

Trego Lake District – Timeline (on issues with sedimentation and aquatic plants)

This time line is created primarily from documents located on the Trego Lake website:

<https://tregolakedistrict.com>

- 1927 – Trego Lake is created by placing a hydroelectric dam on the Namekagon River. The dam was constructed by the Wisconsin Hydro Electric Company to provide electricity.
- March 9, 1987 – Trego Lake Association formed to address sedimentation and weed growth in Trego Lake.
- Summer 1987 – First controlled harvest of weeds from Trego Lake. (manual harvest?)
- September/October 1987 – Senator Bob Jauch forwarded a sedimentation study to University of Wisconsin for a “Pilot Program for the purpose of studying sedimentation which effects all flowages in Wisconsin.”
- October 19, 1987 – Drawdown of Trego Lake and aerial photos taken to study the sedimentation problem. Department of Transportation and Engineer Rod Ripley developed report due early 1988.
- May 1989 – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) completes latest study and recommends a drawdown and dredging. Need for funding such project is determined.
- October 1, 1989 – Trego Lake Association transfers all of its records and funds to the Trego Lake District.
- May 24, 1991 – TLD Annual Meeting – Noted that Northern States Power (NSP) and WDNR grant applications to pay for dredge work not “honored.” NSP stated they would try to solve the sedimentation problem but no date or process identified.
- May 24, 1991 – TLD Annual Meeting – notes regarding ongoing weed harvesting using Aquatic Nuisance Control of Amery, Wisconsin. Harvesting paid for by individual property owners(?).
- March 1992 – Mention of aquatic invasive species (AIS) curly leaf pondweed being a nuisance and a need for a program for weed control.
- July 26, 1993 – Notice of Trego Lake dam relicensing
- December 16, 1993 – Spooner Advocate article on Trego Lake sedimentation issue:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-Ngu2Np4msNg76oTav01NxX_MSGwlrU/view

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- February 3, 1994 – Spooner Advocate article regarding stadium proposal at “Trego Junction”
- May 28, 1994 – TLD Annual Meeting – ongoing work/communication with local, state, and federal elected officials on funding for dredging
- November 1994 – Trego Flowage Macrophyte Survey and Management Plan; prepared for NSP/Wisconsin as directed by Article 405 of its FERC Operating License for the Trego Hydro Project (FERC No. 2711)
 - Macrophyte Management Plan: <https://tregolakedistrict.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/1994-Trego-Flowage-Lake-Plan.pdf>
- January 5, 1995 – Trego Lake Sedimentation Meeting with various officials from local, state and federal offices. Many options considered - summary: https://drive.google.com/file/d/120rtizeNCBzhTCffb_fj3ZXGuqOXzp6s/view
- May 27, 1995 – TLD Annual Meeting – vote on dissolution of TLD failed. Discussion on development of a five-year plan. Continuation of weed harvesting plus TLD will consider grants to pay for harvesting.
- May 25, 1996 – TLD Annual Meeting – Weed Harvesting Committee researching grants to pay for harvesting activities.
- May 25, 1996 – TLD Annual Meeting – Statement that dam has been relicensed for 33 years and that one of the provisions of the license is that NSP file a detailed vegetation management plan to enhance public access within the upper reservoir. Plan should be prepared with input from local, state and federal entities.
- January 18, 1997 – NSP and TLD agree on weed harvesting activities. They have been submitted to FERC for approval. They include:
 - NSP agrees to:
 - Pay for cost of harvesting twice a year
 - Pay for cost of navigational buoys for marking channels
 - Pay for most of the financial responsibility of the project
 - TLD agrees to:
 - Contacting and working with harvesting company
 - Making sure the channels are marked properly
 - Overseeing the harvesting
- May and July 1998 – Weed Harvesting done under new agreement. NSP, in the future, is unwilling to finance a second cutting/harvest.

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- July 1999 – Weed harvesting done in July (single harvest?) - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- July 2000 – Weed harvest completed. - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- June 2001 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- July 2002 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- Summer 2002 – TLD Sedimentation Committee created
- January 2003 – WDNR states they would not support a draw-down of Trego Lake to research/address sedimentation issues
- June/July 2003 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- January 24, 2004 – TLD submits conceptual drawings and discussion of proposed channel and wetland improvements to address sedimentation to US Army Corps of Engineers (at the Corps request). Channels are described as approximately 25 feet wide and 4 feet deep.
- May 29, 2004 – Sedimentation Committee proposes to form wetlands by moving some of the sedimentation from the boat channels to other areas in the lake. DNR responded that movement of sedimentation in the lake is not permitted.
- July 2004 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- June 2005 – weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- July 2005 – Army Corps identifies design concepts for sedimentation removal. TLD starts to develop plan to meet concepts identified.
- October 2005 – Application for WDNR dredging permit (\$500) paid for voluntarily by impacted property owners.
- June 2006 – Sedimentation Committee proposes the following recommendations:
 - Establish and maintain channels in the upper end of the lake and address the symptoms of sedimentation. Need to obtain permit to do.
 - Cost of the permit and maintaining channels would be paid by property owners who use the channel
 - Remove sedimentation east of Highway 53 bridge. This would address the sedimentation coming into Trego Lake. Approximately 2000 cubic yards of sand

flow down the river into the lake each year (Army Corps of Engineers' 1988 study).

- Cost for regular removal of sedimentation before it enters the lake would be paid for by property tax on all property owner in the district.
- June 2006 – At TLD Annual Meeting, motion to obtain WDNR permits for dredging proposal passes 49 votes yes to 18 votes no.
- July 2006 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- June 16, 2007 – At TLD Annual meeting, motion for dissolution of district fails.
- June 16, 2007 – Permit paperwork in process for dredging work on Trego Lake
- June 29, 2007 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- January 2008 – WDNR dredging permits received
- June/July 2008 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- October 2008 – dredging spoils sites area prepared; possible dredging summer of 2009
- January 2009 – TLD Sedimentation Checking account created to hold funds donated to TLD for dredging purposes
- July 2009 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- Summer 2009 – Dredging company was trying out a new dredge and offered to use Trego Lake as a test site for no or minimal cost. Demand for new dredge was great so dredging did not take place because equipment was not available.
- July 2010 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- Summer 2010 – Waiting for dredge equipment availability
- October 2010 – TLD AIS Committee created to assess aquatic plants in lake and develop an AIS rapid response plan.
- June 2011 – Sedimentation Committee research and addressing insurance questions on use of dredging equipment.
- July 2011 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost

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- July 2011 – Point survey completed of aquatic plants in Trego Lake.
- July 22, 2011 – Special Board Meeting: Resolution - Further consideration of Sedimentation Committee proposal for dredging; to be funded entirely with private funds. Resolution passed. Meeting minutes:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dIPj4AxDI8HyICZFWj62Tb3nITEw1Ara/view>
- June 2012 – Plant survey summary presented to TLD. See for details:
<https://tregolakedistrict.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2011-TREGO-LAKE-AQUATIC-PLANT-SURVEY-SUMMARY.pdf>
- June 2012 – Reauthorization of dredging project with donated funds. Waiting on dredge company to have availability of dredge for Trego Lake.
- July 2012 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- Notes for 2013 not available
- January 2014 – Sedimentation permits with WDNR are requested to be extended. Also, the committee discusses the purchase of a dredge.
- July 2014 – Weed harvesting not completed because of minimal weeds to harvest
- July 2014 – Sedimentation Committee discusses hiring a commercial dredger to carry out the dredging permits. Cost is a large factor to consider.
- Fall 2014 – Commercial dredge company out of South Dakota has been identified to do the dredge work once funding is in place.
- January 2015 – Funds are identified from the Town of Trego, Washburn County and WDNR to conduct the dredge work.
- June 2015 – TLD annual meeting approves a resolution to authorize the TLD Board to implement the dredging project. Resolution, including particulars:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12KwD3UMYqRjRJ0pfpcOazbew1Y6hS-K/view>
- July 2015 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- January 2016 – Contract for dredging – bids advertised as required and an acceptable bid was received, contract negotiated, and signed.
- July 2016 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost

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- July – September 2016 – Dredging work completed. 8.75 million gallons of water pumped. Channels 25 feet wide and 4 feet deep. Recent map shows channels dredged in 2016: <https://tregolakedistrict.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Top-View-of-Proposed-2020-Spot-Dredging-of-Previously-Dredged-Channels-in-2016.pdf>
- July 2017 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- July 2018 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- August 2018 – Sedimentation Committee is re-created to deal with additional sedimentation and channel issues. Channels dredged in 2016 are filling in with sand.
- July 2019 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- August 2019 – Eurasian or hybrid watermilfoil is identified by WDNR staff in Trego Lake. (Later determined to be hybrid watermilfoil (HWM)). Hybrid watermilfoil has been observed in Lake Hayward which feeds into the Namekagon River and Trego Lake.
- October 2019 – TLD approves applying for WDNR Rapid Response Grant and for Lake Management Plan grant. Also, the Board authorizes engaging a consultant to assist TLD in addressing AIS and Lake Management Plan issues. Handout on AIS: <https://tregolakedistrict.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/October-12-2019-Trego-Lake-District-meeting-PP-Presentation.pdf>
- February 2020 – TLD is granted WDNR permit to dredge portions of Trego Lake. Maps shows dredge location options: <https://tregolakedistrict.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Top-View-of-Proposed-2020-Spot-Dredging-of-Previously-Dredged-Channels-in-2016.pdf>
- June 2020 – TLD is awarded WDNR Rapid Response Grant.
- June 2020 – TLD adopts resolution for completing dredge project on Trego Lake. <https://tregolakedistrict.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/UPDATED-Resolution-implementing-2020-2021-budget-on-dredging.pdf>
- July 2020 – Weed harvest completed - Xcel (NSP) reimbursed TLD for cost
- August 2020 – Update on Weed Project: <https://tregolakedistrict.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Trego-Lake-Weeds-Project-Update-08-21-2020.pdf>
- Fall 2020 – TLD purchases a Piranha mini suction dredge and other equipment to allow TLD members to dredge permitted locations in Trego Lake.