

Protecting Water Quality And Your Lake



St Croix County Lakes Cluster Watershed

Sharing Your Views on Water Resources and Lake Issues

Your Local Waters Need Your Help

The St Croix County Lakes Cluster watersheds cover roughly 15 square miles of St Croix County and 4 square miles of southern Polk County. In 1997 the area was designated as a Priority Watershed, meaning that residents in the area will receive special assistance for installing measures that protect our waters. Everyone in the watershed will be encouraged to take advantage of the information the watershed project will provide on how to protect surface water such as rivers, streams and lakes as well as groundwater.

To develop a watershed project that best serves you, this questionnaire is being used to gain a better understanding of the type of information and assistance you need and want.

The answers you give will be kept confidential.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

1. Which lake borders your property?

- Squaw Lake
- Perch Lake
- Bass Lake
- Pine Lake

Please tell us how you use this lake.

2. Do you:

- own property on this lake
- lease property on this lake

3. Which of the following best describes when you would be most likely to use the lake?

(Please check only one.)

- Year-round resident
- Weekends -- Year-round
- Weekends -- Summer
- Weekends -- Occasional
- Vacations / Holidays
- Summertime resident
- Other (please list) _____

If you are not a year-round resident, please answer the following questions:

3a. How far is the one-way distance from your permanent residence? miles

3b. About how many times do you visit each year? times per year

4. During the past 3 years, which of the following activities have you participated in that depended on the lake that borders your property? (Check ✓ all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> a. boating (motor/pontoon) | <input type="radio"/> g. picnicking | <input type="radio"/> m. hiking or cross-county skiing |
| <input type="radio"/> b. canoeing/rowing/kayaking | <input type="radio"/> h. fishing/ice fishing | <input type="radio"/> n. peace and solitude |
| <input type="radio"/> c. sailing/windsurfing | <input type="radio"/> i. wildlife observation | <input type="radio"/> o. scenic enjoyment |
| <input type="radio"/> d. personal watercraft (jet ski) | <input type="radio"/> j. swimming/scuba | <input type="radio"/> p. hunting |
| <input type="radio"/> e. water skiing | <input type="radio"/> k. ice skating | <input type="radio"/> q. snowmobiling |
| <input type="radio"/> f. entertaining friends | <input type="radio"/> l. other _____ | |

5. Of these activities, which three do you value the most? (enter the letters in the boxes below)

1st 2nd 3rd

6. When you use other lakes or rivers in the area, which do you use?

7. How often do you use these lakes and rivers?

8. From the letters in question 4, please pick the top 2 activities for each lake or river

lake or river name	county	once every year or two	1 to 10 times each year	more than 10 times each year	
1. _____, _____	_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	____, ____
2. _____, _____	_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	____, ____
3. _____, _____	_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	____, ____

9. How important are the following attributes in your decision to use area lakes and rivers?

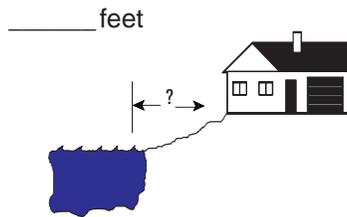
	not important	somewhat important	important	very important
distance from home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
quality of fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
quality of water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
clarity of water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
amount of aquatic weeds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
scenic quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
low number of other users	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
presence of natural lakeshore	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
personal or family tradition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please state) _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about your property on this lake

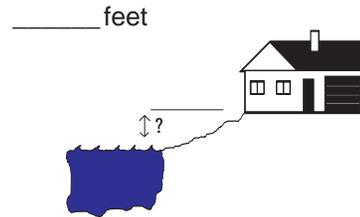
10. Estimate the size of your lake property on which a home or cottage is located (total acres of land you own or lease on this lake).

- less than 1/4 acre (approximately 50 X 100 feet)
- 1/4 to 1/2 acre (approximately 100 X 100 feet)
- 1/2 to 1 acre (approximately 200 X 200 feet)
- more than 1 acre ---> How many acres? _____

11. How far is the home from the water line?



12. How high above the average water line is your home?



13. Approximately how many feet of lake frontage (or shoreline) do you own?

_____ feet

14. Which of the following best describes the situation where your property meets the lake? (*Please check the one that best applies.*)

- Masonry/concrete retaining wall
- Lawn
- Wood retaining wall
- Rock/riprap added for stabilization
- Landscaped trees and shrubs
- Undeveloped, natural landscape

15. Which of the following describes the landscape between the shoreline up to the edge of your home? (*Check all that apply.*)

- Lawn
- Landscaped trees and shrubs
- Undeveloped, natural landscape
- Retaining wall(s) or terraces
- Rock gardens or masonry areas
- Sand/developed beach

16. How long have you lived on or visited *this property*?

_____ years

17. What structures exist on this property and approximately when were they built?
(Please check all that apply.)

- Winterized house year built _____
- Boathouse year built _____
- Private dock/pier year built _____
- Association dock/pier year built _____
- Summer cottage year built _____
- Detached garage/shed year built _____
- Other year built _____

(Please List): _____

18. Does your property have any of the following?
(Please check all that apply.)

- Landscaped vegetation barrier that runoff water must flow through before leaving the property or entering the lake.
- Undeveloped natural vegetation barrier that runoff water must flow through before it leaves the property or enters the lake.
- Grass drainage ditch to divert runoff water away from the home?
- Drainage tile.
- Storm sewer inlet on your property or along any of its borders.

19. Do you own undeveloped lakeshore property on this lake?

- no --> skip to question 20
- yes --> **would you ever consider placing your undeveloped lakeshore property in a type of conservation easement* or some other type of land trust that would protect it from development?**
 - no --> skip to question 20
 - yes
 - yes, but *only* if financial incentives are also offered

--> if so, which of the following might you use to protect your property?

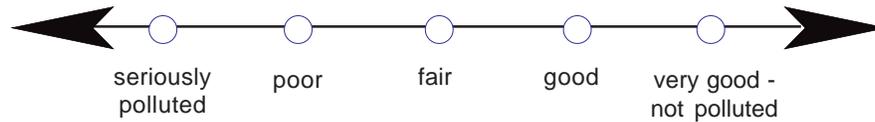
- conservation easement*
- land trust*
- other _____

* In a **Conservation Easement**, a property owner sells or contributes some of the rights to a piece of property which keeps land ownership with the property owner and limits land uses to those consistent with conservation management.

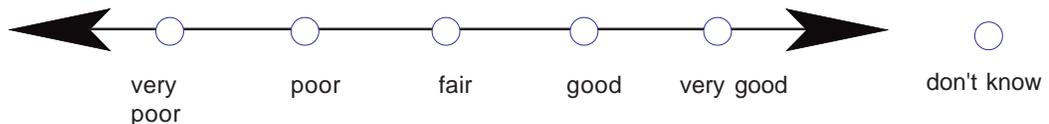
In a **Land Trust**, a property owner sells or donates the land to a "trust" for conservation management.

Please tell us your opinions about your lake.

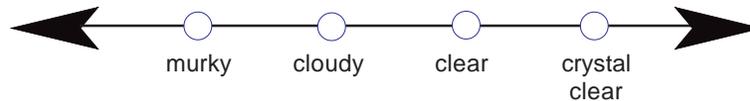
20. Which term best defines the overall water "quality" of this lake:
(Please check only one.)



21. Which best describes the fishery of this lake?
(Please check only one.)



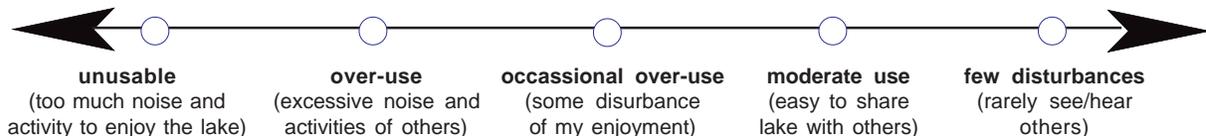
22. Which term best defines the water "clarity" of this lake in the summer months of July and August: (Please check only one.)



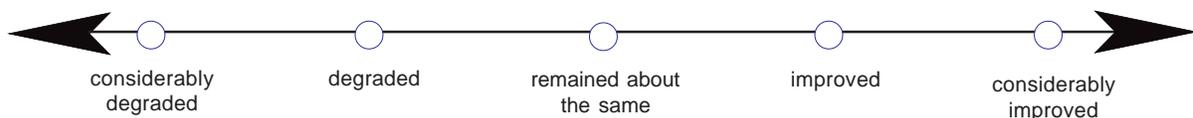
23. Do you notice a change in water clarity as the summer progresses?

- yes, water becomes more cloudy
- yes, water becomes more clear
- no, water clarity stays about the same

24. How would you rate the tranquility and peace at this lake as measured by awareness of other people? (Please check only one.)



25. How has the quality of your experience here changed since you first became familiar with this lake? (Please check only one.)



26. To what extent have you noticed the following occur on this lake?

	never	occassionally	often
Algal blooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Excessive lake weeds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sedimentation due to power boats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Large fluctuations in water levels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Erosion due to man-made wave action	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fish kills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unusual water smell or coloration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Failing septic systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27. Which, if any, of the following do you think are causing or may cause water quality problems for your lake? (Please check ✓ only one for each lettered item.)

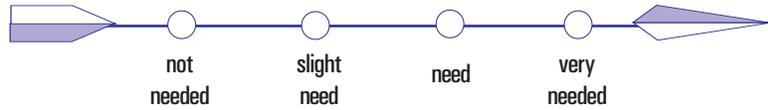
How much of a problem is this?

<i>Item</i>	<i>major cause</i>	<i>moderate cause</i>	<i>not a cause</i>	<i>don't know</i>
a. Fertilizers and pesticides from neighboring homes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Improper disposal of household chemicals, paints, automotive oils and antifreeze.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Septic systems.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Introduction of exotic species (plants and . animals which replace native species).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Erosion from construction sites with exposed soil.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Yard or grass clippings and/or leaves.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Stormwater running off streets, highways and/or parking lots.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Stormwater running off house roofs and driveways.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Accidental spills of gas/oil from boat operations into lake.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Replacing natural shoreline vegetation with homes and lawns.				

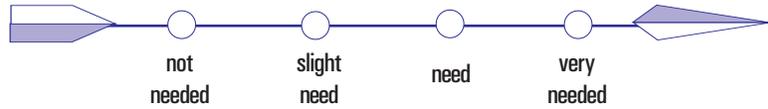
28. Of all of the items listed above, which two do you feel contribute most to water quality problems in your lake? (Place the letter of each cause in the boxes below.)

**29. To what extent are the following *ACTIONS* needed to deal with your concerns for the lake?
(Please check the one that best applies for each or leave blank if does not apply)**

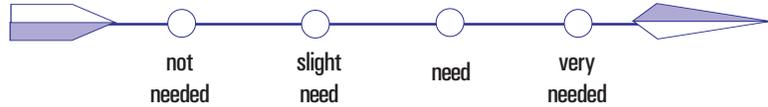
survey the people around this lake to document concerns



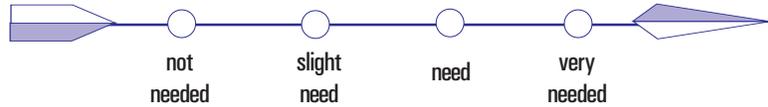
develop better boat and swimming safety programs



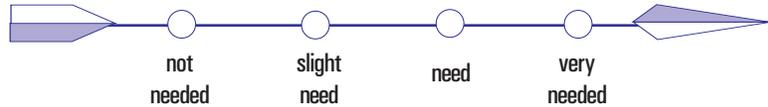
stock fish



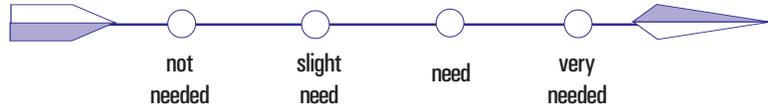
develop a weed control program



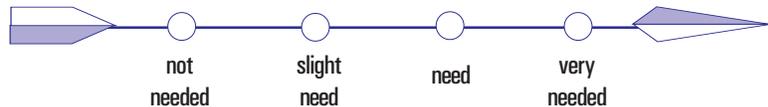
use regulation to control boat wake and motor size



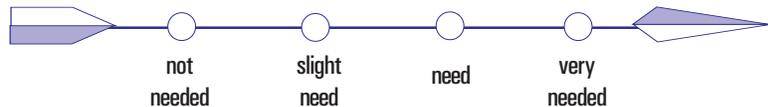
develop stronger zoning for lake development



promote education concerning the use of lawn/garden pesticides



enforce current zoning ordinances



**30. Which statement best describes the boat traffic this lake receives?
(Please indicate one choice for weekdays and one for weekends)**

weekdays (choose one)	weekends (choose one)
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Lightly Used -- rarely see another boat

Moderately Used -- not enough to bother my use

Heavily Used -- on occasion I have to modify my plans because of boat traffic

Over Used -- I have to regularly change my plans because of the boat traffic

Unusable -- there is so much boat traffic that I don't use the lake very much

**31. Which statement best describes your experiences with other boaters while on the water?
(Please indicate one for weekdays and one for weekends)**

weekdays (choose one)	weekends (choose one)
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- no problem** -- boaters have been courteous and law abiding
- little problem** -- a few boaters have been discourteous and broken rules
- moderate problem** -- a significant number of boaters have been discourteous and broken rules
- significant problem** -- some boaters intimidate and harass other boaters
- excessive problem** -- I have generally quit boating because of the behavior of other boaters

32. Please indicate how aware you are of the requirements of the current St Croix County shoreland zoning ordinance. The ordinance is intended to protect the delicate nature of shorelands and applies only to new development or construction activities.

	not aware	somewhat aware	aware	very aware
a) minimum set back of 75 ft on lakes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) removal of only 30 ft of vegetation for every 100 ft of shoreline to a depth of 35 ft inland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) permit requirements for shoreline fill or grade below ordinary high water mark	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) permit requirement to fill or grade within 300 feet of shoreline in some areas draining to lake depending on slope and amount of fill or grade	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

33. Would you be in favor of changing these regulations to be even more restrictive to further protect shorelands?

- no
- yes --> using the letters in question 32, please indicate which requirements you would support making more restrictive. ___ ___ ___ ___

Please tell us about management practices on your lake property

34. For each well on your lake property (up to two), please put one check in the answer category that best describes the well. Well # 1 should be your primary well.

Well #1
Type of Well

household drinking well
 barnyard/livestock well
 combination well (house & barn)
 field well
 irrigation

Year Last Tested
(other than grade A dairy inspection test)

1998 1993
 1997 before 1993
 1996 never
 1995 don't know
 1994

How is This Well Protected at the Surface?
(Check all that apply)

sealed well cap
 well house/shed
 concrete pad/slab
 covered pit
 well in basement
 other

How was this well constructed?

drilled driven point
 dug bored
 don't know other

Approximately what year was your well constructed?

_____ year don't know

About how deep is your well?

_____ feet don't know

Well #2
Type of Well

household drinking well
 barnyard/livestock well
 combination well (house & barn)
 field well
 irrigation

Year Last Tested
(other than grade A dairy inspection test)

1998 1993
 1997 before 1993
 1996 never
 1995 don't know
 1994

How is This Well Protected at the Surface?
(Check all that apply)

sealed well cap
 well house/shed
 concrete pad/slab
 covered pit
 well in basement
 other

How was this well constructed?

drilled driven point
 dug bored
 don't know other

Approximately what year was your well constructed?

_____ year don't know

About how deep is your well?

_____ feet don't know

What Did You Test This Well #1 For?
(Check all that apply)

bacteria
 nitrate
 lead
 pesticides

What Did You Test This Well #2 For?
(Check all that apply)

bacteria
 nitrate
 lead
 pesticides

35. What type of septic system do you use at this lake residence? (Please check only one.)

- Holding tank
- Septic tank/drain field
- Privy/outhouse --> please skip to question 39

36. Which of the following categories best describes the age of this system? (Please check only one.)

- less than 5 years old
- 6 - 10 years old
- 11 - 15 years old
- 16 - 25 years old
- more than 25 years old
- don't know

37. On average, how often is this system pumped?

At least once every: years

38. Please estimate the distance and location of your sanitary system from the well you use most for household and drinking purposes. (If you do not have one of the listed items please leave that box blank.)

Holding Tank



OR

Septic Tank & Drain Field



Household/Drinking Well



estimate
distance

Holding Tank



The shortest distance between the household/drinking well and the holding tank:

- within 10 feet
- 10 - 50 feet
- 51 - 100 feet
- beyond 100 feet

This household/drinking well is:

- uphill from the holding tank
- downhill from the holding tank
- level with the holding tank

Household/Drinking Well



estimate
distance

Septic Tank Drain Field



The shortest distance between the household/drinking well and the septic tank/drain field:

- within 10 feet
- 10 - 50 feet
- 51 - 100 feet
- beyond 100 feet

This household/drinking well is:

- uphill from the septic tank/drain field
- downhill from the septic tank/drain field
- level with the septic tank/drain field

The following questions ask about your lawn

39. Do you maintain a lawn at this property?

- no -- please skip to question 46
- yes

40. On average, how often do you mow your lawn during the summer months?

- about twice a week
- about once a week
- about once every two weeks
- no pattern, just when I think it needs it

41. Do you remove clippings from the lawn?

- no ---> Do you use a mulching lawn mower?
 - no
 - yes
 - not sure

- yes ---> What do you do with those clippings?
 - burn them
 - compost - community pile
 - dispose along river bank or in water
 - compost - bin or pile on my property
 - compost - mulch on garden or plants
 - other (please specify): _____

42. Do you use fertilizers or a pesticides on your lake property lawn?

- No -->(please skip to question 46)
- Yes

43. On average, how often are fertilizers and/or pesticides applied to this lawn?

Fill in the number of times either you or someone you hired applied fertilizer and/or pesticides.

Fertilizers <i>number</i>	Pesticides <i>number</i>
____ Spring (<i>before June</i>)	____ Spring (<i>before June</i>)
____ Summer (<i>June-August</i>)	____ Summer (<i>June-August</i>)
____ Fall (<i>after August</i>)	____ Fall (<i>after August</i>)
Who applies the fertilizers?	Who applies the pesticides?
<input type="radio"/> myself or family member	<input type="radio"/> myself or family member
<input type="radio"/> I hire a lawn company	<input type="radio"/> I hire a lawn company

44. Are fertilizers and pesticides applied at the same time in a weed-and-feed mixture (one application of both fertilizer and herbicide)?

- No
- Yes
- Not sure

45. Have you or your lawn company ever used a soil test on your lawn?

- No
- Yes
- Not sure

Finally, please tell us about yourself.

46. What is your current age? _____ years

47. Do you belong to a lake association?

- No
 Yes --> Which one(s)?

48. In percent, how much authority should the following groups have in managing this lake?

Local residents	_____ %
Non-resident users	_____ %
Local lake association or district	_____ %
City or Village government	_____ %
Town government	_____ %
County government	_____ %
State government	_____ %
Federal government	_____ %

total = 100 %

49. There has been a lot of development going on around northwestern Wisconsin and St Croix County lakes. How do you feel about this development?

- Favorable
 Unfavorable
 Not certain yet/ no opinion

50. Given what you know about this lake, if you could change 3 things about this lake to increase its value to you personally, what would you change?

a.

b.

c.

***Your time and assistance in completing this questionnaire is greatly appreciated!
Please return the completed questionnaire in the stamped pre-addressed envelope provided. Please use the next page of this survey for any additional comments you would like to share.***

Thank you for your time!

Additional Comments