



**WISCONSIN
LAKES**

Reflections on the Year of Clean Drinking Water and Speaker's Water Quality Task Force

2020 Water Legislation Update

Presented by Michael Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes

Special Guest: Rep. Katrina Shankland

Speical Guest: Todd Ambs, Asst Deputy Secretary, WDNR

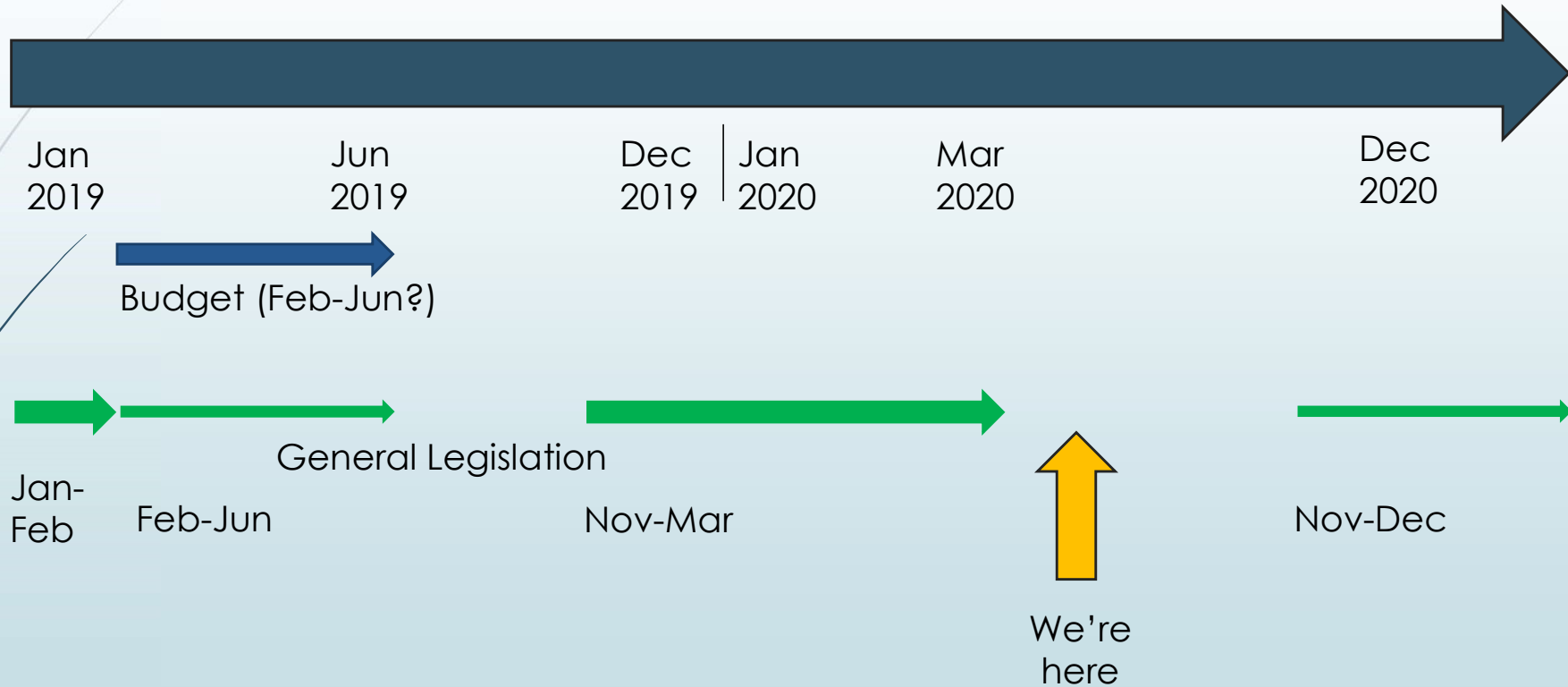
Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention (online)

April 2, 2020

Agenda

- Quick review of legislative timeline
- Legislation impacting lake organization administration
- Water-related legislation
- Reflections on the Year of Clean Drinking Water and Speaker's Water Quality Task Force


LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE






Legislation impacting lake organizations

- Lake District Administrative Bills (Ch 33)
- Riparian Rights vs Lakebed Property Rights
- Hydrologic Restoration General Permit




Lake District Voting Procedure Act 99 (AB360 /SB335)

- Must be present to vote and get ballot before voting begins
- Ballots counted and totals reported at Annual Meeting




Lake District Voting Procedure Act 99 (AB360 /SB335)

- RECOUNT
 - May be requested by any candidate or elector
 - If <100 votes cast, recount is done when two successive recounts yield the same total



Lake District Voting Procedure Act 99 (AB360 /SB335)

- RECOUNT
 - If more than 100 votes cast
 - One recount at meeting
 - If runner-up requests...
 - Ballots placed in tamper proof container
 - Ballots delivered to clerk within two days
 - Clerk must announce results in two weeks, can charge costs to district



Lake District Voting Bid Limit AB600 / SB559

- Increases bid threshold for lake districts to \$10,000 from \$2,500
- Passed in the Assembly
 - Late night amendment added PFAS-related legislation
- Fate unclear in Senate




Riparian Rights vs Lakebed Property Rights AB551 / SB501

- Overturns *Movrich v Lobermeier* Sup Ct Decision
- Shoreland property owners have “riparian” right to place a pier even if lakebed is privately owned



Hydrologic Restoration General Permit AB701 / SB631

- Creates Hydrologic Restoration and Management Advisory Committee at DNR
- Requires DNR to create general permit for hydrologic restoration activity



Flood Reduction Pilot Project Act 157 (AB266 / SB252)

- Up to 3 natural flood reduction pilot projects in Ashland County



What We Haven't Seen

- Reduction in protection of wetlands
- Changes to definition of navigability
- Loosening restrictions on high capacity wells



Focus on Water Quality

- Governor's Year of Clean Drinking Water
- Speakers Task Force on Water Quality



Water Quality Task Force

- Bi-partisan, joint committee
- Statewide hearings through summer of 2019
- Report released
- 13 pieces of legislation covering:
 - Restorative agricultural practices
 - PFAS mitigation and regulation
 - Lead pipes
 - Nitrate and wells
 - University research funding



Water Quality Task Force

Bills Wisconsin Lakes Supported

- County Conservation Department funding (AB790/SB723)
- Restorative Ag Assistance Package (AB795/SB715)
- Wisconsin Fund for Septic Systems (AB791/SB710)
- Pilot Program to Address Nitrate Contamination (AB796/SB718)
- Prohibition on Sale or Use of Coal Tar-based & PAH Sealant Products (AB797/SB716)

Non-WQTF bill, but water quality related

- Water Quality Trading Clearinghouse (AB113/SB91)



Water Quality Task Force

Bills Wisconsin Lakes Opposed

- Biomanipulation project funding (AB798/SB725)
- Extra public comment period to influence groundwater standards (AB794/SB708)
- Changing the municipal flood control grant programs' priorities (AB793/SB711)

PFAS – “The Forever Chemicals”

PFAS Legislation

- *WQTF Bill*: Adding PFAS to “Clean Sweep” program (AB792/SB717)
- Minimal PFAS standard language added to unrelated Lake District bill
- Regulation of firefighting foam (ACT 101/AB323/SB310)
- Setting of PFAS Standards (AB321/SB302)
- PFAS Research & Testing (AB842/SB773)
- PFAS Study (AB843/SB772)
- Establishing “PFAS Management Zones” (AB922/SB774)
- Funding for Testing in PFAS Management Zones (AB921/SB775)
- Non-PFAS Food Packaging Research (SB952)



Q&A

Joining us:

Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point),
Vice Chair, Speaker's Water Quality Task
Force

Todd Ambs,
Deputy Assistant Director, WI Dept of
Natural Resources



How to keep informed and act

- Follow wisconsinlakes.org or sign up for our Lake Policy report
- Participate in WI Lakes' "Lakes In Action" program
- Research bills, find your legislator and more on the WI Legislature's website:
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- Read newspaper articles, press releases, more at thewheelerreport.com
- Watch it all happen on Wisconsin Eye (wiseye.org)
- Talk to your legislators!



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