



**OUR CHANNEL  
NEEDS OUR  
HELP!**

***Our channel has been an integral part of our Pentwater experience for 170 years.***

***Let's work together to assure it remains viable for another 170 years!***

### **3 WE DEPEND ON A VIABLE CHANNEL**

Larger boats that moor here for the season may not make it through the channel this year without dredging. Property values and downtown businesses are impacted by access to our lakes. Local businesses depend on our boating guests.

There is a decrease in safety at the mouth of the channel when we don't dredge, including increased grounding that requires intervention by the Sheriff and Coast Guard.

If we don't dredge, sand continues to build. More boats might not be able to navigate the channel in coming years. To maintain our channel viability, we need to routinely maintain our channel depths.

### **1 LAKE LEVELS ARE DOWN**

Lake Michigan is approaching historic low levels and as sand builds where the channel meets Lake Michigan, larger boats are unable to access our marinas and community by water. Our 2023 Master Plan states that 13% of our summer visitors access Pentwater by boat. *Source: 2023 Pentwater Master Plan Survey*

### **4 GRANTS/COST**

Unfortunately there is no federal money to support dredging of recreational harbors, so our past support from the Army Corp of Engineers is not available this year. However, funds are needed to dredge or purchase needed equipment to save our channel when USACE funds are not allocated by Congress or the Presidential budget. The goal is to establish a fund of \$150,000.

**Donations are needed now to build our dredge fund for future channel maintenance.**

### **2 THE SAND KEEPS MOVING**

We know the dunes keep moving, which complicates the health of the channel even more when lake levels are low. A Citizen's Committee is exploring ways we might do our own dredging when we cannot secure funding through grants or USACE funding. To accomplish local dredging and/or purchase equipment for an approved local solution we need funds on hand to secure contracts or equipment.

### **5 HOW YOU CAN HELP**

We lost out on securing a spot on the dredge company's schedule this summer because we didn't have funds on hand to secure a contract and other communities did, so we have to pivot. Having funds on hand to secure these contracts is critical to our successful response to this ongoing challenge.

You can make your Dredge Donation by scanning this QR code or by emailing Chris Conroy at [chconroy57@gmail.com](mailto:chconroy57@gmail.com)

