

To: City Council  
RE: Lakes District  
Date: February 27, 2025

I would request the city council to not approve the resolution to create a city wide lake management district at this time.

I request more citizen feedback via a list of signatures obtained by the lakes advisory committee from city of Whitewater citizens, city of Whitewater property owners, and eligible voters to determine the level of support people in Whitewater are willing and able to pay. The list of signatures could request that council form a city wide lake district and this would not necessary require a specific number or percentage of signatures, yet could show the level of city wide community support (the people who are paying for this) for a lakes district.

Another option would be for the city to mail out a survey ( this could be included in with water bills or property tax bills) to obtain citizen feedback related to which lake projects eligible voters desire completed and about how much money local citizens want to spend.

Additional options include a non-binding referendum or a petition.

It is my understanding that a lake district can tax up to 2.5 mills. Is up to 2.5 mills, up to \$2,500 per \$100,000 of annual property tax increase?

One of the lake projects I have heard verbally discussed is a additional substantial lakes dredging to remove bottom sediments throughout the entire lakes in the near future. I believe it would be useful to have a written list of proposed lake projects together with a proposed approximate year of implementation of the proposed project and possibly a estimated project cost. A written list of proposed lake projects with the proposed year of project implementation would give council and the citizens an idea of whether the increased property tax would be at the high end of the mill rate in the next few years.

I believe that not all properties are benefited equally, as those properties that have lake frontage are benefited more than those properties that are further from the lake. Yet the proposal seems to tax all properties at the same rate.

I encourage council to determine the level of city wide local support for a lakes district including the business park for this new property tax, before the council takes action on the creation of a new additional property tax.

Thank you,



303 Ann Street  
Whitewater, WI 53190