

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

From: John Weidl, City Manager

Date: December 17, 2024

Subject: Follow-Up on the Proposed City of Whitewater Trippe and Cravath Lake District

Council Members,

As we reconvene to discuss the proposed creation of the City of Whitewater Trippe and Cravath Lake District, I would like to take this opportunity to give you a clear understanding of the available pathways and key considerations that can guide your continued deliberations.

Pathways to Creating a Lake District

1. Resolution by the Common Council
  - The Council may create the lake district by resolution under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 33.
  - In this scenario, the Council can appoint itself as the initial governing body of the district. However, governance may later be altered through a petition signed by 20% of the voting members within the district.
2. Petition Process
  - The district can also be formed through a petition supported by at least 51% of property owners within the proposed district boundaries.
  - This approach demonstrates explicit support from a majority of those directly impacted by the district and its associated tax levy.

Each method has advantages: a resolution provides efficiency, while a petition ensures clear, demonstrated support from affected property owners.

Key Considerations

1. April Referendum for Public Safety

The upcoming referendum on police department funding remains a significant priority for our community. As this referendum will appear on the April ballot, the Council must consider the timing and focus of additional proposals that could impact public perception or support.

2. Completion of the Lakes Plan



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The Lakes Advisory Committee (LAC) has made significant progress, and the City has authorized its portion of funding for a grant to complete an updated Lakes Plan. Regardless of whether the grant is awarded, we should finalize this plan.

While not complete, the Lakes Plan will provide a comprehensive foundation for decisions regarding the lakes' future. Without this plan, the public lacks a detailed document to understand the rationale and benefits of establishing a lake district and its associated tax levy.

#### Conclusion

With all seven board members now present, this meeting provides an opportunity to continue the previous discussions regarding the proposed lake district. The Council may weigh the pros and cons of the available approaches in light of the current priorities, including the upcoming referendum.

Thank you for your ongoing diligence and thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Best, - JSW

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John S. Weidl".

John S. Weidl

City Manager, City of Whitewater