

Monthly Wisconsin Lake Org Chats

Monthly chats, tentative topics include...

- Organizational Capacity (January)
- Communicating Effectively Using Email (February)
- Annual Meetings (March)
- Budgets & Priorities (April)
- Finances (May)
- Committees (June)
- Lake District Boundaries (July)
- Membership (August)
- Insurance (September)
- Grants (October)
- Countywide Orgs (November)
- Succession Planning

Goal: Introduce important & timely topics to the lake organization community in Wisconsin in a fun and engaging way while pointing the way to additional resources.



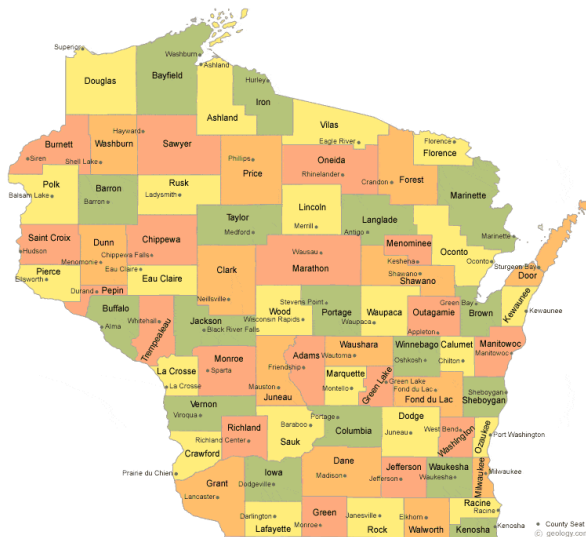
Episode 11: Countywide Lake Organizations

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Background Information

Counties with Countywide Lake/River/Watershed Organizations

1. Adams County Lake Alliance
2. Bayfield County Lakes Forum
3. Burnett Lakes and Rivers Association
4. Dodge County Lakes Association
5. Douglas County Association of Lakes and Streams
6. Forest County Association of Lakes
7. Kewaunee County Lakes Association
8. Langlade County Waterways Association
9. Lincoln County Lakes and Rivers Association
10. Manitowoc County Lakes Association
11. Marquette County Lakes Association
12. Menominee and Shawano
13. Oconto County Lakes and Waterways Association
14. Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association, Inc.
15. Polk County Association of Lakes & Rivers
16. Price County Waterways Association, Inc.
17. Sawyer County Lakes Forum
18. Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association
19. Walworth County Lakes Association
20. Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association
21. Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council

Why a Countywide?

Benefits

- Large numbers representing lakes (and rivers)
- Looking outwards - thinking holistically
- Collaboration and sharing
- Variety of perspectives and opinions
- County government *can* help out
- Influence governmental organization to take notice/pay attention to the waters within the counties and townships

Considerations

- Organizing at a large scale is difficult and more complex
- Variety of perspectives and opinions
- Getting things done with an all-volunteer board
- Maintaining contacts and lists
- Motivating local lake associations and individuals to get involved at the county level



A map of Wisconsin showing all 9 counties. Each county is labeled with its name and colored in a unique color. The colors are: Douglas (orange), Bayfield (green), Ashland (yellow), Iron (orange), Vilas (blue), Burnett (green), Washburn (yellow), Sawyer (blue), Price (green), Oneida (yellow), Florence (orange), Polk (yellow), Barron (yellow), Rusk (yellow), Forest (green), Marinette (blue), St. Croix (blue), Dunn (green), Chippewa (blue), Taylor (orange), Lincoln (blue), Langlade (orange), Menominee (green), Pierce (orange), Pepin (green), Eau Claire (blue), Clark (green), Marathon (yellow), Shawano (blue), Oconto (yellow), Trempealeau (green), Buffalo (blue), Jackson (yellow), Wood (blue), Portage (orange), Waupaca (green), Door (yellow), Brown (orange), Kewaunee (green), La Crosse (orange), Monroe (blue), Adams (green), Waushara (blue), Winnebago (blue), Calumet (blue), Manitowish (blue), Vernon (yellow), Juneau (yellow), Marquette (blue), Green Lake (yellow), Fond du Lac (yellow), Sheboygan (yellow), Crawford (blue), Richland (green), Sauk (blue), Columbia (blue), Dodge (blue), Wash. Ington (blue), Ozaukee (orange), Grant (orange), Iowa (yellow), Dane (orange), Jefferson (blue), Waushara (blue), Milwaukee (blue), Lafayette (green), Green (green), Rock (green), Walworth (blue), Racine (blue), and Kenosha (blue).

A map of Wisconsin showing its 9 counties. The counties are color-coded and labeled as follows:

- Lake Superior (red)
- St Croix (blue)
- Upper Chippewa (purple)
- Upper Wisconsin (light blue)
- Green Bay (pink)
- Lower Chippewa (magenta)
- Central Wisconsin (green)
- Wolf River (dark purple)
- Twin - Door - Kewaunee (light purple)
- Buffalo - Trempealeau (cyan)
- Black River (orange)
- Lower Fox (yellow)
- Manitowoc (light green)
- Bad Axe - La Crosse (light green)
- Upper Fox (blue)
- Sheboygan (orange)
- Lower Wisconsin (green)
- Upper Rock (light blue)
- Milwaukee (yellow)
- Grant - Platte (pink)
- Sugar - Pecatonica (orange)
- Lower Rock (light blue)
- Fox (IL) (pink)
- Southeast (light green)

Structure

- Bylaws
- Incorporate versus Informal
- Tax-exempt - 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)
- Structure relates to membership...

The logo for Vilas County, featuring the word "vilas" in green and "County" in blue, with a stylized blue wave graphic underneath.

LAKE & RIVERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 494, Eagle River
Wisconsin 54521

Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation. Support to our organization is tax-deductible.

Membership Structure - Who is a member? Who gets to vote?

Different level options:

- Regular member
- Associates/ Friends / Gifts
- Business / supporting member
- Sponsors / Levels of donations

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility:

INDIVIDUAL/ FAMILY: Every person who is interested in the purpose of this Association is eligible to become a member.

GROUP: Any Lake District, Lake Association, Conservation Club or other group interested in Washburn County lakes and rivers is eligible to become a member. Group membership is limited to not for profit organizations.

COMMERCIAL: Every commercial entity which is interested in and subscribes to the purposes of this Association is eligible to become a member.

Section 2. An eligible group or individual becomes a member upon completion of application and payment of dues.



[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [MEMBERSHIP](#) [CALENDAR](#) [NEWS](#) [DO THE RIGHT THING](#) [RESOURCES](#) [CONTACT](#)

Become A Member or Renew

Our strength grows with our membership.
Our voice grows stronger with the addition of yours.

[Membership Form](#)
Print & Mail

[Read Our Appeal Letter](#)

2025 Membership Levels

*Patron members provide a little extra to help further our mission...Thank you!

Individual \$20/yr
[Sign Up Online](#)

Individual Patron \$40/yr
[Sign Up Online](#)

Group/Organization \$30/yr
[Sign Up Online](#)

Group Patron \$50/yr
[Sign Up Online](#)

Additional Support
[Sign Up Online](#)



Extension Lakes
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Projects Often Tackled by Countywide Groups

- Engage with county and state elected officials on lakes and rivers concerns
- Partner with area nature centers to support hands-on youth education events
- Raise funds for scholarships for youth studying natural resources
- Create newsletters that cover countywide topics and local lake features
- Website and social media to share local lake content across the county
- Sponsor grants on behalf of smaller lakes or groups of smaller lakes
- Track zoning issues and advocate for lake protection
- Organize public education events for broader audiences
- Hold local award banquets to recognize lake champions
- Represent and speak for smaller lakes that do not have their own organization

Building Partnerships

- County Land+Water staff
- Local Extension Educators (from UW-Madison Division of Extension)
- Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Land trusts
- Hunting, angling, UTV/ATV clubs
- Youth Camps
- Other community organizations
- Other countywide organizations



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Coming next month...

Succession Planning



Please let us know what you think of these monthly lake org video chats. We appreciate your feedback and thank you for your time.

Monthly Lake Organization Video Chats