

2014 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention—Mike Backus

Karl Frickelton asked me to represent the Jordan Lake Board by attending this annual convention held on April 24-26 in Steven Point Wisconsin. I appreciate this opportunity and have put this set of notes together so that maybe others can gain value in what I was exposed to. I was very impressed with the convention and the over 550 participants all of whom had the common concern of making their lake better for those that follow us. I feel strongly that all Board members be given this opportunity, in some rotating basis, to attend future Conferences. It gave me new excitement in regard to offering my time doing what I do for Jordan Lake.

Concurrent Session 1

Fri 8:00 An Overview of Shoreland Zoning and Shoreland & Mitigation Options by Mike Wenzholz DNR
Shoreland Team Leader

- NR 115 is being revised yet again
- We were reminded that Shoreland Zoning goes all the way back to Public Trust Doctrine found in WI Constitution
- Studies show that a cleaner lake = higher property values
- New Revisions
- -Public Hearings held in Aug 2013
- -Revisions made to the proposals
- -Governor approved the changes
- -Legislature now reviewing them but will NOT be acted on yet this year. Best guess is mid 2015
- New proposals
- -changes to the impervious surface stds- changes ONLY cover 'highly' developed areas that will never meet current stds in passed law.
- -nonconforming structure stds. Again this is for 'highly' developed areas to give county options for OLD substandard lot sizes that can never meet mitigation or variance rules.
- -few new Vegetative Management stds. No permit needed for removal of dead and invasive plants
- -reporting stds

My note: Changes as I heard them will not impact most of us on the lake. Once passed (2015) the county will have until mid year 2016 to make changes. Bottom line all this means is the law is still changing.

General Session 1

Fri 9:00 Back to the Point or Lake Management by Dr Susan Knight; Dr Tim Kratz and Dr Carl Watras

- These three and their staffs conducted a 30 yr study of Little Rock Lake in upper WI
- They split the lake in half via a barrier that went from the bottom to the surface. The lake had NO residents
- ½ of the lake was introduced to acid rain chemicals in a controlled amount
- ½ was left alone
- Treated half was "killed" in all aspects in a matter of years.
- Fish failed to reproduce and when adults died that was the end of life for that species.
- Since coal fired plants produce acid rain the study findings resulted in new standards world wide for acid rain travels significant distance. Far less chemicals than expected will have a negative impact on a lake.
- Cleaner coal is now being used to reduce sulfur in the acid rain
- Study then stopped the introduction of chemicals into the treated half of the lake
- The result was that it took over 10 years to have the lake recover on its own
- After the lake recovered, they did a 2nd study and found that the amount of woody branch structures left in a lake has a significant positive impact on the fish population in size and numbers. They proved this

by doing nothing different to the fish population other than removing all the woody structures from ½ of the lake.

- Highly developed lakes usually have less wood in the lake and less fish. Note: this is why we are adding fish cribs to Jordan.

Concurrent Session 2

Legislative Updates by John Keckhaver Government Relations and Analysis lobbyist

- 2013-2014 session ended in March
- Small DNR budget increase was approved.
- Governor wanted to increase DNR staff by 12 but legislature CUT staff by 46
- Governor wanted to have increase in bonding authority for Stewardship Programs but Legislature reduced it
- Landowner funding help for installation of runoff structures was increased. Note: acceptance of this may impact your deed
- Mining Bills got in the way of other progress regarding things like High Capacity Well rules because of 'strained' relationships in the legislature.
- Large turnover of legislators will play a factor in progress in next session. New legislators take time to get up to speed on hard topics.

Concurrent Session 3

Fri 1:45 Climate Change by David Liebl Climate and Stormwater Specialist

- State has a significant difference in impacts of precipitation
- Long range projection (next 50 years) is that precipitation is going to be UP
- Our temps have a number of impacts (hot/windy/dry...)
- Water temps are going up because of hotter air temps
- Higher water temps usually mean increase in vegetation growth
- Warmer winters mean less ice cover and more evaporation.
- Warmer summer temps mean more incentive to irrigate
- Heat waves mean increased water use from ground water sources
- Expect larger number of rainfalls of greater than 2 inches (more runoff)
- We need more winter and summer precipitation to recharge ground water level

Concurrent Session 4

Fri 2:35 Shoreland Mapping as a tool for Restoration and Tracking by Nancy Turyk Water Resource Specialist

- Can't fix/improve what you don't know so mapping your lake is the start
- A map becomes your roadmap for action
- She was aggressive in suggesting we point out trouble spots on our lake and going after them.
- Aggressive action on Shoreland Restoration will result in improved health of the aquatic ecosystem.
- My note: Her suggestions may result in faster progress of lake problems but at the cost of being the enforcement body on the lake. Where do we draw a line?

Concurrent Session 5

Sat 8:00 Aquatic Invasive Species-AIS Compliance and Boater Behaviors by Byron Goetch Regional DNR Warden

- Enforcement will be stepping up after the last years of AIS State wide communication.
- Particular enforcement will take place regarding rules on boat and live well draining. NOTE: Laura will stress this point with our landing volunteers.
- DNR Warden have many diverse duties and are still understaffed

- They have 138 positions Statewide and now have Deputy Warden Water Guard positions for enforcement of AIS and boating rules. They are certified to ticket.
- All will focus on AIS and boating rules Memorial Day to Labor Day
- NOTE: we could invite our local Warden to attend one of our meetings and/or I should meet him so he is familiar with our lake.
- I have some good ideas for a very low cost AIS Boat Cleaning station that would not have a water wash unit.

General Session 2

Sat 9:00 From Silent Spring to Silent Night: A tale of Toads and Men by Dr Tyrone Hayes

- I am unable to share significant points of this session because the speaker was so fantastic that I had to just sit back and enjoy.
- For all his adult academic life he has studied the impact of pesticides on frogs!
- His papers prove that pesticides even impact the sex of frogs and how they live their life
- His work helped find a breast cancer solution as it involves estrogens
- ATRAZINE is the KEY chemical in his studies and it is still used on our fields and crops. It reduces sperm in animals and increases estrogen in humans and animals
- The main company that makes this chemical is conducting all out effort to discredit him and his findings that are duplicated in other parts of the world.
- His facts and style of presentation made you sit up and listen and scared the hell out of you.