

AGENDA

Sawyer County Lake Forum

January 21, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Sawyer County Courthouse - Assembly Room

[Virtual Connection \(Teams\)](#)

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll/Introductions
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes: November 17, 2024
5. Election of Board Officers
 - a. President – Martin Hanson elected 10/30/24
 - b. Vice-President – Jean Accola elected 10/30/24
 - c. Secretary – to be elected (volunteers)
 - d. Treasurer – to be elected (without volunteers, consider combining with President; need second signer on checking account-consider Vice-President)
6. Treasure Report
 - a. Bank signing set date/time
 - b. Membership invoices sent
7. Website Update
 - a. New Website
 - i. Original domain restored
 1. SawyerCountyLakesForum.org update communications/bookmarks
 - ii. New site under construction
 - iii. Old site will remain with notice directing to new site
 - iv. Collect suggestions for content
 - v. Create new logo?
 - b. Communications
 - i. Record monthly meetings
 - ii. Post recordings to YouTube
8. Legislation Updates
 - a. Federal
 - b. State
 - i. Elevated Wakes
 1. Draft resolution
 - c. County

- i. Sawyer County: Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee
 - ii. Sawyer County: Zoning Committee
 - iii. Sawyer County: Calahan-Mud Lake Lake District
 - iv. Sawyer County: Public Reserve Strip
 - v. Sawyer County: Backlot access
 - vi. Sawyer County: Blanket SUP approval
 - vii. Sawyer County: Multi-Dwelling Development
 - d. Town
 - i. Town of Round Lake
 - 1. Existing ordinances
- 9. Lake Reports (all)
 - a. Chetac
 - b. Clear Lake
 - c. Conners/Lake of the Pines
 - d. Grindstone
 - e. Lac Courte Oreilles
 - f. Little Sissabagama
 - g. Round
 - h. Spring
 - i. Tiger Cat
 - j. Whitefish
- 10. Northwest Lakes Conference
 - a. Formalize decision on both and staffing of booth
 - b. Formalize SCLF representative
- 11. Sawyer County Lakes Forum Annual Meeting
 - a. Formalize organizing committee
 - i. Set date
 - ii. Set agenda
 - iii. Guest speaker(s)
- 12. Town of Round Lake AIS Educational Event
- 13. Bylaw Changes Discussion
 - a. Formalize committee members and schedule
- 14. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Town of Round Lake considering organizing an AIS education event
- 15. Set Next Meeting Date
 - a. Monthly, Third Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

Logo Designs



S C L F

SAWYER COUNTY LAKES FORUM



S C L F

SAWYER COUNTY LAKES FORUM

Lincoln County Resolution

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

COUNTY OF LINCOLN)

Resolution 2024-12-72

Support for Effective Regulations That Protect Surface Waters

WHEREAS, Lincoln County is unique for its 729 lakes covering 15,585 acres and numerous large rivers, including the Wisconsin River, within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Land & Water Resource Management Plan states that protecting surface water from degradation and controlling the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are two primary goals; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County recognizes the importance of keeping our surface waters healthy to sustain a vibrant tourism economy, recreational opportunities, and the Northwoods lake life; and

WHEREAS, the lakes and rivers within Lincoln County have been experiencing increased recreational boating pressure from a multitude of user groups, including wake boarding and wake surfing; and

WHEREAS, the enhanced wakes created for these sports have more powerful energy and propwash than other typical boating activities which can cause negative biological and physical impacts to lakes and rivers including: increased shoreline erosion, the suspension of bottom sediment, the transfer of aquatic invasive species through boat ballast tanks, disturbances to fish and wildlife habitat, and decreased water clarity and quality; and

WHEREAS; current research has shown that keeping enhanced wakes to a minimum of 500 feet from shore and to areas of lakes that are a minimum of 20 feet in depth could protect these ecosystems from harmful impacts; and

WHEREAS; recent State legislative efforts failed to address significant protective measures with regard to enhanced wakes or the transfer of AIS from one lake to another through ballast tanks/bladders; and

WHEREAS; the same legislative efforts suggested taking away local control in regards to regulating wake boats.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors encourages the Wisconsin Legislature to engage in meaningful discussions to set standards of at least 500 feet from shore, and to prohibit enhanced/excessive wake creation in waters shallower than 20 feet in

depth to balance the right of everyone to recreate on waters of the State of Wisconsin while protecting our valuable surface waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recommend that local governments have the control to set standards different from state minimums.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recommend that the Wisconsin Legislature address the transfer of aquatic invasive species through ballast tanks and/or bladders for the protection of our surface waters.

Dated: December 17th, 2024

Authored by: Greg Hartwig

Co-Sponsored by: Marty Lemke, William Bialecki, Andrew Zelinski, Donald Dunphy, Randy Detert, Julie DePasse, Dean Lemke

Committee: Land Services

Committee Vote: 8-0

Date Passed: November 14th, 2024

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Sawyer County Draft Recommendations

Local Control – Local municipalities' existing right to enact or maintain local ordinances that are more restrictive than these state minimums shall be preserved

700 Feet From Shore – Wake-enhanced boating activities should occur at least 700' from the shoreline.

30-Foot Depth – Wake-enhanced boating activities must be done in depths of no less than 30 feet.

Prevent Invasive Species in Ballast Tanks – Boats moving from lake to lake must have proof of decontaminated ballast tanks before entering lakes

Livestock Siting Ordinances

From Madison.com

State-regional

POLK COUNTY

Polk County judge dismisses WMC lawsuit against local factory farm ordinances

HENRY REDMAN Wisconsin Examiner

Jan 10, 2025

A Polk County judge on Thursday dismissed a lawsuit from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, the state's largest business lobby, challenging an ordinance enacted by the town of Eureka regulating how factory farms, known as concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, operate.

Under the ordinance, CAFOs must establish plans dealing with manure disposal, air pollution, road use and other effects of a large farm's operations, before being allowed to open or expand in the town. Similar ordinances have been passed in eight towns and three counties — including the Pierce County town of Maiden Rock, which [passed its ordinance last month](#).

While many of the state's largest factory farms operate on the eastern side of the state in and around Kewaunee County, communities across western Wisconsin have been fighting the expansion of farming operations in the Driftless Region because of the effect CAFOs can have on smaller farms in the community, water quality and the environment.

“WMC's lawsuit against Eureka is part of a three-prong strategy by this industry with one goal — no regulation,” Lisa Doerr, a Polk County farmer who helped develop Eureka's ordinance, said in a statement. “They use lawsuits to intimidate local officials who pass legal ordinances. At the same time, they have a lawsuit challenging any state authority. Finally, their Madison lobbyists are pushing state legislators to ban all local control.”

WMC has filed a number of lawsuits in recent years challenging state authority to protect water quality. A lawsuit filed by the group in Calumet County [challenged](#) the state Department of Natural Resources' authority to require CAFOs to obtain permits regulating their effect on local water supplies. A circuit court judge ruled against that effort last year, the ruling is pending in the state Court of Appeals.

This week, the state Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case from WMC [challenging](#) the DNR's authority to use the state's toxic spills law to force polluters to clean up PFAS contamination.

Multi-Dwelling Development

In Sawyer County

Definitions in current Zoning Ordinance

Per Sawyer County Code of Ordinances -Appendix D-Section 2– Also referred to as Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance

(31) DWELLING UNIT: A building or portion thereof with rooms arranged, designed, used or intended to be used for one family. Guesthouses with kitchen and bathroom facilities; and any accessory structures with a HABITABLE LIVING AREA are considered to be dwelling units. Houseboats and watercraft on land shall not be used as DWELLINGS or DWELLING UNITS. **Only one dwelling unit is allowed per Lot.**

(57) LOT: A parcel of land occupied or capable of being occupied by **one Building or one Dwelling Unit** and the Accessory Buildings or uses customarily incidental to it, including such open spaces as are required by this ordinance.

(71) MULTI-DWELLING DEVELOPMENT: Development, regardless of form of ownership consisting of **three or more DWELLING UNITS**, condominium, **resort**, hotel or motel units or other units/structures intended for residential or long or short -term rental uses, all of which are to be located on the same **LOT.**

(85) RESORT: A resort is a for -profit business holding a Seller's Permit and licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, which provides rental to the public of **DWELLING UNITS** contained in one or more permanent buildings used primarily for recreational use.



Current Zoning Ordinance

Per Sawyer County Code of Ordinances -Appendix D-SECTION 17.0 ZONE DISTRICTS - Also referred to as Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance

GENERAL: The Permitted Uses and Conditional Uses stated for each zone district are intended to be representative in nature - not all inclusive. Uses similar to those listed as Permitted Uses may be permitted by the Zoning Administrator, uses similar to those listed as Conditional Uses may be permitted by the Zoning Committee.

- **17.1 R-1: Residential One District - A) Permitted Uses** - 1) One family and two-family year-round dwellings. **B) Uses Authorized by Conditional Use** - 1) Multi-family (3 or more) dwelling units. **(No Definition for "two-family dwelling" & no definition for "Multifamily")**
- **17.2 RR-1: Residential/Recreational One District - A) Permitted Uses** - 1) One family and two-family dwellings. **B) Uses Authorized by Conditional Use** - 15) **MULTI-DWELLING DEVELOPMENT** (i.e. new condominium, hotel, motel or resort, or other development which is the same general scale and character). (Does not include the conversion of existing properties to a condominium ownership, existing resorts, motels, hotels or any other existing multi dwelling development unless more rental/dwelling units are being proposed by plat or other means that would be in addition to the existing rental/ dwelling units.) **(No definition for Two-Family Dwelling & Multi-Dwelling Development is listed as a Conditional Use Permit approval process within the current Zoning Ordinance)**
- **17.3 RR-2: Residential/Recreational One District - A) Permitted Uses** - 1) One family and two-family dwellings. **B) Uses Authorized by Conditional Use** - 16) **MULTI-DWELLING DEVELOPMENT** (i.e. new condominium, hotel, motel or resort, or other development which is the same general scale and character). (Does not include the conversion of existing properties to a condominium ownership, existing resorts, motels, hotels or any other existing multi dwelling development unless more rental/dwelling units are being proposed by plat or other means that would be in addition to the existing rental/ dwelling units.) **(No definition for Two-Family Dwelling & Multi-Dwelling Development is listed as a Conditional Use Permit approval process within the current Zoning Ordinance)**

Current Shoreland Zoning Ordinance

Per Sawyer County Code of Ordinances -Appendix B - Also referred to as Sawyer County Zoning Shoreland -Wetland Protection Ordinance

- **5.1 PURPOSE (NR115.05(1)(a))** Minimum lot sizes in the shoreland area shall be established to afford protection against danger to health, safety and welfare, and protection against pollution of the adjacent body of water. In calculating the minimum area or width of a lot, the beds of navigable waters shall not be included.
- (1) The construction of new dwellings or replacement dwellings; additions to existing principal structures and the construction of accessory buildings may be permitted provided all other requirements, regulations and setbacks can be met. **Only one (1) principal dwelling/habitable structure is allowed per legal lot.**
- (2) If multiple dwelling units exist on one parcel that were lawfully placed when constructed, and are not designated as a Res or Condominium, those units may only be expanded 50% of the current floor area for each unit.

The Issues

- 1 The Current Zoning Ordinance allows for the creation of Multi - Dwelling Development under a Conditional Use Permit. However, the definition section only allows for **ONE DWELLING UNIT** per **LOT**. **There is a conflict here within the ordinance.**
- 2 There is no definition for Two -Family Dwelling. Two -Family Dwellings are commonly referred to as a duplex or side by side but not defined in ordinance. Also, there are no clearly specified density requirements for this "permitted use". Furthermore, should this "permitted use" be allowed within the Shoreland District?
- 3 Density requirements in general need to be clearly specified in the ordinance. If Sawyer County was to allow for multi -Dwelling Development in certain areas there should be a specified amount of land area needed for each unit. Only the R -1 District currently states that an additional 5,000sq ft is needed for each additional unit.
- 4 Resort definition with aspects of Tourist Rooming Houses. County cannot restrict the rental of 1 dwelling unit per lot. Current definition should change 1 way or another to clarify a new definition.



Issues Continued and Other Considerations

- 5 If definition of **DWELLING UNIT** doesn't change it effectively prohibits any new resorts, hotels, apartment complexes, in that language states "**Only one dwelling unit is allowed per Lot**".
Recommendation to change this language that "Only one dwelling unit is allowed per Lot, unless otherwise approved by Conditional Use Permit"
- 6 By totally outlawing multi-dwelling development or restricting it to other zone districts creates "non -conforming uses" This is not an advised practice within Zoning. Initially Towns did not want to see new MDD within the Shoreland District and that is something that can be proposed. Should duplex also be prohibited within the Shoreland District? Shoreland District is 1000' from a Lake or Pond ; 300' from a River or Stream.
- 7 **Resorts and Short-Term Rentals/Tourist Rooming Houses (STR/TRH).** County has new TRH Licensing Ordinance. This allows for the rental of 1 dwelling unit on a lot. What is to be done with properties that were not as an existing "resort" status? Existing multiple units on 1 lot. Condo scenarios where multiple owners within a condo, on 1 lot or condo plat also want to rent? What process does someone need to go through if they want to operate a "new" resort on shoreland or non-shoreland?



