

LAKES UPDATE MARCH 19, 2024



PICTURES TAKEN MARCH 6, 2024

WHAT HAS HAPPENED

- LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE CREATED
- LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS TOPICS COVERED
 - WHITEWATER-RICE LAKE DISTRICT PRESENTATION
 - COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR THE LAKES
 - SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSHOP WITH COMMITTEE
- PERMISSION TO AMEND CURRENT PERMIT FOR FUTURE DREDGE PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO DNR
- MONITORING OF LAKES FOR BOGS

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Summary with Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission at the Lakes Advisory Meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024.

Outside of Plan

- Note: we can provide advice to the City on these topics, but they will likely be addressed before the plan is complete
- Formation of lake district
 - Important for plan development and implementation, but sounds likely to occur before plan is completed
- Short-term cattail management
 - Address floating bogs from uprooted cattails if they occur
 - Cattails may die-off as water levels remain high
 - Apply for WDNR Surface Water Restoration grant to help address cattail management in summer 2025
- Fish stocking in 2024

Plan: Short-Term

- Aquatic plant survey of Cravath and Tripp lakes
 - This survey would inform an updated aquatic plant management plan for the lake
- Shoreline survey
 - Complete survey of both lakes' shorelines using WDNR protocol
 - Conducting in 2024 would help document current problems with cattail encroachment
 - Conducting in 2025 or beyond may better document "typical" conditions if cattails begin to die off
- Fisheries
 - Request information from WDNR fisheries biologist regarding next fishery survey for lakes (already completed)
- Water quality monitoring in 2024
 - Cravath and Tripp lakes (ideally collaboration between City/District volunteers and UW-Whitewater)
 - Water clarity (secchi disk), temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, chloride, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a
 - Bluff Creek, Spring Brook, Whitewater Creek upstream, and Whitewater Creek downstream (UW-Whitewater and SEWRPC)
 - Water clarity (transparency tube), temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, total phosphorus, and total suspended solids
 - Note: we (SEWRPC) have automated water temperature and specific conductance loggers that could be installed into the lakes and creeks
- Recreational use
 - Incidental monitoring while completing other surveys on lake – no intensive survey efforts

Plan: Long-Term

- Aquatic plant management plan
 - Informed by aquatic plant survey
 - Would enable City/District to apply for aquatic plant management permits as a single entity rather than individual homeowners
- Fisheries
 - Enhance warmwater sport fishery (bass, crappie, perch, etc.)
 - Develop long-term plan to help reduce carp population
- Water quality
 - Could request funds to analyze water quality constituents not covered in 2024 monitoring or to continue 2024 monitoring efforts
 - Incorporate 2024 and beyond data with historical data to examine conditions and trends in lakes, tributaries, and Whitewater Creek downstream
- Shorelines
 - Ensure that City/District has permit to address shoreline restoration problems instead of individual homeowners
- Stormwater management
 - Incorporate major elements and actions from 2017 stormwater management plan
 - Investigate potential impact of stormwater pollutants on lake water quality as part of pollutant load modeling
- Recreational use
 - Install signs with QR codes asking lake users about how they recreate, fish that they catch, etc.
 - Ensure that water quality goals for fishable and swimmable lakes are met
 - Tie in with plans to increase recreational activities on lakes through handicap access for fishing, trails, swimming hole in Tripp
- Lake and watershed characterization
 - Lake size, bathymetry, and brief review of dam infrastructure and operations
 - Using available information – no new surveys of dam
 - Characterize land use, civil divisions, households and urban growth, wetlands, etc. within watershed
 - These elements inform the pollutant load modeling as well as other aspects of plan development, e.g. recommending areas where wetland enhancement can trap nutrients
- Pollutant loading
 - Conduct watershed pollutant load modeling (e.g., STEPL model) to examine major pollutant sources and source areas
 - Recommend practices and programs to help reduce pollutant loading
 - Agricultural practices, wetland enhancements, stormwater management, lawn and shoreline care, etc.
- Grants and Funding Opportunities

WHAT'S NEXT!

- FISH SURVEY
- 2024 FISH STOCKING PLAN
- 2024 DREDGE OPTIONS
- WISCONSIN LAKES & RIVERS CONVENTION
- LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUTURE TOPICS
 - LAKES DISTRICT CREATION TOOLS
 - STORMWATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN



Thank You