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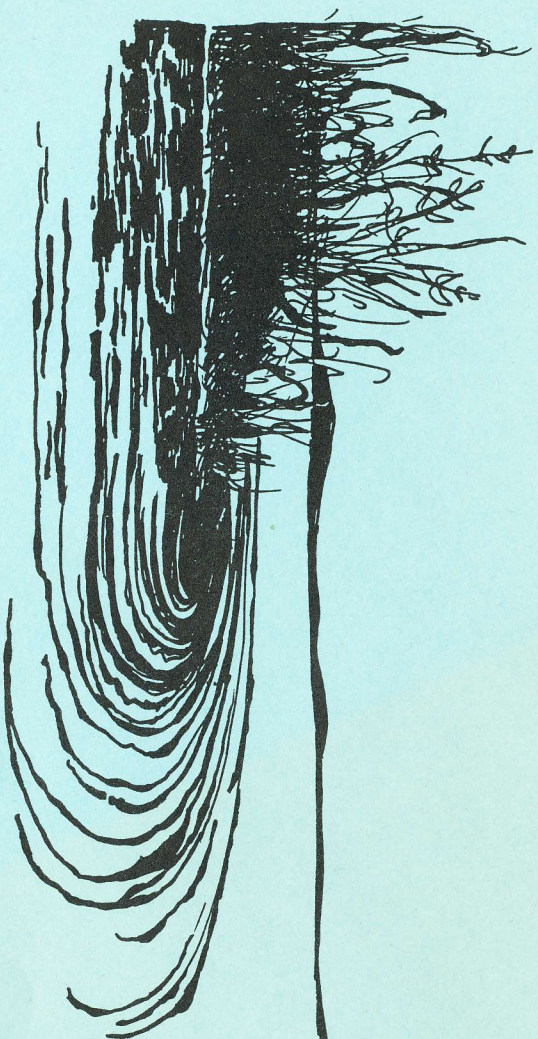
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**UWEX**

COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION

A Newsletter for People  
 Interested in Wisconsin's  
 Inland Lakes

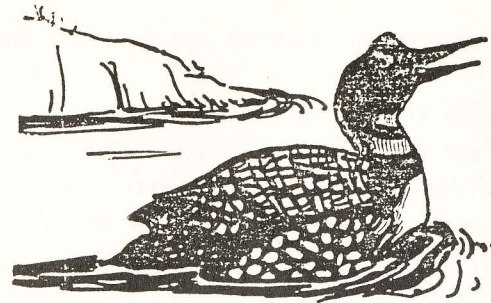


Lake  
 Tides

**JUNE 1982**  
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#### IN THE WAKE OF A LOON--AN EDITORIAL

It is not easy to make investment decisions during times of economic recession. Yet that is exactly what your community should consider this summer. An investment in your lake will protect your personal investment in your property and will yield recreational dividends for years. An investment may be less costly now than in the future.

The Legislature has provided state cost-sharing. For the first time, the vote this year was controversial. State investment may not be available five or ten years from now. If your lake management plans depend on investment by both your local community and the state, it would not be prudent to delay your decision.

Sincerely,

*George R. Gibson Jr. Lowell L. Klessig*  
George R. Gibson, Jr. Lowell L. Klessig  
Lake Management Specialists



## CHAPTER 33: SURVIVAL AND CHANGE IN 1982

For the first time since the program was created in 1973-74, the inland lake program was the subject of substantial discussion in the Legislature. The fall audit report led to a bill to revise Chapter 33. Separate questions were raised about funding levels.

Finally, the two issues were combined in a compromise amendment to the Budget Adjustment Bill. Senator Harnisch was successful in shepherding the amendment through the Senate. Representative Potter took the lead role in the Assembly. After selective vetoes, the Governor signed the bill. The revised statute contains the following features:

1. Funding for next fiscal year, starting July 1, remains at ~\$1,000,000 for grants.
2. Remaining funds for this fiscal year were returned to the state.
3. Weed and algae control may be cost-shared if long-term sources of nutrients are being or will be corrected. Procedures for cost-sharing weed harvesting are being developed by DNR and the Inland Lake Council.
4. The grant limit is raised from 10% of available funds in the biennium to 25% of the available funds in the biennium. As of July 1, grants up to ~\$250,000 will be available.
5. Cost-sharing for dredging is restricted. Projects must have an expected lifetime of at least 50 years. Nutrient and sediment sources in the watershed must be addressed. The state cannot pay for more than 50% of the cost of dredging. No more than 10% of the funds available can be spent on a single dredging project.
6. DNR shall establish priorities for different methods utilized in implementing lake management. Dredging is declared a low priority.
7. Lake districts shall obtain the advice and approval of the DNR before contracting for a feasibility study; the DNR will be a party to the contract.
8. Tax incremental financing is prohibited for lake districts.
9. One position in the Office of Inland Lake Renewal was eliminated.

Last fall, the audit bureau staff report recommended eliminating all state funding for the program. After the strong support for the program at the Waukesha hearing in November, the Joint Audit Committee of the Legislature concentrated on modifying the program rather than eliminating it.

However, in spring, the Joint Finance Committee cut all grant funds and three DNR positions. Through the efforts of the Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts and individual districts, their decision was reversed in the full Legislature.

While modified, the program survived a very difficult year.

### PLEASE SHARE

• We are interested in what is happening at your lake. With 130 districts, it is hard to keep track. Please send us copies of your newsletters, annual meeting notices, and budgets. We also welcome short articles for Lake Tides.

Also, please send us the names and addresses of commissioners after each election.

Thank you.

• The Wisconsin Water Resources Center is conducting research on the use of "conservation easements" as a tool for lake protection management. Conservation easements are partial interests in real property used to protect open spaces, scenic and historic areas, and other lands. This study is designed to consider the conservation easement technique for lake watershed protection.

Project Coordinator Bill O'Connor would appreciate hearing from lake districts who have either actually acquired real property or have considered it, or from districts interested in considering a conservation easement lake protection program. Please contact:

Bill O'Connor  
Water Resources Center  
University of Wisconsin  
1975 Willow Drive  
Madison, WI 53706



CONVENTION TIME  
April 2-3, 1982  
March 25-26, 1983

Those who attended the 1982 convention will never forget it! While the responses to the evaluation forms were positive and your comments were gratifying, the program was not the most memorable event of the convention--the April 3 blizzard was!

The barometric pressure reached a record low. The wind whipped the spring snow under hoods, through doors, and around many a badge of courage. Some commissioners spent the night in Stevens Point. Those who drove home have better stories and higher blood pressure.

Next year, spring will come early and the grass will be green for the 1983 convention on March 25-26. We would welcome your suggestions for topics or for novel formats. It is your convention, so please let us know.

Some of you have been disappointed because you have not been able to get rooms at the Holiday Inn. We have a small block reserved. Because the Holiday Inn is so popular for conventions and family weekend vacations, it is necessary to reserve months in advance. We suggest you make your reservation now (715/341-1340--tell them you're with the UWEX Lake District Convention). We plan to have the Friday night banquet with entertainment at the Holiday Inn.

Less expensive rooms are available at the Roadstar Inn (715/341-9090) and the Point Best Western (715/344-8312).

We suggest that you include registration, travel and lodging expenses for several commissioners and their spouses in your annual budget. Most districts want their leaders to keep up to date.

DNR WEED AND ALGAE CONTROL GRANTS  
- A PREVIEW -

Those of you who attended the Friday session of the recent lake district convention will recall that we were anticipating expanded district funding opportunities for weed and algae control. The passage of the budget amendments affecting Chapter 33 has now made this possible. The specifics of this new program are still being developed, but some general elements which can be expected are:

- Weed and algae control funding will be an element of lake protection management.

The argument in favor of public support for weed and algae control is that districts making a good faith effort to reduce nutrient loadings to the lake should be supported as they also try to improve its usability. Often the main symptom of nutrient problems is weed growth, and if the district is sincerely and demonstrably committed to lake protection management, they will receive cost share funding for selected weed and algae control measures.

- Lake wide, general public benefit.

The weed and/or algae control must be expected to make a contribution to such improvements as: fishing management, public access, and general recreational enhancement, i.e., aesthetics, navigation, skiing, boating, swimming.

- Protected areas.

The DNR District Fish and Wildlife Biologists, and perhaps other knowledgeable specialists, will be consulted to designate particular areas of the lake and shore regions which should be protected from control efforts or receive other special considerations. This is to protect fish and wildlife and a diverse, healthy lake ecosystem. Probably at least 25% of existing weed beds would be left undisturbed.

- Financing weed and algae control.

To allow the greatest level of lake district discretion and to promote innovative methods (such as "integrated aquatic weed control" discussed at Stevens Point), a flat rate grant system is being considered. For example: the feasibility study or other investigation would determine the optimal plan of attack regarding areas for control and amounts of weeds or algae to be removed.



This is going to require further work at this stage of policy planning, but we hope to develop a means of projecting the expected number of acres to treat and/or tons of biomass to be removed. These figures would then be multiplied times an established cost per unit to arrive at the estimated cost of the project. For example, it may be concluded that 100 acres of a given lake should be treated or harvested twice a summer, and that weed control projects will have an expected duration for funding of 5 years. The costs for harvesting may be estimated at \$120 per acre. Therefore: 100 acres X twice a year X 5 years X \$120 per acre = \$120,000.

The grant would then be offered at this figure or some fraction thereof, i.e., 80% funding. The lake district could then accomplish its management objectives by any reasonable combination of techniques, such as harvesting together with spraying. The district would also be able to select the most cost effective approach, i.e., contract harvesting vs. purchase of harvesters vs. cooperative purchase and harvesting by several nearby lake districts. While the district might be expected to at least conduct the project for five years, careful use of the funds could result in an extended management period. The grant account could thus be drawn upon by the district for periodic reimbursements over any time period until the initial amount is finally exhausted.

- Weed or algae control would not be supported indefinitely.

It is intended to give lake districts the opportunity to get started (or in the case of districts already engaged in weed control, to improve or expand their operations), but maintenance of the program would, as now, become an exclusive district responsibility. This is why the latitude for spending the grant is so important. Cost conscious districts need the flexibility to develop long range, highly effective programs.

This is where the planning stands right now. At their June 17 meeting the Advisory Council will review this and several other program proposals and final decisions should be made before summer's end. In the meantime, about 1 million dollars remains available in grant monies to be allocated this fiscal year. Any lake district envisioning a management project, including lake protection management with weed or algae control, should seriously consider early action to request Office of Inland Lake Renewal help.

If you have any suggestions or comments on this draft policy outlined above, please contact Russ Dunst (608) 266-9255 or George Gibson (608) 262-1369.

The Big Cedar Lake District received the Outstanding Lakeshore Community Award at the 1982 convention. The award was presented for the Wisconsin Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District by John Soderberg, Chairman.

Big Cedar Lake District has recently completed a lake protection plan involving purchase of waterways leading to the lake and manure storage facilities on critical farms.

The Washington County group has been active for many years as a voluntary lake association and a sanitary district. In addition to its latest project, the lake district has a continuing program of weed harvesting and septic tank inspection.

Commissioner Louis Ottmer accepted for the district. (After experiencing car trouble, the Ottmers returned home; Louis rented a car, and still arrived in time for the presentation.) Bill Genthe and Sig Rudorf have also served as commissioners of the lake district and sanitary district for many years.

#### COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Under the terms of the recently passed Senate Bill 72, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are being replaced with new county board committees--land conservation committees.

The change should not be a problem for lake districts. The county board representative on lake district commissions should be a member of the committee (preferable) or someone nominated by them.

Lake district management plans will be reviewed by the County Land Conservation Committee rather than Soil and Water Conservation District.

Because membership of the new committee may have shifted from the old committee, and because it is a good idea anyway, we suggest you ask the committee for time at one of their meetings to discuss your lake district program.



Voluntary lake associations are typically concerned about local issues at their lake. However, issues decided in Madison also impact their local lakes. To influence such decisions as well as provide for information sharing and fellowship, the Wisconsin Federation of Lake Property Owners Association was formed in 1959. Recently, the name was shortened to the Wisconsin Federation of Lakes.

After several years of discussion, lake districts organized a state-wide association called the Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts (WALD). This spring, WALD hired a lobbyist to represent the group during legislative deliberations on the budget. According to the by-laws, all lake districts are deemed voting members and the association is designed to represent the common interest of member districts.

At the national level, the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) is concerned with federal policy in Canada and the United States. It supports local efforts and supported the efforts of WALD to retain funding for lake districts this past legislative session.

However, the primary concerns are the Clean Water Act (up for re-authorization in 1983) and particularly the Clean Lakes provision (Sec. 314), and acid rain. Membership is open to individuals, voluntary associations, and lake districts.

If you want to join forces with one or more of these organizations, you should include the membership fees in the budget for your annual meeting. Membership fees or requests for more information can be sent to:

Wisconsin Federation of Lakes

c/o Bob Schrameyer, Pres.  
Rt. 3, Plymouth, WI 53073  
Membership: Initiation \$12.50  
Annually \$0.40 per local association member (\$15 minimum).

Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts

c/o Norm Schein, Treasurer  
Rt. 3 Box 185, Galesville, WI 54630  
Membership: \$100 per district except \$50 for districts with less than \$1,000,000 equalized valuation.

North American Lake Management Society

c/o Joel Schilling, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 12676  
New Brighton, MN 55112  
Membership: \$15 for individual, \$25 for public or non-profit groups.

Lake districts are non-profit organizations. They are also special purpose units of government. Therefore, there is some doubt whether a lake district can obtain a Non-Profit Organization permit. A lake association should be able to obtain this permit.

Non-Profit Organization Permit

If you are interested in such a permit, here is the procedure:

1. Ask the Internal Revenue Service to issue you a letter of non-profit status. To begin the process, obtain Package 1023 by calling 1-800-452-9100.
2. Obtain Form 509 from your post office and return it with the IRS letter and a copy of your by-laws to your postmaster, who will forward it to Milwaukee. They will determine your classification and instruct the local postmaster to issue you a permit. The permit will cost you \$40 for the application and \$40 per year.
3. Your mail will now cost you 5.9 cents per piece, and can be mailed in any quantity over 200 pieces.
4. It will be processed as third class mail and thus you must allow extra time for delivery. Two or three weeks is not uncommon, especially out of state.

Bulk Mailing Permit

If you are rejected for a Non-Profit Organization permit by the mail classification office or do not wish to apply, you can easily obtain a bulk mailing permit. This permit is issued by your local post office.

It costs \$40 for initial application to obtain the permit, plus \$40 a year. You must mail at least 200 pieces at a time. The cost per piece is then 10.9 cents.

Therefore, the bulk mailing permit is only useful if you have 200 members or more. Postage would cost \$18 less per mailing. If you did 3 mailings a year, it would not save you money until the third year. If you have 500 members, then the permit would save you money by the second mailing.

Official Notices

The lake district commission is required by statute to provide the following notice for annual and special meetings:

1. Written notice to all property owners who do not live in the district.
2. Two notices in the local newspaper.

In practice, many districts send a notice to all property owners as specified in their by-laws.

Notices for special assessment are sent to property owners and published twice in the paper.

We do not recommend using third class mail for official notices.

#### Conclusion

Districts with less than 200 members cannot use reduced postage rates. Larger districts should consider the two options, especially if they make several mailings per year for newsletters and unofficial announcements.

#### RAISING LOCAL MONEY

Lake associations and lake districts have used a variety of mechanisms to finance local projects. Many of you have known the frustration and pride associated with such community efforts.

If taxation is part of your budget, please note the following:

1. The commission should propose a budget and calculate the equalized mill rate to be sure the 2.5 limit is not exceeded.
2. The annual meeting should adopt a budget and a tax in dollar amount. Do Not Adopt A Mill Rate.
3. The dollar amount should be certified to the local clerk(s).
4. The commission should understand the conversion of the budget amount into equalized mill rate and assessed mill rate(s) in order to answer questions.

If you did not receive the materials on this topic at the April Convention in Stevens Point, a copy can be obtained by writing Lowell Klessig, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI, 54481.