

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WAUSHARA COUNTY WATERSHED LAKES COUNCIL

Ken Nelson and Jim Buck from Kusel Lake and Roger Jansen and Mel Heaney from Round Lake attended the Annual Meeting of the Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council (WCWLC) held at the Waushara County Courthouse on Saturday, August 13, 2011. The WCWLC represents all 33 lakes of Waushara County. Its purpose is to try to coordinate the efforts of all lakes in the county to protect and rehabilitate the county's lakes, which are one of its greatest resources. Member lakes pay dues of approximately \$15 per year, which together with other modest sources of an income, results in an annual income of approximately \$625 for WCWLC. In the past, the WCWLC has conducted fund raisers to establish a scholarship fund to help students who want to go to college and pursue a career in environmental protection. Presently, the scholarship fund has a balance of \$8,424. There have been very few applicants for this scholarship. Therefore, it was decided that this year's scholarship of \$250 would be used for the fifth grade land conservation program conducted by Waushara County.

Francie Rowe provided a lot of information about the Richfield mega-dairy planned for Adams County, which could have an adverse effect on the lakes in the western portion of Waushara County, especially around Coloma, Wisconsin. The dairy will start out with 6,000 head of cows, just west of Pleasant Lake. Such a mega-dairy will produce sewage in one year equal to that of the entire city of Lacrosse, Wisconsin for one year. Also, the dairy wants to install two high-capacity wells to provide water for its livestock. Once this dairy is approved, it can increase its size without going through the permit process that is required for its initial establishment.

It appears that the Richfield dairy already has obtained a number of the permits necessary for it to get started, while a few others are still pending approval. A lawsuit has been filed in Dane County against the dairy by the friends of Central Sands, Wisconsin. These mega-dairies are referred to as "CAFOs,"

which stands for Confined Animal Feeding Operations. More information about this mega-dairy can be found at the following website: www.stoptherichfieldcafo.org.

A presentation was made by DNR Warden, David Algrem. The DNR has been conducting fish surveys on most of Waushara County's lakes by netting and shocking. The DNR has prohibited the movement of fish from one lake to another due to VHS which can attack and ruin fish populations. This restriction applies to minnows, as well as, larger fish. Algrem said he tries to stop by most of the public and private boat launch sites in the county to make sure that the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program is being followed. He has observed few, if any, violations. However, several persons attending the meeting described problems they have had on their own lakes with persons launching boats with vegetation hanging off of their boats and trailers. Another issue is the spreading of sand on shorelines. Sand can be spread on shorelines above the normal highwater mark, but below that level it is prohibited and/or controlled by the DNR.

The State of Wisconsin has recommended legislation that would change zoning ordinances throughout the State. However, the State may put a two-year hold on the implementation of these regulations. It was pointed out that individual counties can go ahead and adopt and implement these zoning ordinances themselves, if they want to. However, it appears that Waushara County will adhere to the two-year delay, if it is put into effect. Several of the new zoning rules could impact riparian landowners in Waushara County. First, zoning ordinances would provide that for properties within 300 feet of a body of water only 15% of their total property land area can be covered with impervious services, such as roofs, decks, sidewalks, driveways, etc. For persons with very small lots this could be a troublesome restriction. Secondly, it will be necessary to obtain a permit to cut down a dead tree, and then a new tree must be planted to make up for the lost tree. Persons wanting more information about these

zoning changes should refer to the following website: www.co.waushara.wi.us.

Nancy Turyk, a water resource scientist at UW/SP, discussed a lakes classification grant in which she is involved. This grant will allow her to conduct a Washara County lake study. Presently, she and her assistants are gathering information about the 33 lakes in Waushara County. The goal is to help all Waushara County lakes develop a plan for the protection and rehabilitation of their lakes. Once Turyk and her assistants have gathered the necessary data, they will provide that data to the various lake organizations. Then they will meet with the individual lakes to help develop plans for them. If lakes have already produced such plans, then they should provide that information to Nancy Turyk or Ed Hernandez at Waushara County.

Other information was provided at the meeting which proved to be very informative. The next meeting of the WCWLC will be held on November 12, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. at the Waushara County Courthouse. In 2012, the meetings will be held on February 18, May 19, August 11, and November 10. All riparian landowners are welcome to attend these meetings, and they are encouraged to do so.