



Common Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: May 6, 2025

Agenda Item: Resolution Creating The City of Whitewater Trippe and Cravath Lake District

Staff Contact (name, email, phone): Michelle Dujardin, mdujardin@whitewater-wi.gov 262-473-0121

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

As the City of Whitewater continues to explore solutions for the long-term health and sustainability of Trippe and Cravath Lakes, it's important for the community to understand the work being done by the Common Council and the Lakes Advisory Committee (LAC). Since its creation, the LAC has met several times, consulted with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), and reviewed the most recent lake management plans. The committee is assessing the impact of current projects and developing a path forward for the protection and rehabilitation of both lakes.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

October 2, 2024 Lakes Advisory Committee held an educational Lakes Summit at 841 Brewhouse from 5:00pm-7:00pm to help the public learn more about these efforts.

November 13, 2024. Lakes Advisory Committee Meeting: Geoff Hale motioned to approve The Resolution Creating The City of Whitewater Trippe and Cravath Lake District as written with recommendation to bring to Common Council for approval on December 3, 2024. Seconded by Kurt Zipp. Ayes: Carol McCormick, Elvira Kau, Gayle Stettler, Geoff Hale, Ginny Coburn, and Kurt Zipp. Noes: None.

December 3, 2024 City Council Meeting: Kurt Zipp Chair of the Lakes Advisory Committee presented on why the City of Whitewater should form a Lakes District. Council decided to postpone the vote for the Lakes District until the December 17, 2024 Common Council meeting when all Councilmembers will be present.

December 17, 2024 City Council Meeting: Motion made to postpone the resolution until May 6 to give staff time to do more research by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen. Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Schanen

Public Education Sessions 2025: March 12 at 11:30am, March 20 at 10:00am & 6:00pm, April 5 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

The Lakes Advisory Committee is recommending the formation of a Lakes District to the Common Council. If approved, this district would have the authority to implement lake protection projects and levy a tax on all properties within the City—not just those with direct lake access. Based on recent calculations, the total assessed property value within the City of Whitewater, including both Walworth County (\$896,192,600) and Jefferson County (\$122,927,000), totals approximately \$1,019,119,600. The proposed initial budget for the Lakes District is \$250,000, which translates to a mill rate of approximately \$0.26 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For every \$100,000 in property value, this would result in an annual cost of approximately \$26.

It's important for the community to know that future budgets for the Lakes District would be determined at an annual meeting of the committee overseeing the Lakes Management District. This meeting would serve as the primary opportunity for residents to voice their opinions on the budget and its impact on the levy.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

1. Resolution Creating The City of Whitewater Trippe and Cravath Lake District
 2. Informational Presentation
 3. Together For Healthy Lakes Pamphlet
 4. Ordinance No. 2072- Lakes Advisory Committee
 5. People of The Lakes Book- Forming a Lake District Chapter
 6. City Limits Map
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