be limited in use to single-family residential purposes and incidental uses." This declaration prohibits the rental of any shareholder single family residences on the Basin.

Use of Shoreline. As most shoreline is privately owned, when someone is in the need of bathroom facilities while out on the water please respect that you may be using one of our shareholders beachfronts to do so.

Submerged Hazards. When water levels are low please take extra caution to avoid submerged hazards while boating. We should all try to mark hazards as they are found, but safety is still up to the operator.

Reward The Board continues to offer a \$1,000 reward for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of any illegal activity on camper's property.

Maps: Maps of the Basin ownership by DRCI and each lot by shareholder are now available. Each map includes Champion, Ishpeming and Negaunee Townships on a page and an index of shareholders by plat and lot number or by parcel number for non-platted lots. Maps are 24 x 36 inches printed on quality paper in color. Order forms are available on the DRCI web page under Documents. Cost is \$35.