

Changing Lakes, Changing Policy

A Workshop for Lake Communities

Waukesha County Technical College

February 13, 2010

- Tim Desmond, a Horsehead Lake District resident, attended this convention and gathered information that may be pertinent to our goal of improving Horsehead Lake and enlightening our membership about issues of interest.

Session 1: Implementing New Invasive Species Laws, by Bob Wakeman, DNR Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

1. Wisconsin sells the second-most number of fishing licenses in the U.S., behind Florida.
2. Water quality monitor's data is used to map extent of species in lakes.

Session 2: Leaving a Land Legacy: Legal Tools for Succession Planning of Family Land, by Bill O'Connor, foremost lake legal expert in WI.

1. An owner can transfer title to a vacation home to children or others, either completely or with conditions attached. Transfer can be by gift, if gift taxes are not a concern, or if the children's resources allow it, by sale. Another alternative is a transfer on death deed, which will transfer the property at death without probate proceedings. The property may be divided and the parts transferred to different people. You can transfer title to your children (or others) but reserve a "life estate". Under a life estate, a property retains the right to use and manage the property up to the moment of death. A transfer can be made to children (or others) as individuals or through a trust or other entity or subject to a "cottage-in-common agreement".
2. A vacation home trust. Under this option, the owners transfer title to the property to a trust. Typically the trust is revocable. This means that the owners can change their mind if they need to sell the property during their lifetimes. While the trust is in effect, the owners typically hold the powers of trustee. Upon the owner's deaths, the trust continues and children or others succeed the former owners as trustees. Provisions addressing governance, powers, eventual disposition of the property and other matters are addressed in the document creating the trust.
3. A cottage-in-common agreement. (see an attorney for details)
4. A cottage club or company. (see an attorney for details)

Session 3: Aquatic Invasive Species Smart Prevention Training, by Marit Sallstrom and Mona Papes, DNR Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator/s.

1. Lawrence Eslinger (715) 365-2750 is the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Coordinator for Oneida Co.

Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) Contribution to Better Wisconsin Lakes

Mission Statement: The Wisconsin Association of Lakes is a nonprofit group of citizens, organizations, and businesses working for clean, safe, healthy lakes for everyone. To accomplish our mission we:

- Assist lake groups and lake users in their efforts to carry out our mission
- Help local leaders manage and restore lakes and their watersheds
- Provide a unified voice for public policy that will protect and preserve lakes
- Advance public knowledge of lakes, their watersheds, and ecosystems

We work so future Wisconsinites will continue to have the right to boat, fish, swim, and enjoy the natural scenic beauty of our special lakes. Our goal is to: 1) develop a network of informed lake citizens with the know-how and motivation to become highly active in statewide lake, 2) develop a strong base of lake organizations active in local and county government decision-making, 3) help communities build a set of common goals, and create local partnerships to implement lake protection programs.

Horsehead Lake District #1 is a member of WAL and has been for some time.

Assorted handouts:

Recreational Carrying Capacity Concepts

1. Carrying capacity can be thought of as a threshold that, if exceeded, would lead to an undesirable set of conditions or problems (for a lake). Issues to consider are: a) what is overcrowding? (this must be determined through surveys of lake owners) b) public safety concerns, c) ecological or water quality impacts, d) economic and property value impacts.
2. Useable lake area is the amount of lake surface that can support a mix of boating activities and is calculated by subtracting a shoreline buffer zone of predetermined width from the total acreage of the lake. This zone is usually off-limits to high-speed boating due to shallow water, piers, swim rafts, and other hazards.

3. Boat carrying capacity is the number of boats that can reasonably operate on the lake at the same time.
4. Typical example:
 300 acre lake – 50 acres (no-wake areas + buoyed swim zones + shallow water depths). 22 total boats (peak-use average). Optimum boating density = 9-25 acres/boat. 13 boat trailers at launch average.

<u>Boat uses:</u>	<u>Suggested densities/boat</u>
Limited power (10 HP or less), sailing	5-10 acres
Waterskiing	12 acres
Motor boating	9 acres
Canoeing, kayaking, sailing	8 acres
Fishing	10 acres
All uses combined	10 acres

Designing Your Natural Landscape

1. Determine the size of the area you want to landscape
2. Determine what colors or species you want most
3. Remember costs other than plants
4. What shore land/wetland plantings do:
 - a. Reduce pollutants entering lakes and rivers
 - b. Provide much needed habitat for wildlife
 - c. Provide screening from the lake
 - d. Provide erosion control for sensitive shore land areas
5. Curb pollutants at their source – fertilizers, household toxins, eroding soils, malfunctioning septic systems.
6. Minimize runoff that picks up pollutants and carries them to lakes and rivers
7. Minimize hard surfaces that make it easier for pollutants to reach lakes.

8. Choose zero-phosphorus fertilizer. In WI, phosphorus is now illegal in fertilizer.
9. Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes. “If you wouldn’t drink it; don’t dump it”
10. Minimize your use of toxic products in and around your home.
11. Fence your construction area to minimize seepage into lake.
12. Divert surface water away from your drain field.
13. Avoid driving or parking on your septic drain to avoid compacting the soil.
14. When a replacement septic system is needed, consider aerobic digesters or recirculating sand filters.
15. Avoid putting grease, oils, coffee grounds, cigarettes, facial tissues, paper towels, sanitary napkins, tampons or disposable diapers down toilet or any drain.
16. Avoid using a garbage disposal – compost it.
17. Conserve water use – use low-flow toilets, faucets, showerheads to reduce the water the system must filter and absorb.
18. Scientists at UW-Stevens Point have determined that both phosphorus and nitrates migrate underground over 150 feet from a lake or river. If they reach the lake underground, they cause aquatic plant growth and algae blooms.
19. Dense growth over a septic field is evidence of a possibly malfunctioning system.
20. Plant trees and shrubs, especially in buffer zones near lakes and rivers.
21. Install a rain barrel to catch water for plants.
22. Avoid building lawns close to waters’ edge.