



# What is a Qualified Lake Association?

*Since the early 1990's, qualified lake associations have been eligible to receive state dollars in their efforts to protect state waters.*

The demand for the grant programs has been tremendous and the work done for Wisconsin waters outstanding. To be eligible for state lake planning, protection and recreational boating facilities grants, a lake association must meet certain standards set out in section 281.68 of the Wisconsin statutes. To improve the chances your lake association has to receive a grant, it is important to plan well ahead. As soon as your lake association decides to apply for a grant, we recommend that you begin the application process (even if you are not yet sure of the details of your project proposal.)

## **Two sets of forms are critical to the grant application process**

- **Lake Management Grants Application (Form 8700-283)** describes the project
- **Lake Association Organizational Application (Form 8700-226)** describes the sponsoring organization

Your association should submit the Lake Association Organizational Application well ahead of actually applying for the grant. Submitting this form and the required supporting documentation early will enable DNR staff to advise you if you need to make any organizational changes. An organization must meet the statutory requirements listed below in order to be eligible for a lake grant. If the DNR determines that your association is not qualified for a grant, you may be able to correct these deficiencies by the grant deadline. **But you must allow sufficient lead time!**

If you submit a grant application and your lake association does not meet all of the eligibility requirements by the grant application deadline, the DNR will return your application; you will have to reapply at a future date after correcting any problems with your organization's qualifications. Submit the Lake Association Organizational Application with the association's bylaws and articles of incorporation to your DNR regional environmental grants specialist (contacts listed on other side). Once your organization is qualified, you will receive written notification from the DNR.

**If the following standards are met, the association will achieve status as a “qualified lake association”**

- The association must be incorporated under Chapter 181 Wisconsin Statutes for at least one year. (This is a good idea for other reasons including the liability of the association and its officers.)
- Declares in its articles of incorporation or bylaws that the substantial purpose for being incorporated is to support the protection or improvement of one or more inland lakes for the benefit of the general public.
- Demonstrates that a substantial purpose of its past actions was to support the protection or improvement of one or more inland lakes for the benefit of the general public.
- Allows any individual to be a member who resides within one mile of the lake at least one month each year.
- Allows any individual to be a member who owns real estate within one mile of the lake.
- Does not have articles of incorporation or bylaws which limit or deny the right of any member or class of members to vote (Section 181.16(1) Wis. Stats).
- Has at least 25 members.
- Requires annual membership fees of not less than \$5 nor more than \$50. These membership fees are subject to revision by administrative rule.

**For more information**

Contact your regional DNR Lake Coordinator or Environmental Grant Specialist at:

**Northern Region – West**

Spoooner  
715-635- 2101

**Northern Region – East**

Rhineland  
715-365-8900

**Northeastern Region**

Green Bay  
920-492-5800

**West Central Region**

Eau Claire  
715-839-3700

**South Central Region**

Madison  
608-275-3366

**Southeastern Region**

Waukesha  
414-263-8500

Or contact any of the following: Your County Cooperative Extension Office; UWEX-Lakes Program at 715/346-2116 or uwexlakes@uwsp.edu; Wisconsin Association of Lakes at 608/662-0923 or wal@wisconsinlakes.org; DNR Central Office at 608/261-6423. Online application forms can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/grants/Forms/8700283.pdf>.



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Lake Grant Fact Sheet Series

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