

2015 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention April 23-25

Some 550 attendees had the opportunity to look backward as well as forward to ensure healthy lakes at this 37th ANNUAL Convention in Steven Point, Wisconsin. I was pleased to again represent Jordan Lake and have written this report to share with all of you. Mike Backus

THURSDAY APRIL 23RD

1 MORNING WORKSHOP—Advanced Shoreline Erosion by Quita Sheihan/Stacy Dehne/Kelsey Brown

*Speakers concentrated on storm water runoff

*Watershed is land that drains into our lake or any waterbody

*If you look at the 5 Year Plan on the Web site you can see good info on our watershed

2 CLMN Training

*117 million lakes on Earth

*Monitoring on a long term basis will give a health picture of a lake which makes it easier to see trends

*Monitoring like we do can also provide EARLY WARNING of problems on a water body and thus time to react to the problems

*All the data I enter into the data base for Jordan Lake is analyzed in November of each year and annual reports are produced at the State level

3 THUR PM SESSION- Shoreline Zoning by Lynn Markham/Kay Lutz

*50+ attendees with over half from various County Depts that face dealing with the new rules

*Wisconsin Waters belong to EVERYONE by State Constitution. The State has the obligation to protect rights of everyone on those waters.

*Local County government has the responsibility for administration and enforcement

*Why Zoning? Prevent pollution; protect fish spawning; protect natural beauty

*New shoreline rules are to curb/cut runoff/capture and cleanse pollutants

*Multiple studies prove waterfront property values DECREASE with the amount of pollution in a water body

*Buffer zones hold soil in place. Grass roots are 1-1.5" deep so they do not hold the soil.

*Impervious surface (rooftops, driveways, etc.) increase runoff and reduce area to absorb water

*Water from Impervious surfaces is also warmer and therefore heats up a water body faster which hurts fish population and speeds up vegetation growth

FRIDAY APRIL 24th

1 AM SESSION- Long Term Effects of Herbicide on Native Plants by Michelle Nault/Paul Frater (DNR)

*120 attendees

*DNR has a 10 year study going on managed vs unmanaged lakes. We are a managed lake for we have taken action to improve our lake

*On managed lakes they have proof that vegetation shows a major drop when treated. No surprise for this is why we treat! The issue is what does it do to good plants

*Vegetation types vary from year to year in both managed and unmanaged lakes

*Over-treatment of a lake will impact the species of vegetation in a lake and can therefore shift the lake makeup of vegetation

*The concentration of 2-4-D is the critical factor in lake treatment. We watch that very careful on our lake and the DNR oversees our plan.

*Finding the right balance is the key and we have done a lot of work in that area with spot vs full lake treatment

*The study on our lake some years back was a great help to the DNR in this regard

*Our plan to skip treatment this season is the RIGHT decision for us at this time.

2 AM SESSION - Reflecting on Past and Future Lake Health by Stephen Born/William O'Connor/Jim Holperin

*These three have been the leaders of the past in protecting Natural Resources of this State

*Extension Programs; DNR; Lake Associations and Lake Districts working together form the stewardship of our Natural Resources

*However we are at a Cross-Roads

*Budget cuts; Legislature lack of understanding and public apathy are placing our resources in danger

*Budget pressure is so great that scientific results are pushed aside or ignored

*Our voices must be heard if we want to protect our lake and our property value

3 FRI AM SESSION - Groundwater and High Capacity Wells in WI by George Kraft

*Groundwater from rain feeds our lakes and streams especially our lake

*Pumping from High Capacity Wells drains groundwater supply

* 237 BILLION gallons were pumped in 2013 and 50 percent for irrigation

*2200 high Capacity Wells are in the Central Sands area (us)

*Adams County has the more High Capacity Wells than any other County in WI

*A number of lakes in our area and now DRY

*DNR management has been weak in this are to date in protecting surface water like our lake

*In 2013 a ruling FORCED them to finally consider the Cumulative effect when reviewing new requests!

*Better cooperation between all parties is still needed

4 LUNCH SPEAKER - Political Climate by Cal Potter

*Cal spent 24 years in the State Legislature

*Times are a changing. Voting NOT done based on facts these days but driven by party voting.

*Money talks

*To get their attention one needs to meet face to face to make your case

5 How Might Declining Water Levels Affect Lake Habitat in Shallow Area of Seepage Lakes? By Brenton Butterfield/Eddie Heath/Tim Hoyman

*Low water level not only hurts boating but also Lake Eco System

*A Seepage lake like ours depends on natural springs for water from the groundwater supply

*If our water goes down to where these springs are no longer active the lake dries up and new plant species come into being and that is not always good for a lake

*As other species leave invasive plants often take over

*Expect 4-6 acre loss of the lake for every foot of loss of lake level!

6 FRI PM SESSION - lake Monitoring in WI Using Satellite by Daniela Grulin (DNR)

*A satellite goes over our lake twice a week and monitors our lake from the air via pictures. The monitoring I do ON the lake is used to adjust/refine the findings from the air

Saturday April 25th

1 AM SESSION - Learning From Our Neighbors by Tina Wolbers MN DNR

*Most of Minnesota AIS funding goes to enforcement

*They have a law that requires that any pier or lift taken out of a lake must stay out of the water for at least 21 days

*ALL boats must pull drain plug once trailered

*They have special Water Enforcement Officers who even set up highway checkpoints to check all boat trailers for compliance

*They have three Zebra Mussel Detecting Dogs they bring to landings to monitor boats

*Any company responsible for the boating industry must have a permit that is gained only after training

*ALL MN boaters MUST agree to boat inspection at landings or face a fine

*Anyone who trails a boat needs to pass a training program and have a sticker on their trailer proving that they are aware of AIS rules

*Local communities are encouraged to enforce laws on AIS and all fines collected go back to their community

*The state gives Counties money (amount determined by lakes in area) for AIS prevention

2 SPECIAL SESSION - by Marion Stoddart

*This session was an inspirational session designed to have us leave on an upbeat.

*In 1960 she started an effort to clean up the Nashua River in the state of Mass

*The river was documented as one of the 10 worst in the US in terms of pollution

*She is now 87 and one powerful lady who had a cause that drove her to take action

*The results of her leadership is that they now swim in that river without fear of pollution

*Her guide for making things happen in life are powerful: have a vision—commitment—passion—associate with positive people—educate yourself—educate others especially the leaders who can help your mission—be open to others and their ideas—make friends and cooperate—ask for what you WANT not what you will settle for—the job is never done.