

Water & Woods

Lakes, Dam & Parks Newsletter

August 2026

Lake Level and Environmental Update: Navigating Current Challenges Together

The water level at Lake Limerick is currently lower than normal for this time of year, impacting several members' ability to use their boat lifts. While multiple factors contribute, our best judgment indicates this is principally due to the recent warm, dry weather. We continue to analyze lake height data to fully understand the root causes. Crucially, we must also maintain a minimum flow rate of water down the fish ladder to support vital fish migrations – a top priority emphasized by the Squaxin Tribe that we fully support.

While the situation requires close attention, proactive steps are underway. Brian Smith (Board of Directors) and Dennis Muretta (Lake, Dam & Parks Committee Head) are working closely with staff Jason Howerton and Jon Monroe, and the Squaxin Island Tribe fish biologist Erica Marbet to explore all available solutions.

Balances and Proactive Steps

Managing our lake levels is a delicate balance. Despite limitations, our team has taken the following actions to boost water levels:

- **Infrastructure Fixes:** Jason reduced water leakage through the Limerick weir boards and completed the Lake Leprechaun dam valve replacement project, allowing the removal of extra weir boards installed in support of the repair.
- **Tribal Collaboration:** Following a technical onsite meeting July 24th, we were given permission to install a weir board within the fish ladder from Andy Sorter, P.E. District Engineer with Mason Conservation District, who collaborates with the Squaxin Island Tribe.
- **Conservation:** Jason has reduced golf course irrigation to the absolute minimum required to maintain course conditions.

Upcoming Maintenance & How You Can Help

- **Algae & Weed Treatments:** Our annual treatments for Lake Limerick and Lake Leprechaun begin this week to directly mitigate growing algae concerns.
- **Stop Grass Clippings:** We have received complaints of residents dumping grass clippings into the lake. These decompose and add unwanted nutrients that accelerate algae growth.
- **Shoreline Care:** Members must help minimize nutrient input by properly managing septic systems and restricting fertilizer applications within 25 feet of the shoreline.

Looking Ahead

In the short term, we will continue day-by-day monitoring. Boaters may need to temporarily dock their watercraft off their boat lifts for a period. It is becoming obvious that drought will continue to be a factor in our future. We are fully committed to refining how we manage our lakes, and through community partnership, we will successfully navigate these environmental shifts.

LPD Committee serving our community