

RESOURCES (or ISSUES)

LAKES CLASSIFICATIONS

County-Level Water Classification in Wisconsin: An Assessment

Prepared by Wisconsin Association of Lakes June 2007

This document explains lakes classifications - 43 pages. (2MB)

LOCAL BOATING AND RECREATIONAL USE MANAGEMENT (fact sheet #20 of the Shoreland Management and Lake Classification Series)

https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/people/lakeclassification/fs_20.pdf

Sawyer County Lakes and Rivers Classification Plan

& Sawyer County Shoreland Survey 1996

This document is the basis for the original 3 tier lakes classification for zoning – 29 pages (LPL-353.pdf 4MB)

SAWYER COUNTY: LCO-Lake Classification Implementation

<https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/water/projectDetail.aspx?key=10100167>

Purpose

Sawyer County will implement a four component, countywide lake and shoreland project to assist the county in protecting its valuable land and water resources; (1) Continued development of ordinances implementing the lakes classification system, (2) Continuation of a shoreland restoration program initiated by the Sawyer County Land Conservation Department with cooperation from the Sawyer County Zoning Administration, (3)

Development and implementation of a public information and education program to provide a better understanding of Lake Classification guidelines and new ordinances to shoreland owners, and (4) Development of a new database and tracking system tied to individual parcel numbers to evaluate compliance with the new lake classification system and ordinances. Activities associated with this project will include; development of new ordinances, or amendments, the development of 20 shoreland restoration demonstration sites, public information and education for the lake classification program, training sessions for excavators and landscapers, and the hiring of a limited term employee to develop the new database/tracking system. Project deliverables for this project include copies of all maps, a final report including proposed ordinances, plan, summary of restoration sites, etc. developed during the course of the project. All properties participating in this program for shoreland restoration will receive a department approved deed restriction that permanently establishes the vegetative buffer on the parcel. Shoreland restoration projects will be designed and installed in accordance with the NRCS Best Management Practices Definitions and Conditions. The Department of Natural Resources will be provided with both a paper copy and an electronic copy of all project products and periodic reports on the progress of the project. The project results will be disseminated to the public by newsletter(s), or public meeting(s), and/or newspaper articles(s)

Full County Lake Classification

This document is a 6 page spreadsheet listing of Sawyer County Lakes (1MB)

Natalie's note on this is that the last column is the lake classification.

This exhibit has 3 lakes classifications.

Lake Class 4 – 150 acre

This document is what Natalie provided, it lists lakes less than 150 acres in size (70KB)

Current Lake Classifications

This document is the public hearing notice for amending the Sawyer County zoning ordinances to create the 4th class or tier of lakes – “Wilderness Development”

The notice lists the lakes. (185KB)

WISCONSIN ZONING BASICS

UWSP CLUE Introduction to Plan Commission (Plan Commissions and Zoning Committees)

https://www.uwsp.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/IntroPlanCommission_6-26-24.pdf

Audio Only Files

- [Introduction to the Plan Commission – Audio Only – Part A \(2024\)](#)
- [Introduction to the Plan Commission Audio File – Part B \(2024\)](#)

The presentation explains the purpose of zoning, zone districts, permitted/conditional/prohibited uses listed in zone districts, the bodies responsible for planning and zoning ordinance adoption, administration, appeals and enforcement, and the related requirements of people serving on these committees/commissions/boards and conducting public hearings. This information is similar to what was presented at the March 4, 2025 Zoning workshop held in Shell Lake.

SAWYER COUNTY RECORD COVERAGE OF ADOPTION OF WILDERNESS LAKES 4th lakes classification.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/county-considers-new-wilderness-lake-restrictions/article_f05bc4af-ead3-5f45-bc1a-e40adfb154b1.html

County considers new 'wilderness lake' restrictions

By Terrell Boettcher Sep 27, 2006

At their Sept. 20 meeting, Sawyer County Board members agreed to re-assemble a citizens committee to look at revising the county's shoreland ordinance, including the possible creation of a "wilderness" class of lakes with tough restrictions on any new development.

To be appointed by Board Chairman Hal Helwig with the consent of the county board, the committee will be composed of various interest group representatives. Besides a wilderness class of lakes, topics will include expansion of existing campgrounds and RV parks and limitations on impervious surfaces beyond 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark.

The "wilderness development" idea was sparked by a recent residential subdivision proposal on Indian Lake which was rejected by the county's zoning committee and strongly opposed by the LCO Tribe.

County Conservationist Dale Olson presented a Wilderness Development concept to the zoning committee which would require a residential lot to be at least five acres in size, have a minimum of 300 feet of shoreline and depth of 700 feet, and a residence to be set back at least 100 feet from the water. The owner would be allowed to clear vegetation from a 30-foot corridor within 75 feet of the lake's ordinary high water mark.

To be considered for Class Four Wilderness Development, a lake would need to exhibit special features or conditions requiring increased shoreline protection from development.

Olson suggested that all waters under 150 acres (199 spring ponds, lakes and flowages in the county) fall into this category. For instance, Ole Lake in the town of Spider Lake, now a Class Two lake, would be a new Class Four. Another criterion would be shallowness.

Eighty-five percent of these lakes have private land surrounding them.

Phil Nies, a board member of the Sawyer County Lakes Forum, said they are "very much in favor of having a Class Four wilderness lake" category.

Fred Zietlow urged the county to be "careful" about too-restrictive zoning, because it could get sued for violating the Fifth Amendment, illegal taking without just compensation.

Bruce Miller said that "five acres doesn't deny somebody reasonable use of property on waters, but has the potential of protecting the public's interest in that lake. Part of our economic health is being able to maintain the 'Up North' quality of life that people come here for."

Harry Schroeder, a member of the Courte Oreilles Lakes Association (COLA) and former chairman of the county lake classification team, urged the county to "consider this. It's in the public interest to do so."

Dan Tyrolt, environmental specialist for the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Conservation Department, said the tribe “fully supports this” wilderness lake proposal. “It fits in with what the tribe is trying to do. We realize with the way that society is going, they can’t just have a no-development policy. It’s not a realistic goal. But our main goal and focus is development that lakes can handle.

“The Indian Lake situation really brought this to light for us, that there are sensitive lakes out there that need some additional protection,” Tyrolt added.

The tribe’s ordinances are more restrictive in many ways than the county’s, Tyrolt added. For instance, on the Chippewa Flowage tribal lands there is a 100-foot shoreline buffer. Smaller lakes are more sensitive to nutrients coming in and will sustain more substantial damage than large lakes, he indicated.

Persons interested in serving on the ad hoc shoreline issue review committee can submit their name to zoning committee chairman Jim Bassett.

Telemark development

The county board voted to send a letter of support for the proposed expansion known as The Inn at Mount Telemark water park, spa and adventure park.

“It would have a positive impact on tourism in Sawyer County and surrounding areas,” said Bruce Miller.

Miller said the Economic Development Committee is looking for input on topics to lobby state legislators and agencies during Superior Days next February. Suggested issues to date include expansion of rural public transit and development of renewable energy projects in the area.

Budget matters etc.

County clerk Kris Mayberry said that in developing its 2007 budget, the county will be limited to a state-mandated maximum two percent increase in the property tax levy.

Helwig said that even though 86 percent of Wisconsin voters in a referendum voted to reduce property taxes by having the state fund mandated services, “the legislature sits there and laughs. These politicians all sound real nice, but they still can’t do anything (to help counties) when they get to Madison.”

In other matters at their Sept. 20 meeting, board members:

- Approved text amendments to the Town of Spider Lake Zoning Ordinance which incorporate county zoning amendments;

- Approved an agreement with Carmody of Wisconsin for \$948 per year to maintain the Internet-based data collection program for the county's septic system maintenance program.
- Approved a \$38,000 agreement with MSA of Baraboo to provide professional services for the county's centerline range addressing and geographic information system;
- Agreed to place any funds reimbursed to the county from the Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation for the settlement of the James Hausman lawsuit regarding Round Lake's water level back into the Resource Development Fund. The county paid \$430,000 from the fund to Hausman; another \$150,000 came from Wisconsin County Mutual.
- Approved a \$3,500 proposal to have Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center provide a one-day basic supervision training workshop to county department heads and employee supervisors on Oct. 17.

Arbitration award

County Human Resources Manager Carol Larson informed the board of an arbitrator's ruling in an action filed by the Sawyer County Paraprofessionals Union (Local 1213-A, AFSCME, AFL-CIO).

The arbitrator, Herman Torosian, ruled in favor of the county's offer, to be incorporated into the 2005-06 collective bargaining agreement between the parties. The paraprofessionals are receiving a two-plus-one percent wage increase each year, retroactively.

Larson said the courthouse employees union, by far the largest bargaining unit, also has filed for arbitration. An arbitrator's decision is expected by the end of the year.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/campgrounds-wilderness-lakes-classification-addressed-at-shoreland-meeting/article_282bb6ff-f9c1-58de-9628-dabb9510f044.html

Campgrounds, wilderness lakes classification addressed at shoreland meeting

By Will LaBreche Feb 8, 2007

Campgrounds attracting "tourists of average means," according to Shoreland Issues Subcommittee Chairman Bruce Miller, have all but disappeared in Sawyer County, a topic the newly-chartered subcommittee is set to resolve in the coming year.

Campgrounds currently in operation, it was pointed out at the meeting, serve annual visitors with very few spots available to those who might seek to make the area a vacation destination. The subcommittee feels that more campgrounds, mainly those with lakeshore

frontage, should be created within the county to attract visitors who might not have the economic means by which to purchase second homes on Sawyer County lakes.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/shoreland-subcommittee-submits-recommendations-at-zoning-meeting/article_e8e99020-1475-5e8d-a051-f54edc03f925.html

Shoreland subcommittee submits recommendations at zoning meeting

By Will LaBreche Jun 20, 2007

The Shoreland Issues Subcommittee presented its recommendations to the zoning committee last Friday concerning the establishment of a fourth wilderness lakes classification.

The proposed development standards presented to the zoning committee include: 90,000 to 217,000 (5 acres) lot sizes; 200-to-300-foot lot width; a shoreline setback of 75 to 100 feet; and a lot depth of 450 to 700 feet on all waters designated as wilderness lakes. As well, a side yard setback for all structures was also recommended at a 50- to 100-foot minimum total.

Criteria for designating wilderness lakes was also proposed, awarding a point value based on certain elements of a lake. These include considering whether the lake is drainage, spring or seepage; whether it supports endangered or threatened species; if there are naturally sensitive elements (spawning areas, etc.); the slope of shorelines; culturally-sensitive elements requiring historic preservation; the lake's development density; and finally, consideration is given to the volume of a lake. Based on the findings of the subcommittee, classification as a wilderness lake would require a total of seven points or greater.

The subcommittee's findings will be published with public hearings on the matter slated for early September.

In other action, the zoning committee voted down a proposed development of duplexes by the Sawyer County Housing Authority in Bass Lake Township, ultimately siding with the town's vote to deny the rezone application. They also denied a rezone application in Lenroot Township that outlined development of 10 residential lots. This application was argued and opposed by numerous neighbors on hand who said the change from agriculture one and forestry one to residential/recreational one did not conform with the surrounding land uses, including a number of active agriculture operations in the immediate area.

The zoning committee did approve, however, a proposed 14-lot residential development in the town of Hayward for the rezone of 20 acres from agricultural one to

residential/recreational one. On this item, Miller questioned whether the rezone would align with the town of Hayward's comprehensive plan, where Dick Dewhurst, chair of the town's plan commission, addressed the committee and said there was no designated use for the parcel in question for at least 10 years. The rezone was approved by the committee with the restriction that it not be further subdivided in the future. The developer had previously agreed to give one lot to the Habitat for Humanity for the construction of a dwelling, a deal that was struck between Habitat and the developer through Sawyer County Economic Development Director Scott Allen. As mentioned, the rezone was approved with the only dissenting vote coming from Miller.

In other business:

- A special meeting date of July 16 at 7 p.m. was set for a public meeting concerning the Wind Energy System Ordinance, where proposals are being accepted until July 2.
- A public hearing will be held on August 17 at 1 p.m. for the adoption of a DNR Flood Plain Ordinance.
- The committee discussed the creation of a Land Use and Planning Commission in an effort to increase communication and efficient management of the land use, zoning, surveying and mapping departments, since they work so closely together.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/opinion/public-urged-to-attend-wilderness-lakes-hearing/article_76e37cfa-2120-58dc-89b0-6821102b0e3b.html

Public urged to attend wilderness lakes hearing

By Sawyer County Record Sep 5, 2007

Staff Editorial

On Saturday, the Sawyer County zoning department will hold a public hearing in the process of creating a fourth class of lakes, known as a wilderness lakes classification, which would set parameters for development on lakes fitting into this category.

Originally, a great deal of discussion took place during the Shoreland Issues subcommittee, a group consisting of developers, county personnel, lake association members and others interested in how to best preserve our lakes through imposing guidelines on smart, environmentally-sound development.

To be discussed this Saturday is a five-acre minimum lot size on bodies of water deemed wilderness lakes, along with a minimum 300-foot lot width (600 for a multiple family dwelling), a 100-foot shoreline setback requirement, and a minimum lot depth of 700 feet. Removal of vegetation would be restricted to a 30-foot corridor within 75 feet of the ordinary high water mark and a 60-foot minimum (120 minimum total) side yard setback for all structures.

Lakes will be scored based on certain criteria including, for example, elements such as current development density, lake type (drainage, spring or seepage) and whether or not the habitat supports endangered or threatened species.

Here in Sawyer County, our water is our lifeblood. At any given Shoreland Issues meeting, it was easy to segregate the developers, pushing for more leeway, from the environmentally-minded, who argued the highest standards of protection.

Attempting some sort of compromise between the two groups was hard steel to forge, and finally the public will get a chance to provide their own input to the proposed development standards offered by the Shoreland Issues group.

It is a delicate balance: developing our precious lakeshore while protecting the “wilderness” experience — what those purchasing lake homes in Sawyer County are seeking. Development brings tax revenue too, although protecting our waters is critical for generations to come.

How do we best balance smart development with protecting our lakes? If some ambiguous number, such as five-acre minimum parcels, takes effect, will more developers move elsewhere, perhaps to Washburn County, where development is less restrictive?

Yet in moving forward, the public should be well-aware of what is happening concerning the wilderness lakes classification and be urged to participate in Saturday’s meeting to let their voices be heard.

Too often, issues of great consequence are discussed during monthly county meetings with little or no input from audience members. This is mainly due to the fact that very few people, aside from true die-hards, attend county meetings. (Round Lake watershed meetings are an exception to this, as they have drawn a lot of public attention and scrutiny.)

This Saturday, however, we at the Record urge the public to attend the wilderness lakes hearing. There are issues here that impact everyone, just as the lakes in this area are important to us all. Many of our favorite activities — fishing, boating, canoeing or even ice fishing — rely on the quality of water and shoreland in the area.

Protecting our lakes is a step in the right direction. Protective measures, however, must be implemented wisely and in consideration of future development.

The classification of wilderness lakes is not an issue to take lightly, but hopefully the outcome of the public hearing will be part of a compromise we can all agree on.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/committee-hears-from-crowded-courtroom-about-wilderness-lakes/article_aa08dfb7-87a4-5d74-9268-ec4d94ed94d3.html

Committee hears from crowded courtroom about wilderness lakes

By Will LaBreche Sep 9, 2007

Zoning committee members took comments from the public Saturday morning concerning a proposed fourth wilderness lakes classification to be developed for all named waterbodies within Sawyer County.

Crowded into the courtroom were familiar Hayward personalities with the inclusion of a number of non-resident property owners, most of whom were notified about the public hearing through a postcard mass-mailed by the Northland Area Builders Association (NABA).

Both sides of the issue - protection of the lakes versus pro development - were well represented, although the majority clearly sided in support of the more-restrictive development standards.

Complete coverage of the hearing can be found in this week's Sawyer County Record.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/crowd-turns-out-for-wilderness-lakes-designation-hearing/article_1b7f1aa7-3870-52b6-b908-93c970b2962e.html

Crowd turns out for Wilderness Lakes designation hearing

Zoning committee members hear from both sides of the issue

By Will LaBrech Sep 12, 2007

Opposing sides on the issue of a proposed fourth new wilderness lakes classification met head-to-head at a public hearing held last Saturday morning in front of a crowded courtroom. After a brief explanation of the criteria developed to rank lakes, presented by County Conservationist Dale Olson, the floor was opened to the public, eager to have their voices heard.

There were two opposing factions represented at the meeting: those in favor of responsible development of area lakes and those who favor protecting the resource through increased development standards. These standards include implementing a five-acre minimum lot size, a 300-foot lot width requirement for single-family dwellings (600-foot for multiple family dwellings), a 100-foot shoreline setback, a 700-foot lot depth minimum as well as rules imposed for vegetation removal near shorelines and side yard setback minimums.

Criteria for classifying a lake into the wilderness category include, among other items, considering lake type, culturally and naturally sensitive elements and current development density.

The Northland Area Builders' Association (NABA) was represented by executive officer Pam Ruetten, who argued in opposition to the proposed classification, saying that the county should instead consider stormwater management initiatives to protect lakes from run-off caused by impermeable surfaces, such as houses and garages.

Because the only announcement for the hearing was published in the public notice section of county newspapers, NABA mailed thousands of postcards to residents alerting them to the hearing — a response which was reflected in the vast number of residents and non-resident property owners who turned out for the hearing.

Essentially, the pro-development faction agreed that lakes should be protected for the greater good. However, most said that the county should consider stormwater management systems, which Ruetten said are about \$1,000 to \$3,000 to install. These systems collect run-off and divert it to a collection point, allowing it to filter into the system naturally instead of running off into lakes.

Many contractors voiced concerns that in moving forward with the fourth classification of wilderness lakes, the county could be held accountable for "takings," meaning the new guidelines might hinder those who purchased land on area lakes specifically for future development.

"I've been developing Hayward for 33 years," said local developer Steve Friendshuh, who said that by adopting the wilderness lakes classification, those who had planned on developing their lake properties will be economically impacted. Where current standards might allow four lots to be developed, he said, that number could potentially be cut in half or prohibited altogether, proving that the county would be taking that potential income away from some individuals by imposing the five-acre minimum lot size.

Friendshuh also commented that stormwater management systems would be a compromise between the two sides.

But many support the wilderness classification, citing that the increase in standards would mean healthier, cleaner lakes.

Notable support of the classification was received in a packet distributed by town of Bass Lake board member Phil Nies, which included 15 signatures of township chairpersons who “strongly support” the formation of a fourth class. The only town chair not to sign the document was James Bassett of Couderay, who abstained from signing due to his position as chairman of the zoning committee.

Included in Nies’ packet were letters drafted by the Sawyer County Lakes Forum, Friends of the Lakes and the Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association, all in support of the initiative.

Signing a letter of support for the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board was Chairman Louis Taylor, who said anything less than the proposed minimum standards is “unacceptable.”

After hours of testimony back and forth, members of the zoning committee took no action in accepting or rejecting the proposed fourth wilderness lakes class. Instead, they moved to include the issue on the agenda for the Nov. 14 meeting of the zoning committee.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/opinion/new-wilderness-lakes-classification-must-be-stopped/article_8dee1e05-776b-5e4a-b25c-548651db51c5.html

New wilderness lakes classification must be stopped!

By Sawyer County Record Sep 19, 2007

Editor:

As a lot of Sawyer County residents now know, the zoning board is contemplating a fourth lake classification. And what this wilderness lake classification does, in effect, is stop most, if not all, future development on 80 percent of all Sawyer County lakes.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/opinion/one-engineers-word-against-the-others/article_3908ff0b-fe9e-5981-a96a-2a1c1bd60f3b.html

One engineer's word against the other's

By Sawyer County Record Sep 26, 2007

Editor:

In recent years and in several issues involving zoning of waterfront properties in Sawyer County (the Wilderness Lakes Proposal and discussions of impervious surface limits, for

example) the Northland Area Builders Association (NABA) has consistently recommended that engineered stormwater management plans be used instead of zoning restrictions.

An assumption that is part of this recommendation is that such plans would be accurate and correct because they are prepared by professional engineers.

A case involving a proposed development on Four Seasons Road on Nelson Lake brings that assumption into question. The developers were required to obtain an engineered stormwater management plan because the residents near the development raised questions concerning the handling of stormwater runoff from the property. The zoning committee required the plan to include infiltration to prevent flooding of neighboring properties. A plan was developed and presented to the Wisconsin DNR. That plan, developed by an engineer, was "accepted" by the DNR.

The neighbors, in appealing the zoning decision to accept the plan, hired an attorney and a professional water engineer to evaluate the plan, and the plan was found to contain errors. When these were pointed out to the engineer, the plan was revised.

That revision was also evaluated by the professional water engineer and it also contained errors that could potentially have serious and significant consequences.

The errors in both the first and second plans would not have been found without the efforts of the professional water engineer who evaluated them. The residents on Four Seasons Road had to spend quite a lot of money to appeal this decision in circuit court, hiring both the engineer and the attorney. It was only after all this time, effort and money was expended that the errors were revealed and the project rejected by the Sawyer County Zoning Committee.

I do not mean to insult professional engineers. Most professional engineers would not make serious and significant errors in their work. But such errors are made, and they can only be found by careful examination of the plans by highly qualified, experienced engineers.

This story reveals the danger involved in substituting engineered stormwater management plans for zoning restrictions. The Sawyer County Zoning Department does not have a professional water engineer on staff. If all projects involving waterfront property were to require engineered stormwater management plans there would be no way to tell how many serious and significant errors might be made and not caught.

Most Sawyer County residents are not going to spend thousands of dollars to pay professional engineers to evaluate plans for developments in their neighborhoods.

Some proposals will still require engineered stormwater management plans, and the Sawyer County Zoning Department might have to pay a water engineer to evaluate these plans. But zoning restrictions and the requirement of a public hearing for special use permits are better solutions than requiring engineered stormwater management plans for all projects.

Bruce Meyers

Hayward

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/opinion/just-what-are-we-protecting/article_d1e71958-bb4f-543b-8073-f529b9cd3df8.html

Just what are we protecting?

By Sawyer County Record Oct 3, 2007

Editor:

More restrictive requirements for developing wilderness lake properties will decrease property values and take away individual property rights. Lawsuits will cost taxpayers money. Engineered stormwater management plans will protect the lakes.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/zoning-committee-ponders-fourth-lakes-class/article_2b0f32b6-f154-5487-8683-1222de1c142f.html

Zoning committee ponders fourth lakes class

By Will LaBrecche Nov 20, 2007

The zoning committee approved a commercial rezone in the town of Round Lake during its meeting last week. This item had been referred back to the committee from the county board, where the committee had no other choice but to approve the rezone. Even though the committee approved the item, they did so under protest.

The next opportunity for public input on the proposed commercial rezone on Highway 77 at Town Hall Road will be at the December county board meeting.

With an unusually short agenda, the central topic of conversation under new business was the proposed wilderness lakes classification.

Zoning committee member Dale Schleeter spoke about a breakout session of the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) where the discussion centered on classifying lakes.

“In the top third, basically the northern tier of Wisconsin, we have one, two and three lake classifications,” Schleeter said. “Now the state is going to offer money to encourage people to go through this process and develop the next classification.”

However, Schleeter stated, the conversation at WCA took a turn opposing the classification of lakes.

“But the counties that were at that meeting and speaking up were 99 percent adamantly opposed to any classification, period,” he said. “I mentioned we (Sawyer County) were considering a fourth lakes classification (wilderness lakes), I have to tell you, they looked at me like I had two heads and had just turned green. They couldn’t even fathom that.”

Schleeter questioned, “I don’t know if this is even the right direction.” He added that the proposed wilderness lakes classification “doesn’t go far enough ... and doesn’t address what needs to be addressed. To me it’s like a knee-jerk reaction to a perceived problem.

“The model that we saw out on Osprey (a 19-unit, planned unit development)... that’s something this committee should be leaning towards for all development on all lakes,” Schleeter continued. “That’s the direction we should be going ... not this (fourth lakes class).”

“The majority of these proposed class-four lakes are either zoned forestry or ag which requires five acres (for development),” said committee member Fred Zietlow, referring to the fact that the proposed fourth class would require five-acre parcels.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/opinion/county-needs-to-think-long-and-hard-about-fourth-lakes-class/article_543838bd-3e49-505d-ab05-c833aef65bc6.html

County needs to think long and hard about fourth lakes class

By Will LaBreche Dec 31, 2007

There has been a lot of discussion at the county level about a proposed fourth wilderness lakes class, and many valid arguments continue to be presented on this issue that is very far from resolved. One side argues engineered storm water management plans; the other pushes for five-acre lot size minimums on all “wilderness lakes” parcels.

As a reporter who has been following the debate in the county, even now I cannot pretend to know the background and intricacies each side has for their opinions and logic. As I step back from the issue, what I see is that both sides have protecting our shorelands and lakes as a priority — something I believe we can all appreciate.

The county has spent a great deal of time and consideration developing classification criteria for wilderness lakes, and surveying Sawyer County lakes to be included. Among the

proposed development requirements of the fourth class is a minimum lot size of five acres on lakes that score high enough to be deemed “wilderness.”

Of the 200 lakes that would qualify as “wilderness,” 51 are entirely in the public domain with basically no chance of ever being developed. Exactly 100 are already zoned Forestry One or Agriculture One, which requires five-acre lot sizes anyway. Fifty percent of the shorelines of the remaining 49 lakes are already zoned residential/recreational and will be “grandfathered in.” And if you’re keeping up on the numbers, this leaves a small portion of shoreline on just a few lakes that would potentially be affected when re-classified into the fourth class. But it is with these few lakes — and what little development potential there actually is — that is my biggest concern.

In short, if the county does move forward with a wilderness class of lakes that restricts development to five-acre minimum parcels, it could create a financial liability if someone were to challenge on the grounds of “regulatory takings.”

What we’re talking about here is fewer lake homes on much larger parcels — homes that are easily out of reach for the majority — families of average means (although that is another editorial entirely).

For the few who actually own potentially developable land on a proposed wilderness lake, where a number of homes could be built, imposing the fourth class could mean that a property owner would be forced to build fewer homes on the property. If this property means someone’s retirement or financial legacy, fewer homes translates to fewer dollars. And no matter how it’s sliced, that is takings.

While some argue fewer homes on larger parcels are more lucrative than multiple homes on smaller parcels, the numbers for me just don’t add up. In truth I think this is dabbling with constitutional rights, and the county would be wise to have rock-solid legal opinions from many attorneys before exploring the issue further.

From what I’ve read, the county has basically found itself in a real gray area — there are no clear cut answers as to whether a wilderness lakes class would make the county vulnerable to being sued for takings. But all it takes, as the county learned on Round Lake, is for one person to throw down a glove — no matter whether that person was right or wrong, it ended up costing hundreds of thousands.

And with what little virgin shoreline is left, it would only take one or two afflicted property owners standing in court arguing economic hardship to pass a seven-figure burden onto the county.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/letter-forces-county-to-ponder-wilderness-lakes-class/article_48979150-2b01-52d8-bb20-0674d0af34aa.html

Letter forces county to ponder Wilderness Lakes class

By Will LaBreche Feb 13, 2008

What to do about the issue of “takings” — a situation which arises when government regulation causes a reduction in property values — was quickly swept under the rug at last week’s Land and Water Committee meeting when members briefly talked about the implications of adopting the fourth, wilderness class of lakes.

One result of the impromptu discussion was to seek additional legal opinion on the matter as, at this point, the county has been relying on the sole legal opinion of counsel Tom Duffy, Jr.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/lakes-group-vows-to-fight-for-water-protection/article_cecc023f-b6f3-504f-bd43-9d29248e5ba1.html

Lakes group vows to fight for water protection

by Terrell Boettcher, News Editor May 15, 2008

Frustrated with a lack of action by the state Legislature on proposals to further protect lake water quality, members of the Sawyer County Lakes Forum (SCLF) vowed at their spring membership meeting last Saturday to work on the local level to seek change.

A piers bill has been adopted into law, grandfathering in most existing piers. But that’s the only bill passed among the lakes initiatives, said SCLF vice president Chris Jeffords. Proposals that did not make it were a statewide ban on phosphorus fertilizer for lawns (SB 197), a slow-no-wake requirement for boats traveling within 100 feet of and parallel to undeveloped shorelines (SB 385), and making it illegal to transport invasive species on public roads (SB 454, AB 821). Another was a bill (AB 504) to allow the DNR secretary to be appointed by the Natural Resources Board rather than the governor.

The revisions to NR 115 minimum shoreline zoning rules have been “kicked around” for five years, having gone through numerous hearings, Jeffords noted. Now they’re going to the Natural Resources Board for action.

SCLF board member Phil Nies said the state will “let the counties decide on any tough issue” dealing with shoreland zoning. Sawyer County “currently has very protective shoreland rules, and there will be tremendous pressure to ease what we have spent 15-20 years fighting to achieve to protect the lakes. The battle will be joined.”

SCLF members will push for a Wilderness Lakes classification for sensitive small lakes. The zoning committee has scheduled a hearing on this at 1 p.m. July 18 at the courthouse.

The Wilderness Lakes classification would require a shoreland five-acre minimum lot size. Of the 149 lakes proposed for wilderness status that now have private shorelines, 91 are classified Forestry-1, six are Ag-1, three are Ag-2, and 49 are at least 50 percent RR-1 or RR-2. All parcels now zoned F-1, Ag-1 or Ag-2 have a five-acre minimum lot size.

Forum members voted to contribute \$500 to the public relations campaign for wilderness lakes.

Several counties have initiated or passed ordinances dealing with phosphorus, slow-no-wake, or illegal transport of AIS. “At this point, this is our intent as a Sawyer County Lakes Forum, to try to get some of these passed at a local level,” Jeffords said.

Forum delegates voted unanimously to advocate that the Sawyer County Board pass a ban on lawn phosphorus fertilizer, as the Bayfield County board has done.

Also, the delegates voted unanimously to advocate an ordinance requiring a slow-no-wake zone within 100 feet of shorelines and an ordinance banning the transport of aquatic invasive species on public roadways.

Kristi Maki, Sawyer County aquatic invasive species specialist, said the Land & Water Conservation Committee decided not to move forward now with a no-transport ordinance because they’re hoping it would be passed statewide. Also, sheriff’s deputies would need to be trained to enforce the ordinance; neither the state patrol nor DNR wardens would enforce an ordinance, said County Conservationist Dale Olson.

Jeffords said the forum should pass this proposal anyway, “because we hope it would get more visibility,” he said. Bruce Meyers said, “We should urge the county to do it, because the state continues to fail to pass this legislation. We shouldn’t let the county use this as an excuse.”

Further information on the new pier regulations just passed into law may be obtained on the Wisconsin DNR Web site or on the Wisconsin Lakes Association Web site, wisconsinlakes.org.

Pamphlets were distributed to SCLF members, giving advice on “sensible shoreland lighting.”

Lake grants

Jeffords congratulated local lake associations which recently received lake improvement grants from the state: the Big Chetac Chain of Lakes, \$3,847 for “Getting Rid of the Green

Phase Five;" Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust (CWRLT), \$10,000 for the Moose Lake Islands Legacy Initiative; and Connors-Papoose-Pine Lakes, \$789 for a dissolved oxygen meter.

CWRLT board member Bruce Paulson said the \$10,000 grant will pay for the creation of an online atlas for the Moose Lake watershed. A previous effort has identified 81 islands on the lake. CWRLT is now working with the DNR and Xcel Energy to prioritize these islands, he added. Once that happens, the CWRLT hopes to apply for a grant to purchase key shorelines and place them in trust, he said.

Jeffords said the SCLF has received a 75 percent DNR grant for posting Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) information signs around boat landings. All lake associations can get and install these signs for free after obtaining a \$25 permit from the Sawyer County zoning department.

SCLF President Waldo Asp noted that a group of up to 16 county lakes forums have formed the Northwest Wisconsin Water Resources Consortium for greater communication and impact on the local and state levels. Its first annual meeting will be Thursday, June 19, at 1 p.m. at Telemark Lodge.

Guest speakers

Olson updated forum members on the Conservation Star Home program. He trains volunteers on the lakes, a "peer review team," to go around the shoreline and identify those areas which are examples of desirable shoreline practices, such as buffers and minimal lawns.

"We're hoping to see people become more sensitive to these practices," Olson said. He will hold a Star Home training session at Grindstone Shallows Park at 3 p.m. May 24.

Maki reported that a Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop sponsored by UW-Extension will be held this Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Groups can get resource kits for \$25 to do a clean boats, clean waters education and boat landing monitoring program on their lake. Lake associations involved in this effort now include Nelson Lake, Spider Chain of Lakes and the Courte Oreilles Lakes Association (COLA).

Volunteers can do this, or the association can get a 75 percent AIS grant to pay people to do this monitoring, Maki said.

Maki said nine aquatic invasive species grants for herbicide treatment of Eurasian water milfoil on Sawyer County waters were awarded this past cycle. The DNR provides 75 percent of the funding.

Bruce Meyers and Roger Wilson reported on the “Get the Lead Out” campaign headed by Project Loon Watch to encourage anglers to switch to non-lead fishing lures and sinkers. Lead is toxic and loons and other birds which ingest it die or become disoriented.

Founders recognized

SCLF Board member Phil Nies presented plaques to several founders of the Sawyer County Lakes Forum: Charlie Baumann (Lost Land-Teal-Ghost Lakes), Mary Ann Churchill (Moose Lake) and Ken Vrtis (Whitefish Lake), and also recognized founder Harry Schroeder (Courte Oreilles Lakes), who could not be present.

They came together in June 1995 with the goal of having a greater collective impact than each association would have by itself, Nies said. Baumann credited Schroeder for “having the idea, the concept and determination” to initiate the association.

The SCLF consists of more than 20 lake associations. For further information, individuals can visit the Web site, sawyercountylakesforum.org.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/wilderness-lakes-public-hearing-set-for-july-18/article_1dc81957-d6f2-5022-97f5-9710c578a23a.html

Wilderness Lakes public hearing set for July 18

by Will LaBreche, Staff Writer/Web Editor Jul 4, 2008

On July 18, the public will have an opportunity to comment on establishing a fourth class of lakes in Sawyer County, commonly known as the Wilderness Lakes Development Classification, at a hearing being held by the Zoning Committee.

After two years and many meetings, the county is preparing to host the hearing on a contentious issue which could impact lakeshore development in the county for years to come. It has been an important issue for some in the county, particularly those looking to limit or restrict development and others pushing for environmentally smart building practices to limit impact.

The issue started in 2006 when a developer attempted to rezone the northern end of the 84-acre Indian Lake in Sawyer County from forestry (F1) to residential (RR1). The development was halted, ultimately, by the Lac Courte Oreilles tribe and community members, but ignited a debate as to how much is too much when it comes to development on small area lakes. Indian Lake is a relatively small body of water with a maximum depth of nine feet.

This attempted rezone pushed the Sawyer County Lakes Forum (SCLF) to propose the county establish a fourth class of lakes to protect smaller waters from overdevelopment.

In response, an ad hoc committee was created to review how the county should proceed. The committee developed a scoring system to help classify potential wilderness lakes by lake type, natural characteristics, surrounding soil type, cultural elements, current development density and lake volume.

As proposed, 195 lakes in the county were classified for the wilderness designation. If approved, development would be limited to five-acre lot sizes, with a 100-foot setback and 700-foot lot depth. Lot width is proposed to be 300 feet.

The county Zoning Committee held a previous public hearing last summer, which was well attended. The Zoning Committee decided to hold public hearings during the summer months in order to accomodate seasonal residents.

Two sides of the debate have emerged: those favoring the fourth class and others who feel the proposed ordinance amendment would be too restrictive of lakeshore development. Both sides have agreed, however, on a primary goal which is protecting fragile lakes.

Of the nearly 200 lakes to fall under the fourth class, over three-quarters of them currently require five-acre parcels as they are zoned either forestry or agriculture. Forty-nine of the lakes are at least 50 percent residential — it is development on these waters where the ordinance would be most effective.

Yet a third side to the issue is that the wilderness designation would be a form of “takings,” where the county would be limiting development on these lakes to the possible financial detriment of the property owners. Because the parcels as proposed would require five acres, some feel this is a burden for those who purchased land with the intent to one day develop it.

As scheduled, the hearing will be held July 18 at the Sawyer County courthouse beginning at 1 p.m. To see what lakes qualify for the classification, [click here](#).

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/opinion/debate-is-healthy-if-facts-are-correct/article_28bb6659-2c82-5a26-8c47-7646b0c79dfd.html

Debate is healthy if facts are correct

Jul 9, 2008

The Wilderness Lakes Classification has generated quite a storm of back and forth between the Northland Builders Association (NABA) and those that want to protect the very small threatened lakes in our county.

The debate is healthy. In a democracy each side should be given the opportunity to present their facts in hopes of convincing us that their position is in the best interest of all who live and recreate in Sawyer County. There is nothing wrong with a vicious debate of the facts.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/wilderness-lakes-development-classification-gets-zoning-committee-approval/article_b3ef0413-1c5b-5901-87b7-085bdc4c2a3e.html

Wilderness Lakes Development Classification gets zoning committee approval

Moves to full county board

by Will LaBreche, Staff Writer/Web Editor Jul 18, 2008

The Sawyer County Zoning Committee voted to approve a fourth class of wilderness lakes at the conclusion of a public hearing Friday afternoon.

The committee voted five to one to approve the fourth class and their recommendation will be taken up by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its September meeting.

Read more in next week's Sawyer County Record.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/committee-approves-wilderness-lakes-class/article_2af19938-a974-50cd-a678-580e94866678.html

Committee approves 'Wilderness Lakes' class

by Will LaBreche, Staff Writer/Web Editor Jul 23, 2008

At a special public hearing Friday afternoon, the Sawyer County Zoning Committee voted to adopt a fourth class of wilderness lakes, after hearing competing arguments from builders and lakes representatives as to what is best for small lakes in the county.

Hayward attorney Clifford Stoner represented the Northland Area Builders Association (NABA) with a central argument that engineered storm water management systems could be the most effective way to manage detrimental runoff into lakes.

Stoner said protection of the lakes is of great importance to NABA, but discounted the notion that lot dimensions, including width and depth, are scientifically-proven to be effective. Prior to his opening arguments, Stoner presented Zoning Administrator Bill Christman and the committee with 174 signed petitions urging them not to adopt a wild lakes class.

"The proposed increased lot area requirements lack any proven basis for protecting public health, safety, welfare or convenience," Stoner said. "Requiring five acres of area, 300 feet

of shoreline, and 700 feet of depth goes much too far and penalizes owners of lakefront property in Sawyer County.”

Stoner said that to ensure future water quality impervious surface standards and storm water management systems should be considered as a better alternative than increasing lot dimensions.

“Pollution prevention directed at failed septic systems, fertilizer and shoreline vegetation (removal) violations are far more effective than increasing the minimum size of lots,” he said, adding that the current three-lake classification is “sufficient.”

Those who oppose the Wilderness Development Classification, Stoner said, “are not advocating mass development; rather they’re advocating the implementation of proven storm water management practices.”

Phil Nies, representing the Friends of the Lakes, countered Stoner’s argument, saying the petition circulated by NABA contained “errors.”

He also said that “I think (the wilderness lakes amendment) is a great way to protect our lakes . . . and these small lakes, if they’re allowed to be overdeveloped, will end up being green ponds.”

For two years, Nies worked on an ad hoc committee established with the purpose of determining how to classify lakes based on a scoring system. The criteria included soil content, current development density, lake volume, lake type, culturally-sensitive elements and presence of natural elements, such as wild rice and fish spawning areas.

Under the proposed amendment, lakeshore development on waters that score into the fourth class will be limited to five acre parcels, at least 300-feet wide and 700-feet deep. This also includes 60-foot side-yard setback requirements and a 100-foot setback from the lake.

Nies, together with the Sawyer County Lakes Forum and Wisconsin Association of Lakes, feels this criterion is sufficient to adequately protect a watershed.

Speaking as a builder opposed to the amendment, Hayward-based contractor Jack Sjostrom said the proposed lot dimensions are “far too restrictive” and could potentially increase property values, meaning higher taxes.

He added that the current classification system does enough to provide for development regulations on area lakes.

But Sawyer County Lakes Forum President Waldo Asp opened his statement by providing the committee a letter signed by 16 township chairpersons in Sawyer County. Only one,

town of Couderay Chairman James Bassett, did not sign due to conflict of interest as the county's zoning committee chairman.

"The Forum, in particular, has felt a responsibility to speak for the small lakes," Asp said.

"The Forum would welcome storm water management programs, especially on the smallest lakes which are the most vulnerable. But the real issue is not merely that, but what it boils down to is density of population. It's what causes the most problems in terms of losing the pristine waters that we have."

Committee member Fred Zietlow however, sided with neither the builders nor lakes representatives. He argued that adoption of a fourth class of wilderness lakes could force the county into litigation with landowners.

"I think we can have the county avoid litigation over takings," Zietlow said. Quoting from the Wisconsin Constitution (Article I, sec. 13) which reads, "the property of no person shall be taken for public use without just compensation therefore," Zietlow told the committee to "tread very carefully" and consider the impact of a possible takings lawsuit.

"I don't want to see Sawyer County get into a lawsuit that will cost the taxpayers money," he explained. As a sort of compromise, Zietlow urged the committee to accept the scoring guidelines for future small lake development, but to reject the Wilderness Development Classification.

For local business and resort owner Bryon Schroeder, the issue is about land values.

"I own the property around one of the lakes that would be reclassified," Schroeder explained. "We moved here 13 years ago and we operate a small resort with six homes on it. I did not subdivide — it is one parcel. If this goes through, I will not be able to sell those as individual properties. And that certainly will diminish the value . . . and I am not alone."

Schroeder said he believes there is "sound science" behind storm water management engineering.

"I strongly oppose this, and if it goes through, I am prepared to litigate and there are other people in the same situation," Schroeder warned.

The committee's 4-1 approval of the Wilderness Development Classification now goes to the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors, which will review the recommendation at its September meeting.

[Click here](#) to see scoring criteria.

[Click here](#) to link to list of lakes to be classified.

https://www.apg-wi.com/sawyer_county_record/news/sawyer-county-board-approves-wilderness-lakes-classification/article_92f4d6ac-2b95-5f13-bc07-5b1b631619ea.html

Sawyer County board approves Wilderness Lakes classification

by Will LaBreche, Web Editor Sep 24, 2008

By a vote of 9-6 Thursday night, the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors approved adopting a fourth class of Wilderness Lakes, which puts to rest two years of discussion, meetings and debate over how best to protect the county's smallest or most fragile, environmentally sensitive lakes.

Under the approved zoning ordinance amendment, new developments on lakes named into the fourth class will be limited to five-acre lot sizes, which includes a minimum lot depth of 500-feet, a 100-foot lake setback requirement and a minimum lot depth of 500-feet.

To designate lakes as “wilderness,” criteria was developed that included watershed aspects such as highly erodible soils, cultural significance, presence of endangered or threatened species, current development density and lake volume.

Two public hearings, discussion at the Zoning Committee level and the organization and recommendations of an ad hoc committee culminated in the county board’s approval of the zoning amendment last Thursday night at its regular meeting, this month held at the Winter School.

“Adding another lake classification that is more restrictive than the state of Wisconsin or what the DNR now requires doesn’t make a whole lot of sense to me,” said Supervisor Shirley Riedmann. She suggested that adopting the fourth class would limit individuals’ property rights.

“To me, it’s the bigger picture of property ownership — when you start messing with people’s personal property rights, you’re ripe for a lawsuit.”

This sentiment was echoed by Supervisor Fred Zietlow who voiced concerns about potential takings litigation if the county were to adopt the amendment.

“In this case, I think the issue is not lake protection, it’s zero development. True lake protection is storm water management. The county could have some potential liability in

violation of takings ordinances. We're in no position at this current time to take on those liabilities," he said.

But board member Warren Johnson disagreed, saying the individuals wishing to develop their wilderness lakes property outside the limitations of amendment could apply for a variance.

"(People can) apply for a variance or some other way to get the property developed the way they want — that's what the variance procedure is for," he said. Variances are needed when potential development of a property does not align with the regulations set forth in the zoning ordinances.

Board member Ken Maki questioned whether adopting the ordinance would put much of the lakeshore property in the county out of reach for people with more moderate incomes.

"I believe (passing this ordinance) will create a situation here in Sawyer County where only a select few people can afford lake frontage. I don't agree with it," Maki stated.

Among the board members who spoke at length about his opposition to the fourth class, Dale Schleeter called the Wilderness Lakes classification a "Band Aid approach."

"I'm proud of Sawyer County for its efforts to protect our natural environment ... but I am opposed to this particular regulation because I feel it will do nothing to truly protect our lakes. This is a Band-Aid approach. The data that was gathered was good science ... we got all that (criteria) and we need to use that on an individual basis for each zoning decision on each individual lake ... we'll be far further ahead than if we pass this law," Schleeter commented.

He further advocated for a "greener" approach to development, meaning promoting more environmentally-sound building practices.

But Supervisor Kathy McCoy was skeptical of Schleeter's interpretation.

"When you start looking at lakes on an individual basis, it could become problematic. It's the sum of the individuals that makes the whole. So I don't see how you can regulate on one body of water, one individual's request when you don't know what the sum of the whole will be in the end," she said.

Board member James Bassett said that because 15 town chairs signed off on the Wild Lakes class, their signatures represent the will of their constituents, and therefore the will of the people of Sawyer County. But Zietlow questioned whether town chairpersons signed as individuals or as representatives of the people.

Town of Lenroot chairman Dan Dums addressed the board, saying his signature was for personal reasons and did not represent the will of his constituents.

“When Phil Nies came before me with a petition, it had the description of the wilderness lakes concept. I believe strongly in protecting the environment, and I signed that because that’s what I believe in. I know when the (county) board sees that, it perhaps represents that I signed as the town chairman of Lenroot. That wasn’t the position at the time. The majority of constituents in my township that I’ve talked to oppose this amendment strongly. I don’t think you should make this decision at this point and time,” Dums urged.

Despite numerous comments from county board members opposing the Wilderness Lakes Classification, other members in support of the amendment remained relatively quiet during discussion.

Lakes advocates

Speaking on behalf of lakes advocates, including the Sawyer County Lakes Forum, the Wisconsin Association of Lakes and Friends of the Lakes, Waldo Asp presented a compelling argument in favor of adopting the fourth class.

“The reason that so many are concerned is that all of us realize our waters need to be protected, both for our present sake and, more importantly, we can pass the benefits of cleaner waters on for future generations,” he said. “We don’t own this land, it’s on loan to us from our kids and their children. The decision on class four Wilderness Lakes ought not be made with concern to promote the business of a few, nor out of fear of vindictive retribution, but rather with a desire to promote conservation of our most valuable resources.”

Asp stated his desire to work with area contractors and the county board to come up with storm water management practices, but reaffirmed that the amendment should still pass.

“We may not view water quality in these lakes as a problem now, but abusive actions on the part of a few can imperil what we wish to preserve,” he added.

Builders

Area contractor Jack Sjostrum spoke at length that storm water management, limiting impervious surfaces, and identifying failed septic systems should be the county’s top priority to protect its waters. Limiting development, he said, is not going to solve the problem of pollution of smaller lakes.

“The required five acres ... simply goes much too far and infringes on the rights of lakefront property owners. Pollution prevention aimed at failed septic systems in our county (and)

application of fertilizers ... is not being enforced. If you really want to do something, enforce the regulations that are already in place,” he said.

“The population is going to grow, and the demand for land will be greater. Hopefully the availability of land will be here,” he added.

The vote

Prior to the vote, McCoy asserted that a 700-foot lot depth requirement was excessive, and recommended the county adopt of 500-foot lot depth requirement. Her amendment was approved and the final vote was cast.

From the roll call vote, supervisors voting in favor of adopting the fourth class include: Bruce Miller, Hal Helwig, Jim Bassett, Ron Kinsley, Mel Olson, Warren Johnson, Kathy McCoy, Arlene Mitzerka and Dean Pearson.

Those voting against the Wilderness Lakes class were: Doug Mrotek, Robert Vitcenda, Dale Schleeter, Ken Maki, Fred Zietlow and Shirley Riedmann.

To see a list of lakes which will be included in the Wilderness Lakes classification, go to www.sawyercountygov.org. Go to “County Departments,” then “Zoning and Sanitation.” Go to the bottom of the Zoning page and click on “Proposed Lakes To Be Included In Wilderness Development Classification.” Note that only lakes with a wilderness score of 7 or greater will be included.

Other business

- A decision about a 100-unit campground on Highway 70 near the village of Stone Lake was tabled until a zoning appeal is argued in December. According to Zoning Administrator Bill Christman, two nearby property owners have filed an appeal after the zoning committee recommended approval of the campground to the county board in August.
- The board voted to approve \$80,000 to be spent for projects along the Tuscobia trail in southern Sawyer County. Plans include black-topped parking areas and bathrooms in Draper and Couderay along the popular ATV route.
- The county board will be looking at a resolution in October to condemn portions of railway corridor to the north and south of the city of Hayward. In the resolution, the county will give two railroads, who currently own portions of the trail, to either determine what portions they own within a set number of days or the property will be condemned to be used as a trail.

