

ORGANIZATIONAL OPTIONS FOR LAKE OWNERS

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Action as Individuals

- Individual actions are beneficial when:
 - issues are site specific
 - few sites are involved
 - the actions of a few folk will resolve the concern



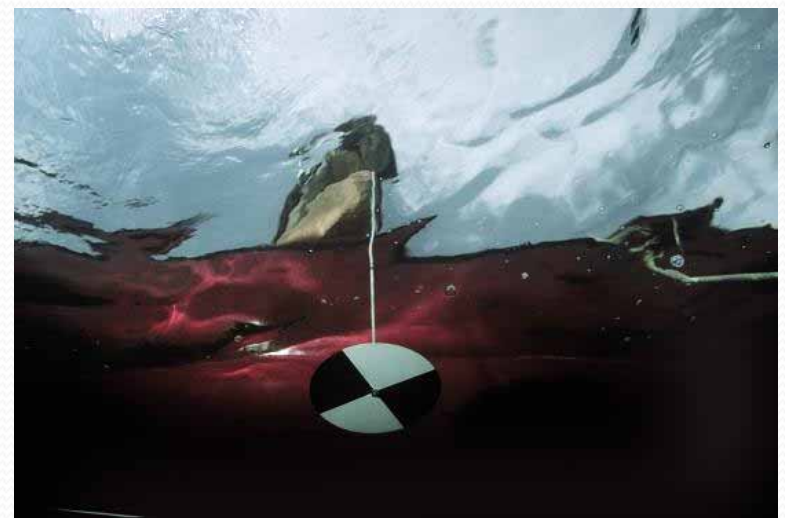
Example

- Individual actions occur throughout Wisconsin
 - individuals manage their own properties—maintaining shoreland buffers, abiding by structure setback requirements, regularly inspecting septic systems, using household chemicals responsibly, etc.



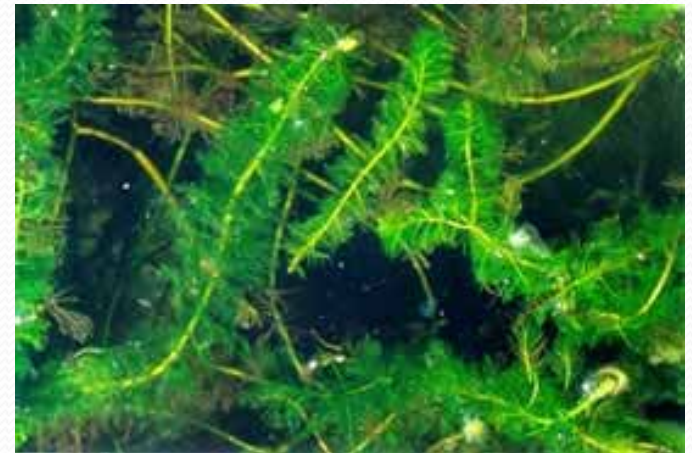
Example

- Individual actions occur throughout Wisconsin
 - individuals actions can be community oriented as in the case of Citizen Lake Monitoring Network volunteer monitoring Program, etc.



Action as Individuals

- Individual actions are beneficial when:
 - issues are site specific
 - few sites are involved
 - the actions of a few folk will resolve the concern
- Individual actions fail when:
 - concerns are widespread
 - substantial resources are required



Action as Communities

- Voluntary actions
 - as associations
 - as incorporated associations
 - as government
 - as specialized governmental organizations

PRE-CONSTRUCTION SHOWING CONCRETE LINED
STREAMBED AND STREAMBANKS



POST-CONSTRUCTION SHOWING RESTORED FLOODPLAIN
CONNECTIVITY AND STREAM CHANNEL: 2009



Action as an Association

- Associations work best when:
 - there are clear issues to be addressed
 - individuals are committed to work together



Action as an Association

- Voluntary associations may be incorporated (Ch. 181, Stats.)
 - incorporated associations may apply for federal tax exempt status under § 501(c)(3)
- Incorporated associations may also be eligible for State grant program funding
 - have lake management as a specific purpose
 - have an “open” membership and reasonable membership fee
 - have at least 25 members and existed for 1 year



Examples

- Shared concerns often leads to formation of voluntary associations—the first of which was created on Geneva Lake during the late 1890s
 - Some associations are highly specialized, focused on a single issue of common concern
 - Some associations are broadly based, providing a range of lake management services for their community

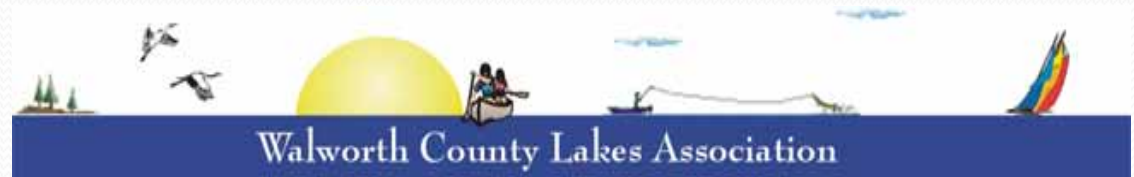
Examples

- Associations may be grant-eligible
 - Hunters Lake Association undertakes an active lake management program
 - Kelly Lakes Association, Inc. has received grants-in-aid of almost \$400,000



Associations of Associations

- County lake organizations are now being created to support local lake management organizations
 - formal organizations: Vilas County Lake Association
 - informal organizations: Mukwonago River Partnership (southwest Waukesha County and northern Walworth County)





Action as an Association

- Associations work best when:
 - there are clear issues to be addressed
 - individuals are committed to work together
- Associations fail when:
 - the issue of the day is “resolved”
 - the leadership “burns out” or “fades away”
 - issues require significant/sustained resources to resolve

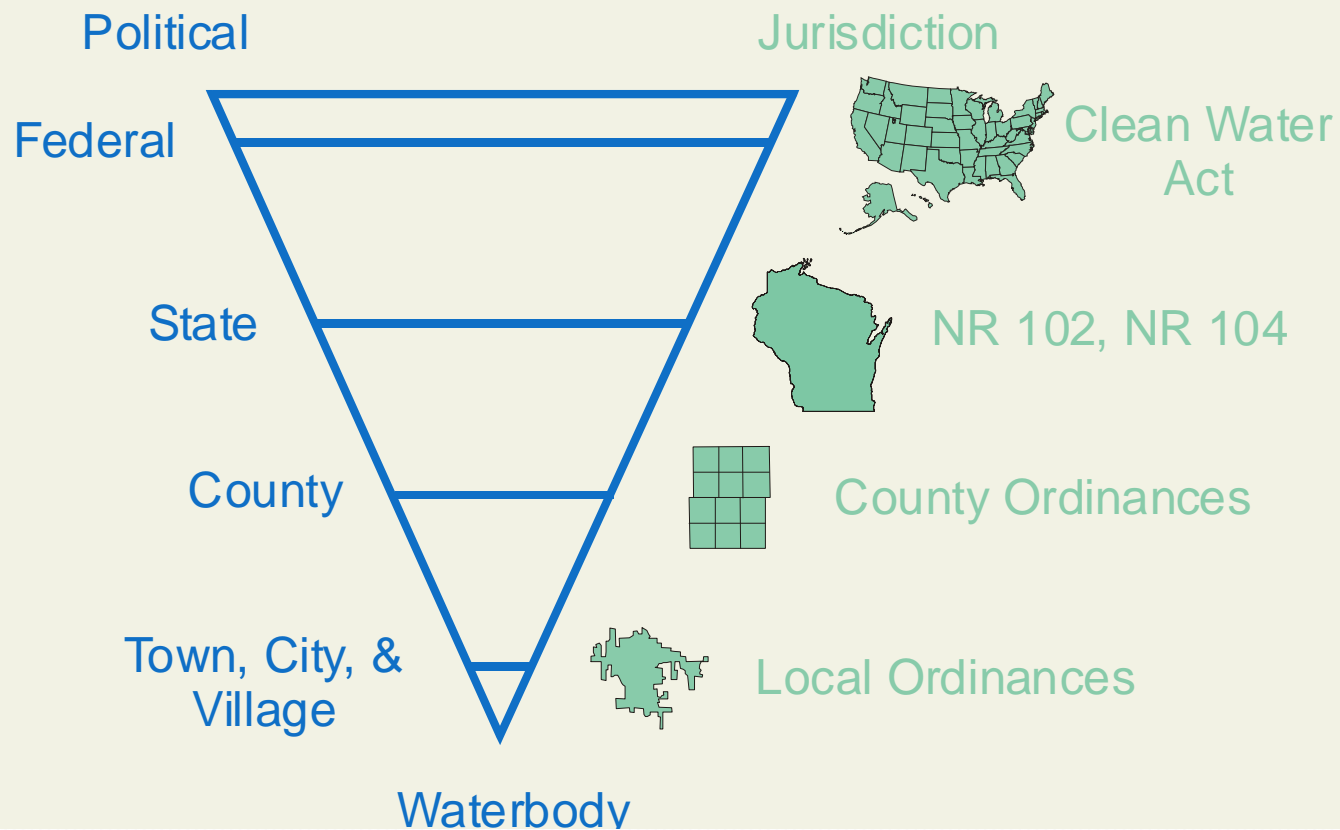


Action as Government

- As the numbers and/or types of activities increase, communities often seek different, more formal forms of organization that can ensure appropriate staffing and adequate funding to develop and implement agreed activities
- These forms of formal organization are typically governmental in nature

Action as Government

Political and Jurisdictional Hierarchy



Action as Government

- General Purpose Units (Towns, Villages and Cities)
 - have broad “police” powers; local government units can create lake-focused committees
 - can undertake a broad range of lake management activities
 - have authority to manage land use as well as water quality through zoning and stormwater management ordinances
 - can regulate recreational water use



Examples

- Local governments, such as the Town of Delavan and City of Delafield, support lake management





Action as Government

- Special Purpose Units of Government
 - Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Districts (Ch. 33, Stats.)
 - Town Sanitary Districts (Ch. 60, Stats.)
 - Municipal Public Utility (Ch. 66, Stats.)



Action as Government

- Lake Management Districts
 - are formed voluntarily by communities to manage in-lake water quality
 - provide a range of lake management services such as aquatic plant management, informational programming, fisheries management, and water quality management
 - can provide sanitary services

Example

- Lake Management Districts are often formed to address specific concerns—Little Muskego Lake Management District has implemented aquatic plant and sediment management activities since the 1970s





Action as Government

- Sanitary Districts
 - are formed to manage solid/liquid wastes
 - are limited to unincorporated areas
 - can have a lake focus
 - can provide lake management services such as aquatic plant management

Examples

- Sanitary Districts can address such concerns
 - Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District has implemented lake management activities since its inception
 - Delavan Lake Sanitary District participated in the implementation of Delavan Lake Rehabilitation project in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies

L_{ake} **P**_{ewaukee} **S**_{anitary} **D**_{istrict}



Action as Government

- Utility Districts
 - are formed to manage construct and operate municipal services such as provision of water, sewerage or storm water management
 - can have a lake focus
 - can provide lake management services such as septic system management

Action as Government

- Regional Units (e.g., the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission)
 - created to manage river flows between the City of Waukesha and the Waterford Dam
 - has broad authority to implement flow enhancement/flood prevention and sedimentation mitigation measures
 - includes numerous local governments





Conclusion

- [Insert your conclusion here...]
- the “best” type of lake organization for your lake is the one that meets your local and individual needs...
- more formal organizations bring greater demands and require greater commitments from the community, but may also bring enhanced benefits ...

For Further Information

http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwex_lakes/organizations/Guide/Lake_Organization_guide.pdf

<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/>

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/lakes/>

People of the Lakes A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations



Lake Associations
& Lake Districts

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