

# The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership: An Example of the Wisconsin Idea in Action

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# Lakes!

- \* 15,074 lakes in Wisconsin
- \* Most are small, 5 acres or less
- \* 3,000 + lakes larger than 24 acres

# Lakes!

- \* Tourism driver
- \* Real estate values (\$100 billion?)
- \* Quality of Life
- \* Ecological value















Linda Grenzer 2011

# Three Eras of Lake Organizing in Wisconsin

- \* 1898-1958      Formative Years
- \* 1958-1992      Transformations and Growth
- \* 1992-2012      Maturity and Mid-Life Changes





WARWICK PARK



THE COMMODORE



THE LADY OF THE LAKE



KATE'S PARK HOTEL



LAKE GENEVA SEMINARY



LAKE DIXIE PARK SUN CAMP



BELLEVUE



NEW YORK HOTEL



ENGLEWOOD CAMP



THE CAPITAL STEAMSHIP



CRESTED PARK HOUSE

- 1 Lake Geneva Seminary
- 2 Kate's Park Hotel
- 3 The Capital Steamship
- 4 Bellevue
- 5 New York Hotel
- 6 Englewood Camp
- 7 The Commodore
- 8 Warwick Park

- 9 Lake Geneva
- 10 Geneva Floating Mill
- 11 Lake Beau Rivage
- 12 Whiting Island
- 13 Lake
- 14 St. Julien Hotel
- 15 Hotel Bellevue
- 16 Lake Geneva Park
- 17 Lake Geneva Park
- 18 Lake Geneva Park
- 19 Lake Geneva Park
- 20 Lake Geneva Park



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF  
**LAKE GENEVA**  
 WALTHAM CROSS  
 1898  
 LOOKING SOUTHWEST



- 21 Grand Hotel
- 22 Bellevue
- 23 Whiting Island
- 24 Whiting Island
- 25 Whiting Island
- 26 Whiting Island
- 27 Whiting Island
- 28 Whiting Island
- 29 Whiting Island
- 30 Whiting Island
- 31 Whiting Island
- 32 Whiting Island

- 33 Bellevue
- 34 Whiting Island
- 35 Whiting Island
- 36 Whiting Island
- 37 Whiting Island
- 38 Whiting Island
- 39 Whiting Island
- 40 Whiting Island
- 41 Whiting Island
- 42 Whiting Island
- 43 Whiting Island
- 44 Whiting Island

1898 Lake Geneva Association Forms

# Public Trust Doctrine and WI Waters

- \* WI Constitution recognizes waters as public assets
- \* *Diana Shooting Club v. Husting* (1914) expanded public rights to include recreation
- \* *Doemel v. Jantz* (1923) Riparian landowners granted special right and privileges
- \* *City of Milwaukee v. State* (1927) Legislature must both preserve and proactively protect waters



# Paul Husting, a Profile in Leadership

- \* Elected State Senate in 1906
- \* Authored several Water Power Acts
- \* Arrested for trespassing in 1911
- \* Elected to US Senate in 1914, the first by a direct vote of citizens
- \* Killed in a hunting accident on Rush Lake in 1917



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# Post-WWII Water Challenges

- \* Dramatic growth in outdoor recreation after WWII
- \* Motorboats



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- \* Motorboats
- \* Houseboats



Carri-Craft Catamaran Houseboat  
Berlin, WI



# Transformative Years

- \* 1959 FWLPOA Inc. forms as a result of flushed waste controversy
- \* 1959 Department of Resource Development
- \* 1961 Gov. Nelson enacts ORAP, \$50 million
- \* 1957-65 UW law professor Jacob Beuscher drafts water-related bills
- \* 1965 Gov's Conference on Water Resource Management

## THE SPREADING MENACE

An Important Series That Chronicles  
Pollution of Wisconsin's Waterways

*Color Photos of Our 'Stinking Water'*



PEWAUKEE RIVER:  
OCTOBER, 1965

WI Water  
Resources Act  
passes in the  
early summer  
of 1966



# Inland Lake Demonstration Project

- \* May 1968 - March 1974
- \* \$1 million of federal funding for 12 lakes
- \* Wide range of lake rehabilitation and protection measures explored
- \* Examined lake organizations as institutions capable of caring for lakes



**Lowell Klessig**

“... local property owners were the only group with enough personal interest and proximity to manage individual lakes. However, voluntary lake associations do not have legal authority or financial ability to carry out most management schemes.”

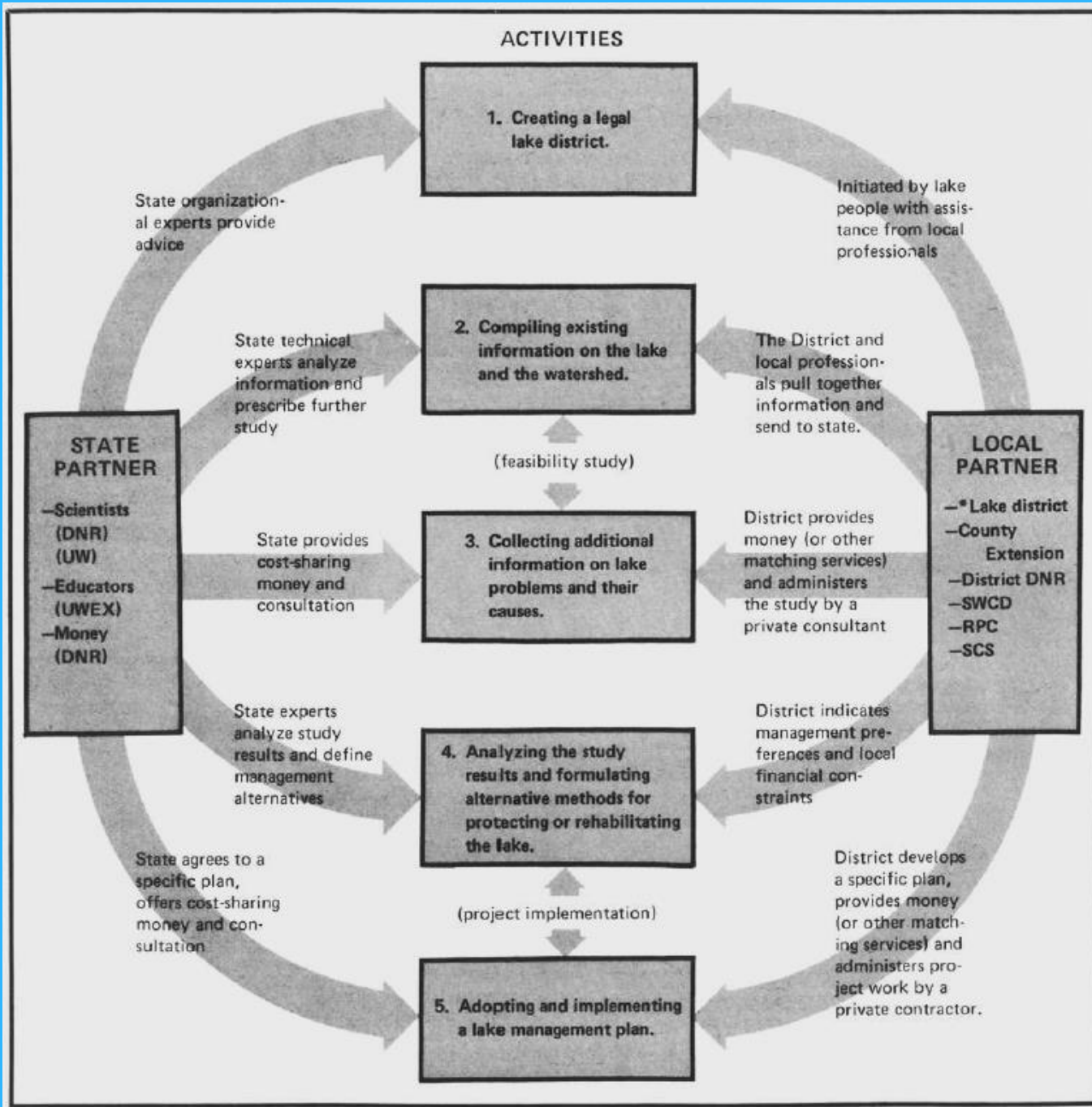
– Lowell Klessig

Chair, Environmental Resources Unit UWEX

# Chapter 33: Lake Districts

- \* Chapter 33 passed in 1974
- \* UW Extension given statutory mission of providing education services to lake communities on: lake district formation, district operation, lake ecology, and lake management
- \* State money could only cost-share with lake districts
- \* 100 districts formed by 1978
- \* Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts formed 1981





# Recession and Recovery

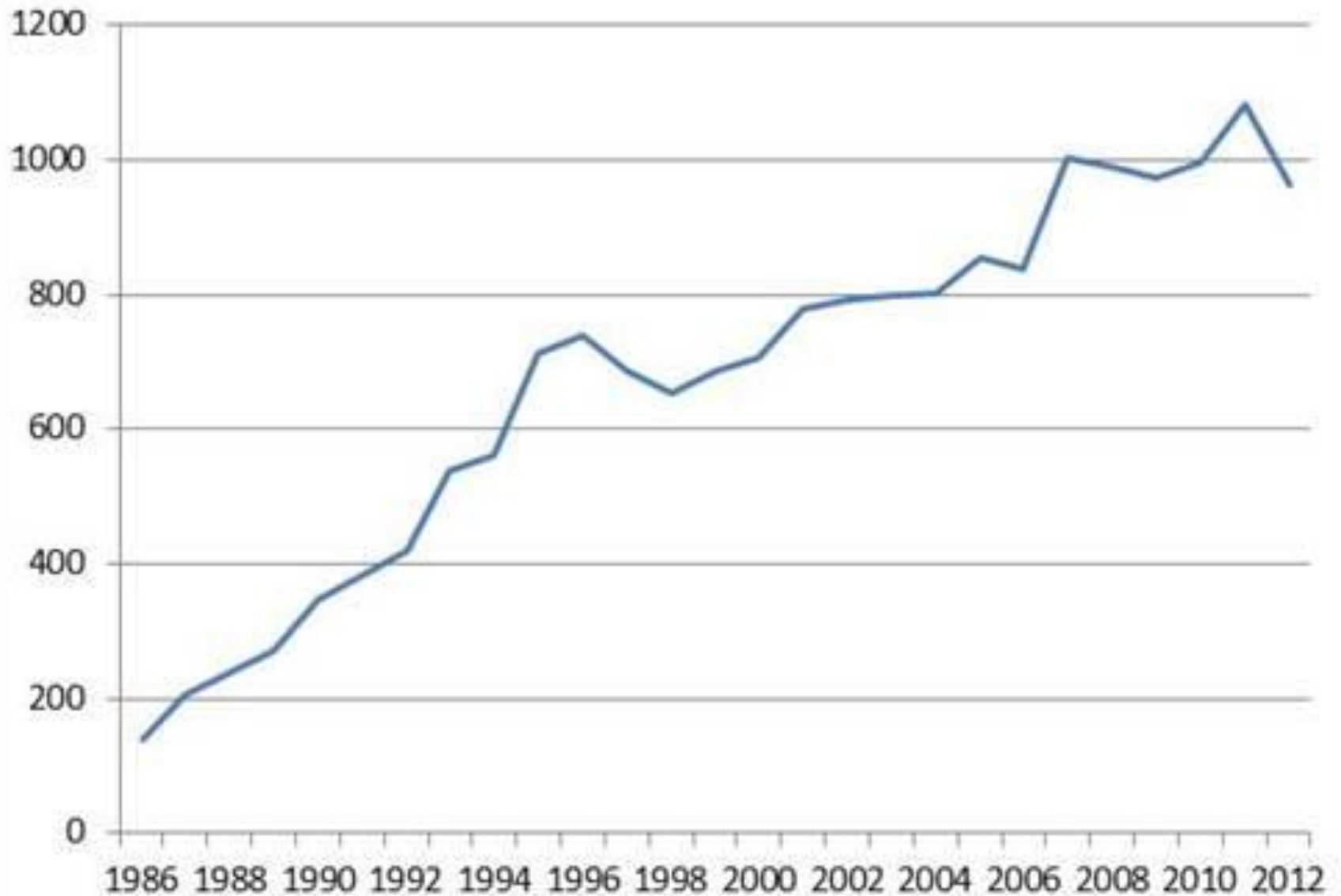
- \* 1980 Statewide referendum to allow non-resident lake district members to vote (900 K margin)
- \* 1981-82 Legislative audit and proposed elimination of lake district cost sharing
- \* 1986 Self-help Monitoring Program started
- \* 1987-88 Water Resources Account created
- \* 1989-90 Gas tax allocation formula improved & provides for UWEX Lakes staff

# 1992-2012 Maturity & Mid-Life Changes

- \* 1992 WALD and WFL merge to form WAL
- \* 1997 Lake Classification Grants added
- \* 1998 Lake Leaders Institute initiated
- \* 2001 Advisory Task Force on Invasive Species
- \* 2003 Clean Boats Clean Waters initiated
- \* 2007 VHS virus in Great Lakes and Winnebago



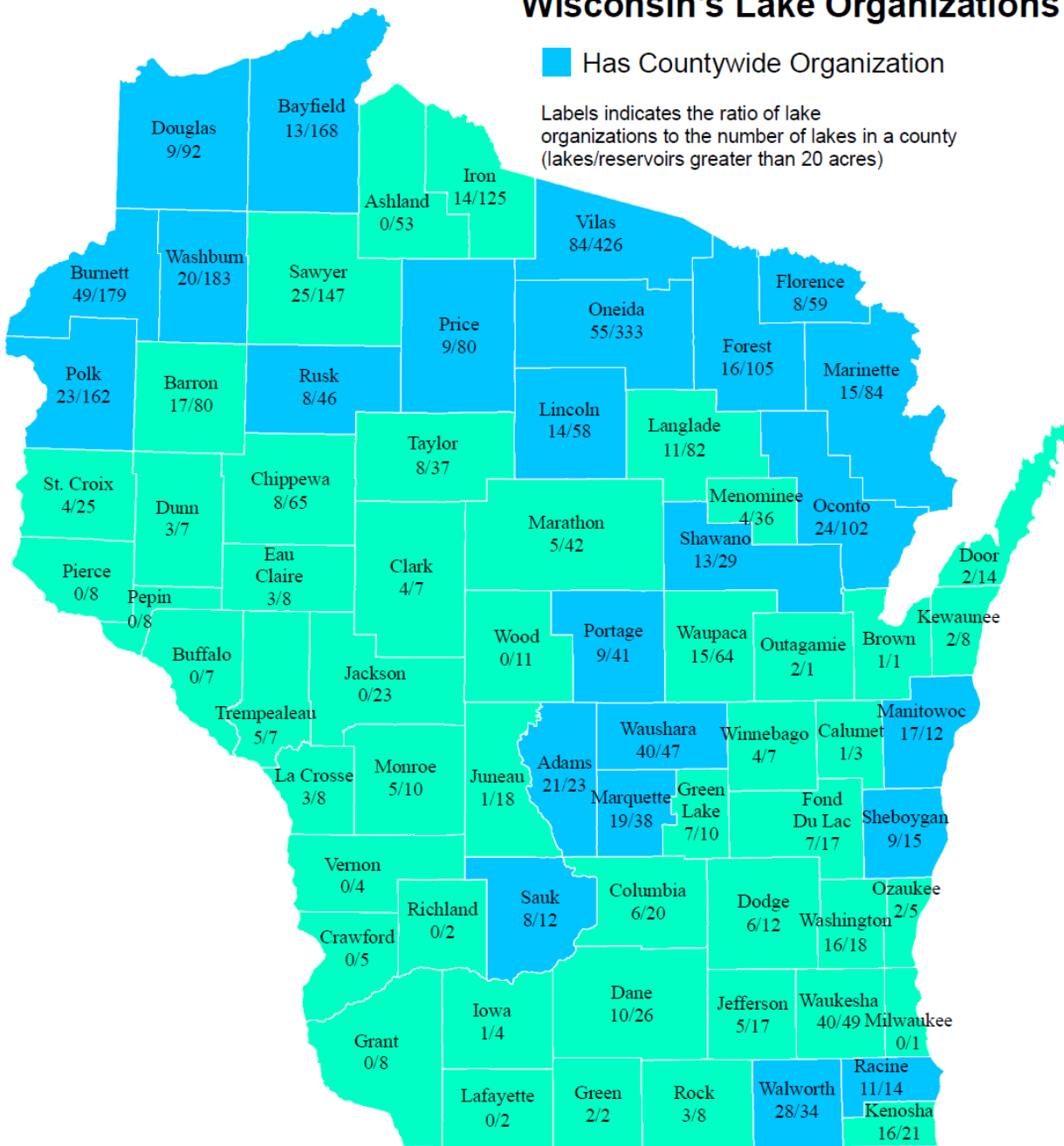
# Wisconsin CLMN Water Clarity Volunteers



# Wisconsin's Lake Organizations

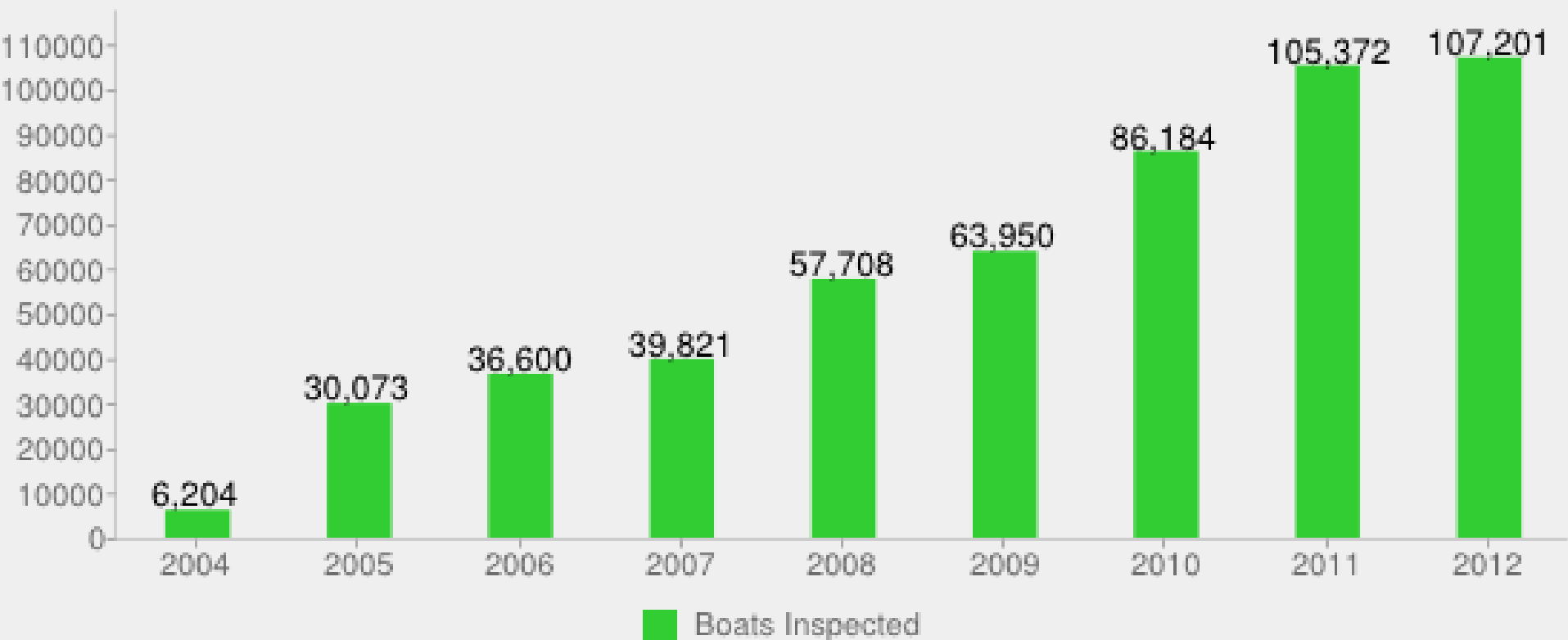
■ Has Countywide Organization

Labels indicates the ratio of lake organizations to the number of lakes in a county (lakes/reservoirs greater than 20 acres)





## Boats Inspected



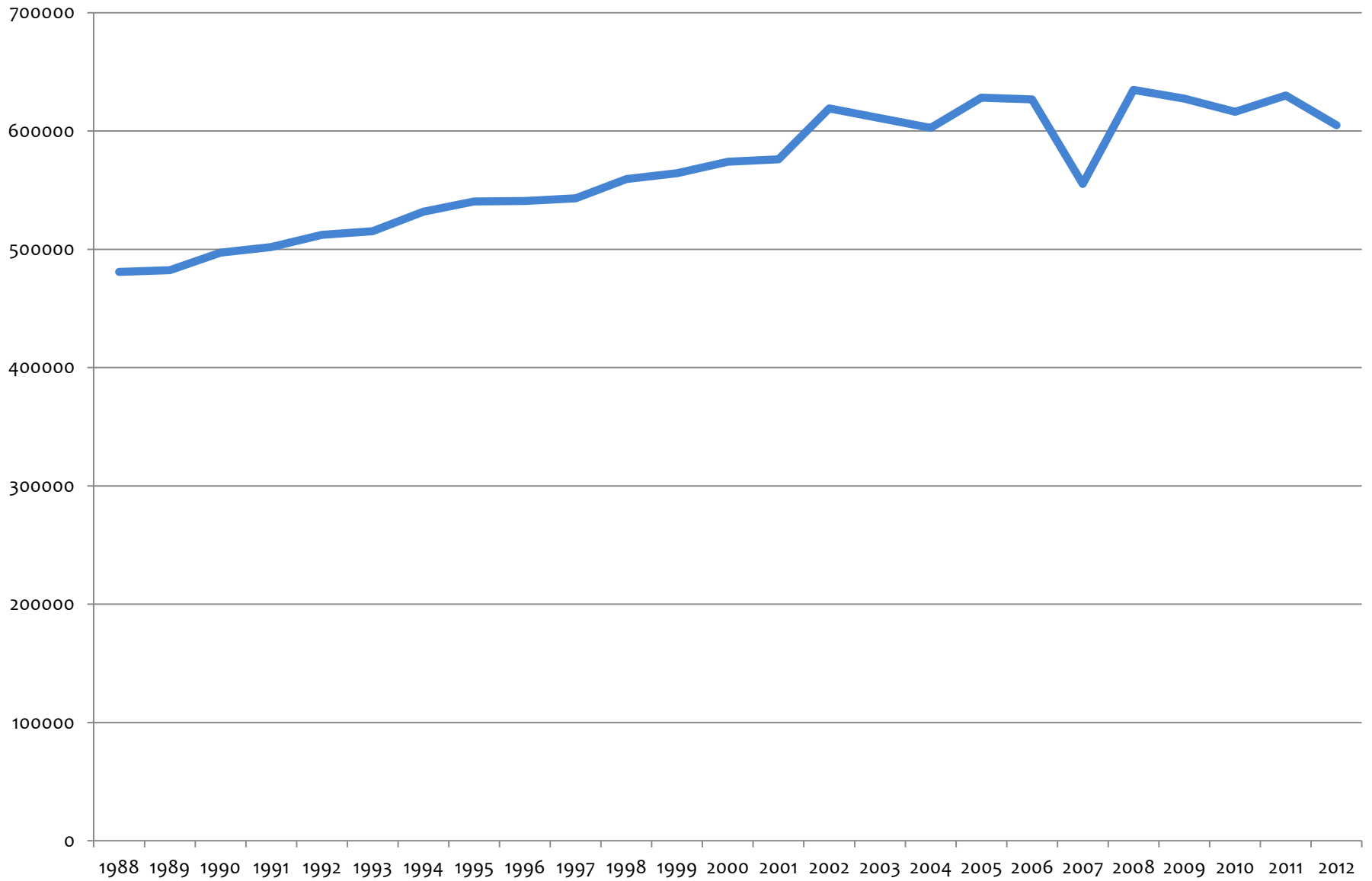


# Current Issues and Challenges Facing the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

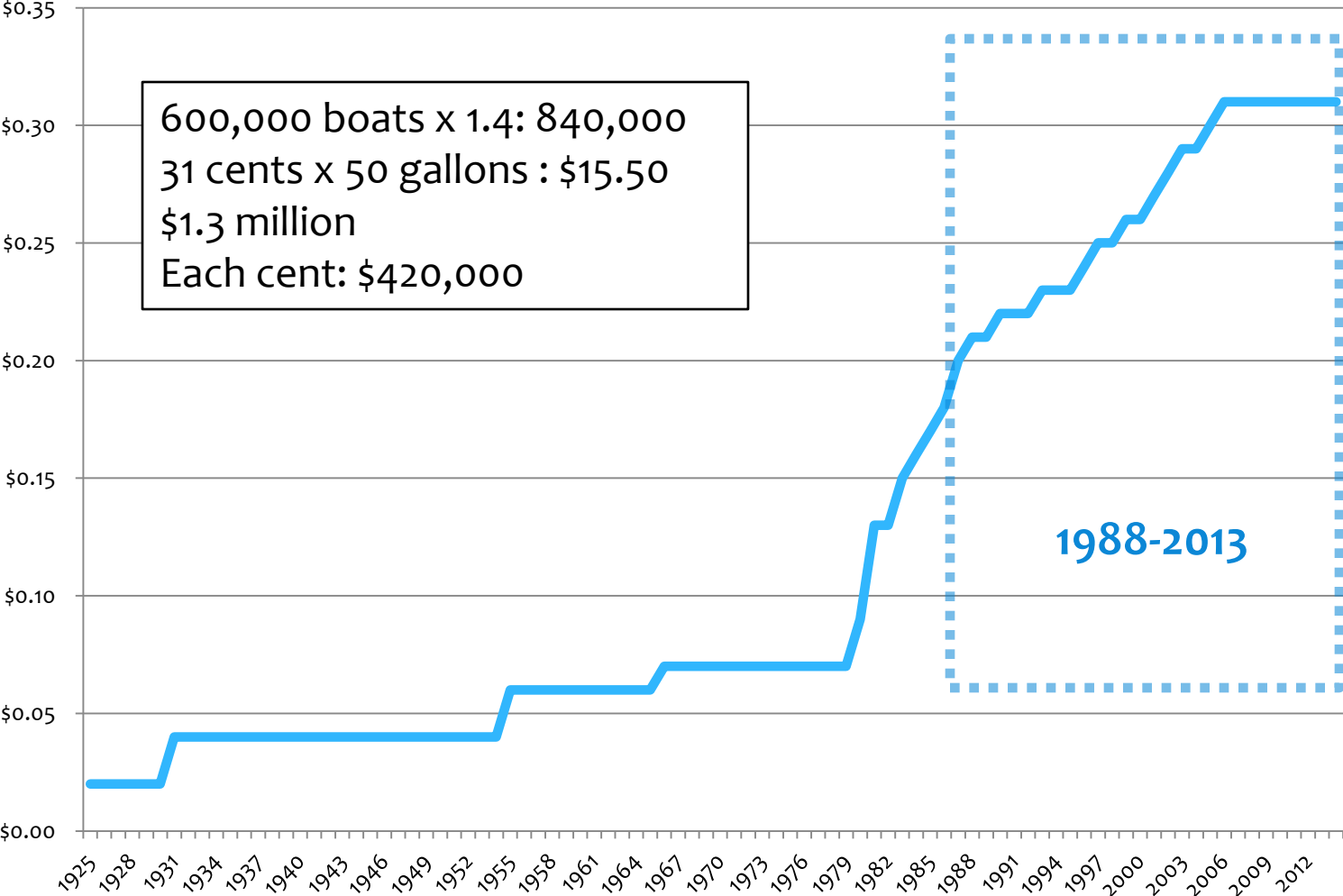
Partnership members identified four strategic issues during a strategic planning process in 2011:

1. Promoting Lake Health
2. Inspiring & Engaging People
3. Working together through the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership
4. Funding Lakes Partnership Activities

# Wisconsin Boat Registrations 1988-2012

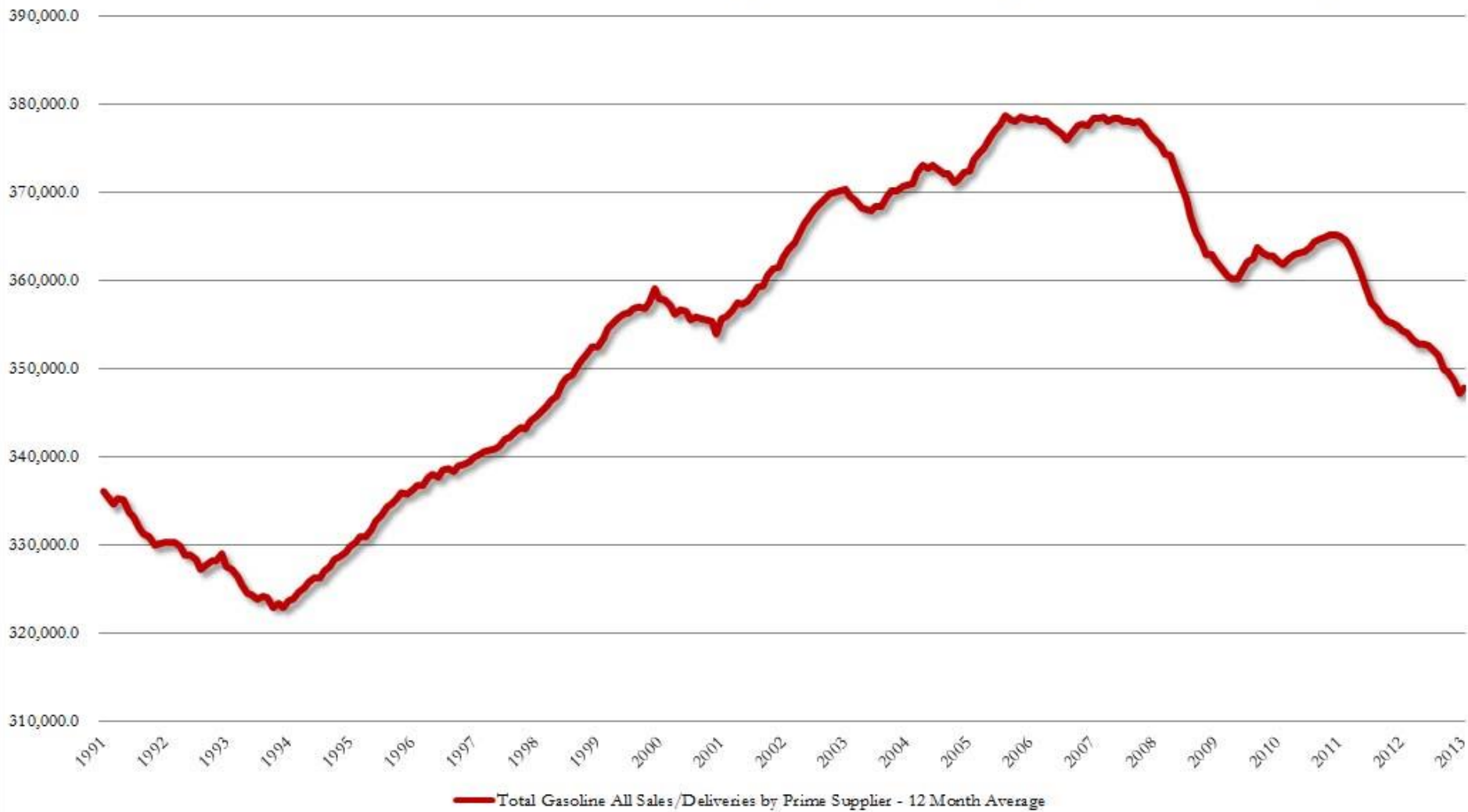


# Wisconsin Gas Tax Over Time (cents per gallon)





# Gasoline All Sales/Deliveries by Prime Supplier - 52 Week Avg ('000 Gallons Per Day)



F-1: State Transportation Revenues by Source of Funds (nominal dollars, millions)

