

Lake Tides

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*A Newsletter for People
Interested in Wisconsin's
Inland Lakes*



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS

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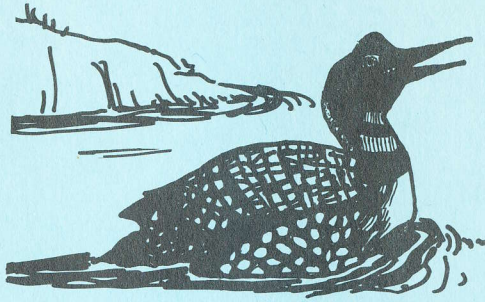
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IN THE WAKE OF A LOON - AN EDITORIAL

As we travel throughout the state to discuss the lake management program with lake communities, we are often asked whether a lake district should replace a voluntary property owners association. We cannot tell you whether your community needs an association, a district, both, or neither. Each community must make that decision for themselves.

We do, however, try to point out what functions each organization is generally better suited for. The booklet entitled The Role of Lake Property Owners and Their Organizations in Lake Management describes the activities each organization typically can perform. The booklet is available from Lake Tides and a summary is provided here.

A voluntary lake association is usually the first type of organization formed around a lake. It serves to bring the community together and to represent the community in efforts to influence governmental decisions. The purposes are primarily social and political in the best sense of those words.

Lake districts are formal units of government recognized by state law and organized for the purpose of direct lake management. While it does not have police powers (zoning), it does have taxing and

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management powers. It can receive state and federal funds for studies and projects, but the district itself actually contracts for the management activities.

A lake district is usually formed after a lake association concludes that a stronger and more direct organizational form is needed to cope with the complexities of protecting or rehabilitating a lake. Most lake districts are initiated by voluntary lake associations which either want (1) more legal authority or (2) more financial ability or (3) both.

If a district is formed, the lake association must decide its future. It may decide that it can and should continue to provide a focus for community social activities and a "private lobbying force." Many communities have made that decision; they are maintaining both an association and a district and hope the two will complement each other.

Some lake associations, on the other hand, have disbanded their association once the district was created. These communities have decided to concentrate their efforts on one organization in hopes that the district will be more viable as a result.

There are no magic formulas in the organization of people who have a common interest and want some way of promoting their interest. Your lake may need protection from a host of man-made pressures. Your lake may need rehabilitation from natural or man-made problems. Your community probably needs an organization to represent it. Only you can decide whether it should be an association, a district, or both. Whatever you decide, we are happy to assist you in making the thing work.

Sincerely,

Ron Hennings

Ron Hennings

Lowell Klessig

Lowell Klessig

Lake Management Specialists

OCTOBER 1, 1976 IS THE DEADLINE FOR 1977

Last year January 1 was the deadline by which districts had to apply for technical assistance to do a feasibility study. This year, the deadline is three months earlier on October 1.

The Office of Inland Lake Renewal made the change in order that it would be possible for consultants and their own personnel to field check the lakes in the fall before "freeze-up." It will also give lake districts and consultants more time to solicit and prepare bids.

While this deadline has a number of advantages, it may cause some hardship for communities which are presently in the petition process. We have discussed the problems that might result from this deadline change with the Office of Inland Lake Renewal and have been informed that if the districts which apply by October 1 do not utilize the funds allocated for feasibility studies in fiscal 1977, late applications would be considered.

However, it is very important to complete the district formation process as soon as possible and to make application for technical assistance at the earliest possible date.

It is possible to form a district any time during the year and have a feasibility study designed. However, cost sharing grants are only made once a year.

NEW GUIDE

The bicentennial edition of the A Guide to Wisconsin's Lake Management Law is available from Lake Tides. The new Guide reflects the changes in the law as well as experience gained in the first two years of the program.

IS YOUR SANITARY DISTRICT OBSOLETE?

On April 14, 1976 the answer to that question may have switched from no to yes. Assembly Bill 1175, which amended Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin Statutes, became effective on that day.

About 60 lake communities had formed sanitary districts before the original lake law was passed in 1974. Until April 14, 1976 the law did not permit either district to perform both lake management and sanitary services. Since many lake communities felt it was a waste of effort to have both a lake district and a sanitary district with separate commissioners, bookkeeping, annual meetings, and taxes, an effort was made to change the law.

That effort was successful. A lake district, with approval of the town board, may now perform sanitary functions as well as direct lake management functions. Consequently many sanitary districts around lakes are considering whether to convert to (or merge with) a lake district.

The process of conversion is a very simple one; it only requires that the town board, which created the sanitary district, pass a resolution to convert it to a lake district with sanitary district powers. A sample resolution is available from Lake Tides.

After conversion, the sanitary district commissioners become the lake district commissioners and serve until the first annual meeting next summer when commissioners are elected.

For lake communities that wish to receive state aid in 1977, the conversion must be accomplished by the end of September. (See article on "October 1.")

ECOLOGICAL NEWSNOTE

The Summer of '76--A Good Year for Weeds

Why are the weeds so bad this year is a common cry from many lake users. Comments on the "green carpet" now covering former open water in many Wisconsin lakes range from "the unprintable" to "my poor ol' Evinrude can't get through without shearing the pin." Or as one professional lake biologist responded after viewing the green mass rolling gently and rhythmically to the waves from a struggling motor boat--"My what healthy aquatic plants you have; this is a veritable garden!"

When most home gardens were drying up under the hot summer sun and drought conditions, their lake counterparts were doing quite well. Like garden vegetables, the growth of rooted aquatic plants is, in part, governed by: bottom soil type, availability of a variety of nutrients, light, and a favorable growing season and temperature range.

In many lakes where weed growth was not limited by a key nutrient shortage (such as phosphorus) the weeds took full advantage of the early spring (ice-out) and hot sunny summer weather to produce a bumper crop of lush vegetation (a market for this crop is badly needed).

It is too late to do anything this summer, but what can be done about next year's projected crop of aquatic weeds? Now is the time to plan your attack, preferably with your lake association or district so that all can share the responsibility and the benefits.

A circular which may help you is titled "Controlling Waterweeds" and is available from

Lake Tides or from your County Extension office.

Here are some of the recommended methods for weed control that are covered in the circular:

Water (aquatic) plants occur in all of Wisconsin's surface waters. Aquatic plants provide food, protection, oxygen, and spawning areas for aquatic animals. When excessive growth of these plants interferes with man's recreational (or other) uses the plants are called weeds.

Complete eradication of water plant nuisances is seldom recommended. Neither is it practical. Should eradication of one species be achieved, it is likely to be replaced by a new waterweed sometimes worse than its forerunner.

Several methods are available which provide temporary relief from aquatic weed and algae problems. Selecting a successful program depends upon objectives, weed types, environmental impact, site characteristics and economics.

To obtain successful results and maintain quality of the surface waters for everyone, specific control measures should be selected carefully. Many of the recommended control techniques require a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Before using any control measure, check with your local DNR representative concerning permit requirements.

1. Watershed Management--Limiting or controlling the amount and kind of plant nutrients that enter surface waters is an essential step in waterweed control. Some Wisconsin lakes are so overfertilized that nutrient control must be supplemented with other methods. Discharging *sewage effluent*, industrial or agricultural *wastes* into water adds enormous quantities of *plant nutrients*. So also

does *soil erosion* and *urban runoff*. It is easy to limit runoff into well-constructed ponds but more difficult in lakes. Nutrient limitation should, nevertheless, supplement all other control measures.

2. Harvesting--Mechanical harvesting is an ideal method of controlling waterweeds. It reduces excessive weed growth and at the same time removes growth-producing nutrients from the aquatic system. Mowers cut to depths over 4 feet. Cut weeds are automatically lifted to a barge and moved to shore where they are transferred to trucks and hauled to a disposal site. Equipment required to do a good job is large and expensive, and a sound maintenance program is required to insure successful operation. A large harvester can cut 500 tons or more of waterweeds in a season. *Smaller and less expensive* equipment will do creditable work in small lakes and in shallow-water areas.
Hand harvesting is hard work, but is sometimes practical in limited areas along shore lines. Many weeds are capable of vegetative reproduction so removal of broken parts is imperative for effective control.
3. Light Elimination--This method is adapted to beaches, shorelines and for creating open spots in fish ponds. One technique is to fasten black plastic to a styrofoam barge. (Leave in one spot three to four weeks.) The barge can be easily moved from place to place for spot treatment. Spreading black plastic on the pond bottom and weighting it is another effective technique. Spreading plastic on ice in winter is easy. Properly weighted, the plastic sinks to the bottom during spring thaw.
4. Dredging and Dragging--These can be effective in removing shallow-rooted weeds from small impoundments. Drag heavy log chains or other heavy metal objects (e.g., old bed springs) along pond bottom. Dragging rips out shallow-rooted weeds which can be raked or forked

to shore. (Tractors or trucks are best for pulling the drag.) Dredging which removes earth is expensive but sometimes warranted.

5. Chemical--Control of aquatic weeds and algae can be achieved with chemicals. The chemicals approved by DNR for use in Wisconsin waters are safe to fish when applied correctly, and the water can be used for recreational purposes a short time after application. Only specific chemicals are approved: For aquatic weed control, *Diquat (dibromide)*, *Aquathol or endothall* (salt or acid), and *2-4 D*. For algae control, *copper sulphate and complexes of copper*.
Proper plant species identification is important because the recommended chemicals vary in effectiveness on different weeds. Only copper compounds are recommended for algae control in Wisconsin.
Treatment should start from the shoreline (parallel) to deeper water. This allows the fish an avenue of escape. Chemicals should be applied on calm, sunny days. Done in this manner, less chemical is required and only the treated area is affected.
6. Water Fluctuation--Raising and/or lowering water levels rapidly often has a cleansing effect upon small water impoundments. Draw-down for longer periods (especially over winter) can also be a very effective weed control technique.

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

While you will probably have your annual meeting under your belt by the time you receive this, the treasurer's work is not yet done.

Your annual meeting should have adopted a budget. Some districts are raising money with street dances, hobby fairs and fishing contests. However, if you

are using your taxing powers, you must submit a statement to the town clerk, village clerk, or city clerk indicating how much taxes you want collected for the district. This statement must be in by October 1.

For the Department of Revenue contact person in your area, please refer to the list supplied to you by Ruthe Badger at the April workshops.

TWENTY-FIVE FEET UNDER WAUPACA

Steve Hemshrot
Waupaca Co. Resource Agent

The Waupaca Inland Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District is very proud to be the first Wisconsin community to begin work on a lake project under the state's new lake management law.

Our district was formed by action of the city council shortly after the law was signed by the Governor in 1974. Because of previous study, Mirror and Shadow Lakes did not require a feasibility study. (Cary Millpond, a third lake within the city of Waupaca is presently undergoing a feasibility study.)

The previous extensive analysis of Mirror and Shadow Lakes had shown that the urban storm sewers were contributing the major share of phosphorus to the lakes. Phosphorus is generally the culprit nutrient causing excessive growth of aquatic vegetation.

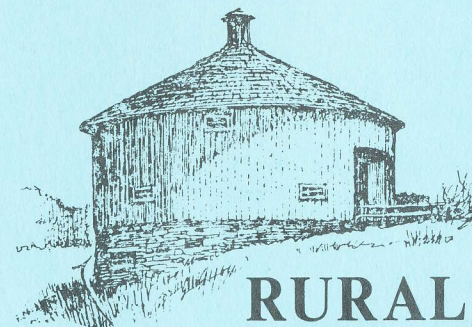
The Office of Inland Lake Renewal in the Department of Natural Resources provided us with alternative courses of action which we might take. Our district decided to divert the storm sewers away from the lake. We submitted our plan to DNR for approval, a hearing was held in Waupaca, the plan was approved, and the state offered to provide \$130,000 toward the project which is the maximum that could be granted to any one project.

The estimated cost of the project was over \$400,000. Federal funding was therefore our only hope. Fortunately, the grant application prepared for us by the Office of Inland Lake Renewal was successful and in January we were awarded \$215,000 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

With the help of the University Extension's lake management specialists, the district determined

that a mill rate of 0.9 mills for two years would raise the necessary \$80,000 of local matching funds.

Survey work by Phillips and Associates Construction Company of Kimberly began in June and on July 26 digging began on the trenches and tunnels to regrade the storm sewers to run away from the lake. We are going 25 feet under Main Street in our efforts to restore and enhance our lakes.



RURAL PROPERTY

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE BUYING OR BUILDING

The decision to buy land or build a home in the country represents a major choice of life style and financial investment. This course will present a basic introduction to the physical, social and legal realities of rural property ownership.

Major topics of discussion will include soil suitability for septic tank systems, domestic water supplies, home site evaluation, town government, rural services, property rights and obligations, zoning ordinances, and rural taxes. It is designed for present and prospective landowners with an emphasis on recreational and residential land uses.

Instructors: Lowell Klessig, Dave Stephenson, Dave Stewart, Doug Yanggen.

Time: Wednesday, 6:30-7:50 p.m., Oct. 20, 27.

Place: The Wisconsin Center, Room 211, and Educational Telephone Network (ETN) stations around the state in almost every county.

Fee: \$4.50

This program will be offered at 89 locations throughout the State. For exact locations and application blanks, contact your local Extension office or Lake Tides.