

LAKE MASON MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2004 – 9:00 AM
DOUGLAS TOWN HALL

President Bob Krause opened the meeting at 9 AM with the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of all who are serving our country and all deceased members.

Members of the board present were Bob Krause, Ken Messer, Matt Musiedlak, Roger Lee, Bob Dixon, and Dennis Griffin. Joe Streator and Jim Brancel were absent. A listing of members who signed in is on file.

Due to the absence of Joe, the minutes of the last meeting and the financial records were not read.

Bob introduced Roy Carlson, representing Lakes & Pond Solutions LLC, Hortonville, WI. This group has been selected by the board to treat Lake Mason for weed control this year. The product chosen for Eurasian Watermilfoil control is 2,4-D (trade name Navigate). This granular product will be applied at the rate of 100# per acre in selected affected areas. Global Positioning Systems and Laser Rangefinders will be used to ensure product placement in the targeted 30-acre section outlined by the navigational buoys. This main application will be outlined and submitted as one permit with the DN R. The cost of this will be – application of product, \$1,950.00; \$333.90 per acre, or \$10.017, totaling ` \$12,000.00. The following comments were a few points mentioned by Mr. Carlson regarding the application:

- Early application of granules in May will cause weeds to drop within 10 days following application
- Required postings of listing any warning/precautions pertaining to swimming, fishing, and water use for irrigation purposes will be posted by the membership
- May treatments help control the weeds thru July and into August
- Cut-offs of milfoil must be removed manually by property owners because cut-offs can drop and take hold as a new plant
- It is suspected that Eurasian milfoil will possibly cross with native plants and form a hybrid plant which will be called “northern milfoil” and will need attention to its formation and means to control it

A secondary permit will be applied for the treatment of milfoil on riparian property if the owners want it. At this time the permit will be issued only and if these weeds are present. The areas of individual riparian areas will be determined by the DNR at the time of possible weed control. The cost of this program will be determined in the near future and the board will be advised. (Approximately \$240.00 per acre)

Mr. Carlson then mentioned the possibility that Lake Mason may be considered as a “test lake” for a whole lake treatment next year (2005). DNR has been receptive to this program. The capability of a drawdown on the lake will be a benefit to a minimal outflow of water. The product “floradone” (sp) has been suggested and meets approval. The concentration must be held in the water for at least 30-45 days to be effective and the water can not be used for irrigation for 30 days. The manufacturer of the product guarantees 80% effectiveness of treatment lasting 2-3 months. The board and membership will be kept aware of the progress of this proposed plan. The cost of this product alone is \$550.00 per qt., or approximately \$66,000.00. We are aware that grant monies are available for this treatment. More info will be present to the membership as plans proceed.

Other points presented by Mr. Carlson were:

- If you feel that fertilizing is necessary, do not purchase fertilizer-use lake water as it already loaded with phosphorous
- Maintain you septic systems-have them pumped regularly as need
- Maintain a bumper of native weeds/flowers along your shoreline to filter any water drainage to the lake

The website of Mr. Carlson's group is www.lakeandpondsolutions.com and toll free number is 866/525-3489. They are available to members if you should have any questions.

Bob Krause continued the meeting by stating that all Open Meeting Laws have been met for this meeting.

Following open discussion of the plan presented by Mr. Carlson, David Krause moved that we accept the proposal of Lake and Pond Solutions, LLC for this year and possibly future years. Motion seconded by Ted Arnsward, and carried unanimously.

The drawdown will not be discussed until the annual meeting.

Bob states that paperwork for grants is in the process at this time. The Adams County Land and Water Conservation Dept. asks that the Lake Mason Management District sign a letter of their support for the grant procedure. Brian Shields moved, Sue Kumlien seconded, that the requested letter be signed. Motion carried unanimously. Bob will be in contact with Reisa(sp) Evans of Adams County.. Brian Shields stated that we should cooperate wholeheartedly with the Department.

Bob read a letter from our attorney, Mr. O'Connor, regarding a bill sent to us from last year's weed control company, Aquatic Resources for \$4,400.00. Mr. O'Connor contacted the company and advised them that the district is not liable for this amount and will pay only the outstanding amount due on the original contract.

A line of credit has been received from the Bank of Wisconsin Dells.

Bob stated that the money of the former Lake association that was used to establish the Lake District must be repaid to the members at that time of the association. All will be given the opportunity to receive their share back or leave it in the district account. More information will be available later.

It was asked if more rock can be placed on each side of the dam wings to keep weeds from collecting behind the wings. Greg Schultz has placed some and will be contacted about the placement of more.

Dave Krause mentioned that Perrier is still in the background regarding bottling water from our local area. It is asked that we all contact our legislators and ask for their support in the prompt passing of the water bill that is pending. The Waterkeepers of Wisconsin (WOW) group is still very actively working against the bottling of our water and would appreciate any support that can be given to the group.

Bob reported that Grothman Associates has marked elevations on both dam wings.

Motion by Dave Krause, seconded by Dan Bailey, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Arnsward, Acting Secretary

**LAKE MASON MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 5, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Krause at approximately 9:00 AM. Bob led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

The meeting began with a presentation by two representatives from the Department of Natural Resources Deborah Konkel Aquatic Plant Specialist and Gregg Breese, Water Program Expert. They presented a ten page report entitled Designation of Sensitive Areas, Mason Lake, Adams County.

The report is attached to these minutes and is a result of a sensitive area study performed on the lake on September 29, 2003. The report includes a map showing five (although area two has two parts) sensitive areas including Amey Pond and a description of each area including the reasons for the sensitive area designation.

Their presentation involved a slide show supplementing the written report and going through the report itself. It was followed by a question and answer session. A sensitive area is an area that contains desirable characteristics for the Lake. It may contain undesirable characteristics too, such as Eurasian milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed, but an area containing only undesirable characteristics is generally not designated sensitive.

Part of the presentation was an overview of how this designation could affect property owners. While there are technicalities, generally the impact is limited to what an owner can do to the shoreline, such as changing rip rap or lot grading, dredging, and pier placement. Piers are NOT prohibited in a sensitive area but, in theory, the Department of Natural Resources could ask someone to change the location of a pier. They emphasized that there is no intent to have any pier placement changed. The Department of Natural Resources is sensitive to the fact that piers may have been in the same place for decades. However should an owner wish to place a new pier or move a current pier, a permit is required.

There were some questions about drawdowns. Most of questions related to permit granting, timing and amount of drawdown, all of which will be discussed in depth **at the next Special Meeting to be held Saturday, September 4, 2004 at noon at the Briggsville baseball field preceding the bratfest.**

Designation of sensitive areas can be a useful tool for the district in attempts to manage the lake, such as adding no wake zones and working with farmers to understand how their farming methods impact the lake.

Following the Department of Natural Resources presentation, the minutes of the August 2003 special meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was brief. It included that a \$5000.00 borrowing occurred in January and was repaid in February. The current checking account balance was incorrectly reported because the checkbook was inadvertently left behind. Once all checks have cleared, the balance will be \$13,149.87 not including \$4,875.00 of funds sent in for individual shore line treatments.

There are no unpaid invoices outstanding; however there are disputes with Aquatic Engineering concerning last year's program. They have billed the district for late payment and interest charges and they have billed the district for costs they claim to have incurred attempting to do the individual treatments in 2003. The district is working with an attorney.

The most significant expenses to be incurred yet are for additional channel treatment(s) and to reimburse the old Lake Association for funds expended in forming the district. We have learned that Lake Association funds should not have been used to form the district. We are in the process of determining the amount of reimbursement. A few members wanted to contribute whatever they are due back to the district, and one already submitted a note waiving rights to any reimbursement. At the next special meeting, September 4, 2004 we expect to know the exact amount to be reimbursed and will have forms there for anyone who also wishes to contribute their refund to the district.

Also attached to these minutes is a more detail report showing how funds were spent during 2003 and this year to date.

We are hopeful there will be no need for another borrowing next year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2003 Weed Control Program

Please refer to the comments made under Treasurer's report.

2004 Weed Control Program

Since the last letter was sent keeping everyone informed of this year's treatment efforts, Eurasian milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed have grown tremendously. Before the annual meeting Ken Messer and Deborah Konkell from the Department of Natural Resources toured the Lake to evaluate the weed situation. Since conditions have changed so rapidly, another treatment will be scheduled. (A treatment was scheduled for Friday, June 11 but due to the tremendous rise in the water level, the amount of silt in the water and the forecast of thunderstorms for Friday, the treatment has been tentatively rescheduled for June 17 or 18. There is a chance that this could again be delayed another week because of water clarity.

A polymer is mixed with the treatment so the treatment attaches to the weeds. However the polymer cannot differentiate between weeds and particles suspended in the water.

With too much silt in the water, the treatment could attach to the silt and flow out of the lake and the efforts would be wasted.

Lake Mason Home Owners Association Reimbursement

Please refer to the comments made under Treasurer's report.

NEW BUSINESS

Expense Reimbursement

At least two board members have attended meetings in Eau Claire and Green Bay. As everyone knows the price of gasoline is becoming quite costly, so the subject of expense reimbursement has been raised. It was moved and seconded that the board be reimbursed for gasoline expenses for trips.

A discussion followed which included paying for reasonable lunches on a day trip, emphasizing that gas reimbursement was for trips not meetings (board meetings being implied) and the 'standard' per mile rate of reimbursement that a business allowed. The board members stated they were not interested in the 'standard' rate per mile, but just the cost of gas based on the estimated miles per gallon of the vehicle used. The board members involved expressed a desire to set a precedent whereby most of their costs would be reimbursed, but not every single nickel and penny that may be paid by a business. It was acknowledged that expense reimbursement can become a sensitive issue and the board wishes to avoid this.

The motion was amended to include reimbursement for a reasonable lunch and to specifically include a rate for gasoline expense.

A voice vote was taken and the vote was unanimous to permit expense reimbursement as described above.

Election of Commissioners

The terms of two commissioners expired with this meeting, Roger Lee and Matt Musiedlak.

Three nominations were made and seconded. Roger declined an attempt to nominate him, because of his other commitments. The nominees were: Matt Musiedlak, Bob Garske and Steve Kessenich. A secret ballot was conducted and the results are as follows: Steve Kessenich 19, Matt Musiedlak 13 and Bob Garske 9. Steve and Matt will serve three year terms.

OTHER

It was moved and seconded to have a boat parade over the July 4th weekend. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote. The parade will begin at 1:00 and everyone

will meet at the Lions landing. After the parade there will be a get together at the Streator property.

It was moved and seconded to have a bratfest Saturday, September 4, 2004 at the Briggsville ball field immediately after the budget hearing and the special meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

NEST MEETING

The next SPECIAL MEETING will be held immediately following the reconvened annual meeting.

There being no further items on the agenda, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the annual meeting until September 4, 2004. The meeting will begin at noon at the Briggsville ball field. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

LAKE MASON MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RECONVENED ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 4, 2004

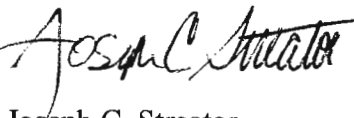
The meeting was called to order by President Bob Krause at approximately 12:00 PM. Bob led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The only item on the agenda was to discuss and approve the budget which had been recommended by the Board of Commissioners. There were no significant changes to the budget from the 2004 budget with the exception that there is no borrowing anticipated for 2005. Although there was discussion on the weed control program for 2004, as the significant part of the budget relates to weed control, there was little discussion of the budget. It was moved and seconded to approve the recommended budget. The motion was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

The budget is attached

With no further business to be discussed, it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph C. Streator
Secretary/Treasurer

**LAKE MASON MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2004**

Bob Krause called the meeting to order after the end of the annual meeting.

Treasurer's report:

The report was presented as attached to these minutes. Expenses were grouped together based on the format of the budget. In addition to what was presented at the meeting a member requested that more details be given as to how the weed control money was spent between chemicals and labor, travel etc. The breakdown is as follows:

The attached report shows total weed control expenditures of \$23,478.88. Because of my transposition error, the District paid \$10.00 less than billed as of the report date, so for purposes of this breakdown, I will treat the report as showing the District paid \$23,488.88. Of this \$4,217.31 related to 2003 and \$770.00 was for the District channel permit; therefore the actual cost of the treatments was \$18,501.57.

Of this amount \$13,241.20 was for product and \$5,260.37 was for labor and travel. Included in the travel amount is \$960.00 for a trip that resulted in no treatment and extra travel because the product used changed and a special trip had to be made to pick it up. Of the \$18,501.57 spent, 71.5% was spent on product, 28.5% on labor etc.

It was moved and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The report was accepted by a unanimous voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2004 Weed Control Program

There was a lot of time spent, as explained in letters to the membership, on the program this year.

Weeds were very slow to develop this year. Some people attribute this to the draw down last year but there is really no way to know for sure, but fall and spring weather and temperatures were probably also a factor.

Weed growth mushroomed in July. Individual treatments were applied where there were invasive species. Some owners had only what are called 'good weeds' in front of their lot(s) and no treatments could be applied. Some owners expressed displeasure with the results of the individual treatments. It was explained that individual treatments are a high risk operation because of the treatment drift. Clearly there is a need to address the 'good weed' issue as 'good weeds' are making some individual areas unusable for swimming and fishing.

Discussion also covered other methods for weed control such as a complete drawdown. There are many opinions on this issue and it is not being addressed at this time.

There was a test area treated for Eurasian milfoil. The purpose of the test is to see if Eurasian milfoil can be eradicated for a period of more than one year. The Department of Natural Resources was very helpful in approving this test area.

Dave Krause brought up the matter of treating the entire lake was brought up. It was explained that this is basically impossible because the flow of water through the lake will carry the treatment downstream. The dam cannot be raised to shut off the outflow because a certain amount of water flowing over the dam is always required.

Bob Garske asked if the board was satisfied with Lake and Pond Solutions. Bob Krause answered that they were very good to work with and they appear to have a good working relationship with the Department of Natural Resources. It is expected we will work with them again next year.

An opinion was expressed that the boating channels were better this year and the speaker mentioned there was a significant decrease in the amount of weeds that gathered at the NE section of the lake.

The board took pains to explain that there is rarely agreement on how successful treatments are. Some owners feel it was successful; others felt it was not.

One owner inquired about using experimental treatments. It was explained that the chemicals we use are established products. A big problem we have is that there are so many 'good weeds' which cannot be treated.

Bob Garske mentioned that it was his opinion the weeds now are no worse than in the 1980's when there was no Eurasian milfoil.

2003 Weed Control Program

There was no discussion on this matter at the meeting, but there have been no new developments concerning the dispute with the contractor from 2003. Hopefully this matter has been put to rest.

Lake Mason Home Owners Association Reimbursement

The special meeting was briefly adjourned to allow a discussion by the Lake Association. The meeting was reconvened and the president of the Lake Association advised the Lake District that the Lake Association had voted to donate all funds due to the Lake Association to the Lake District.

NEW BUSINESS

2004 Drawdown

The drawdown this fall will be a maximum of 18 inches and will begin in early October. It is very important that all piers, lifts and anything else owners have in the lake be removed to avoid potential ice damage when the ice breaks up.

Some people favored a 36" drawdown. The Department of Natural Resources only approved an 18" drawdown. Diverse opinions were also expressed as to whether a 36" drawdown concentrates the fish too much and makes it much easier to overly harvest fish through the ice. Whether to have a drawdown and the amount of the drawdown continues to evoke conflicting responses from district members.

Pier Work

The rains earlier this year did a lot of damage to the pier which is used by many people including those with wheel chairs. Bob mentioned the district is applying for grants to build a new pier at little or no cost to the district as labor would be performed by board members or others wishing to volunteer.

Presentation from Chris Murphy from Adams County Department of Lake & Water Conservation

A lake advisory group will be formed early next year including members of the Department of Natural Resources. One of the district's responsibilities includes setting action plans. The Department of Natural Resources will not work with anyone without a lake management plan. A lot of effort will be expended next year on that effort.

Grants are available up to \$200,000, representing 75% of costs, so in the future \$250,000 of work can be done in the future although there is no timetable.

Chris's area is currently working on ways to improve the area which drains into Lake Mason such as barn yard run off and waste storage facilities to reduce the amounts of nutrients flowing into the Lake Mason watershed. These are excellent long term projects.

Progress, slow but steady, is being made on the Big Springs dam matter. Hopefully this progress can continue. The owner of the dam has shown a nice willingness to work with Chris's area and if you see him please thank him for his efforts.

As with many things, not just related to Lake Mason, there is some difference of opinion between how Chris interprets things and how various district people interpret things they have heard from the Department of Natural Resources. With patience and work, these inconsistencies can be resolved.

NEXT MEETING

After some discussion it was moved and seconded to hold the next special meeting in January, but at a date not to conflict with the fisheree. Since the conclusion of the meeting, the board has learned the fisheree is held the 3rd Saturday in January, so **THE NEXT SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD JANUARY 8, 2005 AT 9:00 AT THE DOUGLAS TOWN HALL.**

With no further business to be discussed, it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn this meeting and enjoy the bratfest immediately to follow.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph C. Streater
Secretary/Treasurer

District Financial Summary as of August 31, 2000

2003	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
Legal	0.00	0.00	225.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	1,725.00 Legal	
Weed Control	0.00	0.00	0.00	745	0.00	0.00	12,607.66	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,362.66 Weed Control	
Memberships	225.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225.00 Memberships	
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,209.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,209.00 Insurance	
Supplies etc.	46.00	0.00	162.03	95.42	65.66	82.06	0.00	0.00	94.28	167.54	167.54	0.00	880.53 Supplies etc.	
Lake Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	726.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	332.00	332.00	0.00	1,390.48 Lake Maintenance	
Total 2003	271.00	0.00	387.03	2,775.90	65.66	82.06	12,607.66	500.00	104.28	999.54	999.54	0.00	18,792.67 Total	
2004	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
Legal	647.14	0.00	0.00	424.30	198.49	0.00	0.00	72.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,341.93 Legal	
Weed Control	2,384.31	0.00	770.00	5,983.50	0.00	3,562.45	10,778.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,478.88 Weed Control	
Memberships	225.00	0.00	0.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	335.00 Memberships	
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	263.00	998.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,261.00 Insurance	
Supplies etc.	10.00	0.00	78.44	0.00	14.51	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	122.95 Supplies etc.	
Lake Maintenance	80.67	0.00	321.26	99.58	0.00	776.00	379.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,657.35 Lake Maintenance	
Total 2004	3,347.12	0.00	1,169.70	6,617.38	476.00	5,336.45	11,158.46	92.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,197.11 Total	
1-Jan Opening checkbook balance				166.52						Receipts for individual treatments				4,875.00
				5,000.00	Loan received					Payments for individual treatments				-2,204.66
				-5,000.00	Repay loan					Payment for individual permit				-520.00
				9,050.00	Member receipts from Douglas County					Balance in account due to members				2,150.34
				21,550.00	Member receipts from Adams County									
				265.17	Raffle proceeds from Lions Club					31-Aug Actual checkbook balance				4,984.92
				-1,341.93	Legal									
				-23,478.88	Weed Control					Projected changes remainder of 2004:				
				-335.00	Memberships									
				-1,261.00	Insurance					Return unused individual receipts				-2,150.34
				-122.95	Supplies etc. Includes loan fee and interest					Additional receipts from both counties				
				-1,657.35	Lake Maintenance					per budget				3,900.00
31-Aug District cash balance				2,834.58						Projected funds available for last four months of 2004				6,734.58

**Designation of Sensitive Areas
Mason Lake, Adams County**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Eau Claire, WI**

Sensitive Area Designation

Mason Lake, Adams County

I. INTRODUCTION

Designation of sensitive areas within lakes provide a holistic approach to the protection of those sites within a lake that are most important for preserving the very character and qualities of the lake that initially attracted developments on the lake. These sites are those sensitive and fragile areas that support the wildlife and fish habitat, provide the mechanisms that protect the water quality in the lake, harbor quality plant communities and preserve the places of serenity and aesthetic beauty for the enjoyment of lake residents and visitors. The sensitive area designation will provide a framework for management decisions that impact the ecosystem of the lake.

A Sensitive Area Study was conducted September 29, 2003 on Mason Lake, Adams County.

The study team included:

Scot Ironside, DNR Fish Biologist

Deborah Konkel, DNR, Aquatic Plant Specialist

Buzz Sorge, DNR Lakes Manager

Gregg Breese, DNR Aquatic Habitat Expert

Mason Lake is a 855-acre lake with a maximum depth of 9 ft.

II. THE SENSITIVE AREAS

The reasons for selection of each sensitive area varied among the sites; all sites were selected because of their importance for fish habitat. All of the sensitive areas that were selected have the potential to be used for educational purposes (Figure 1).

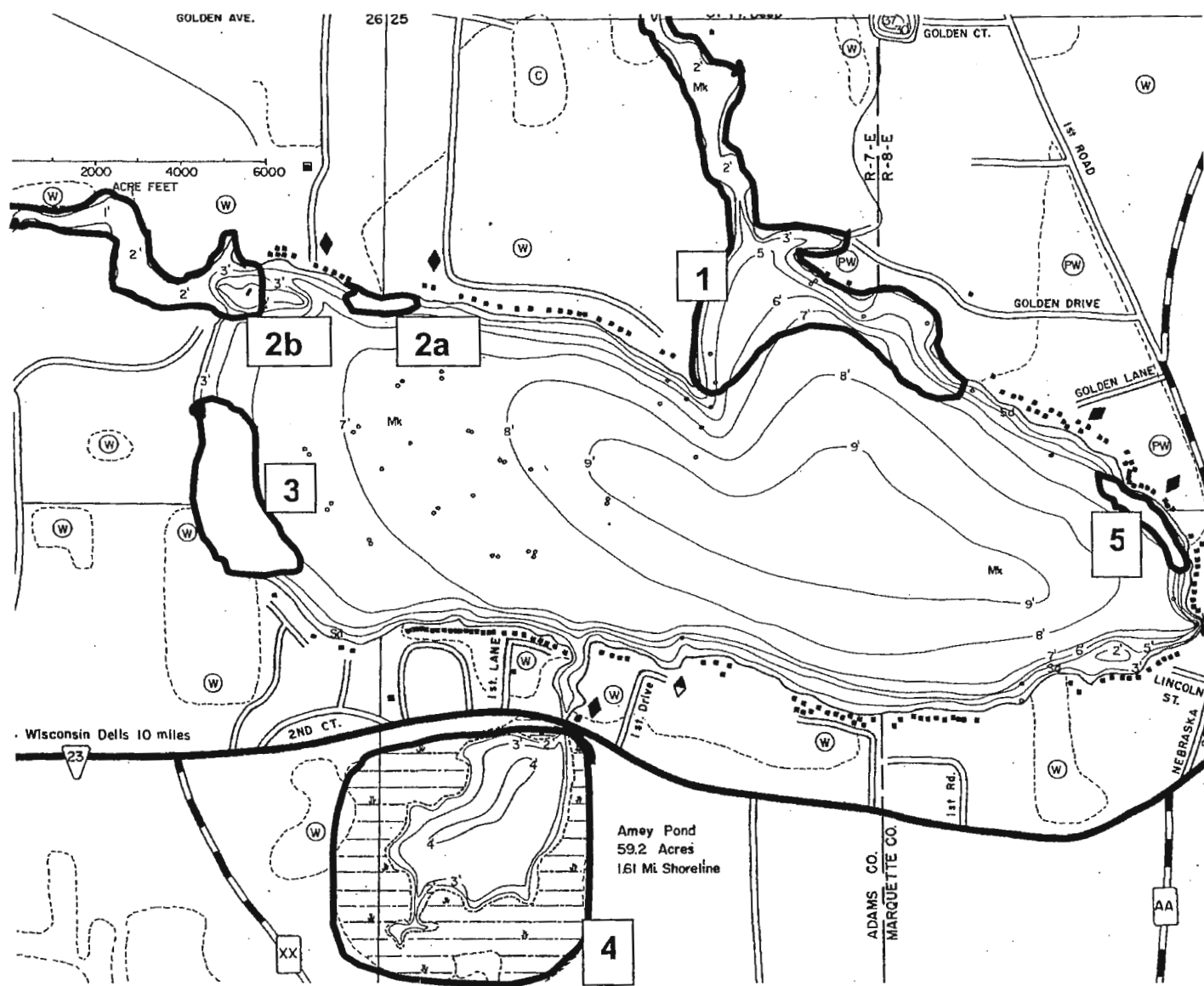


Figure 1. Location of Designated Sensitive Areas in Mason Lake

Sensitive Area ML1 – Burn's Cove

This sensitive area extends along approximately 4000 feet of shoreline in the cove and up the stream, averaging 3 feet in depth and supports important near-shore terrestrial habitat, shoreline habitat and shallow water habitat (Figure 1). The sediment is sand, silt, rock and peat.

The area provides visual and sound buffers and a unique area of outstanding beauty for lake residents and visitors.

Additional reasons for site selection:

- 1) its importance for maintaining water quality;
- 2) its natural scenic beauty
- 3) the diverse aquatic plant community
- 4) the terrestrial vegetation community.
- 5) The site provides a visual and audible barrier from structures, roads and boat traffic.

The shoreline is 30% agricultural, 50% wooded. Fallen woody material is common in the shallow zone for habitat.

The Plant Community:

Sedges, marsh milkweed, bulrush, reed canary grass, willow, dogwood, birch, cottonwood and other trees colonize the shoreline.

Bulrush, bur-reed, reed-canary grass and cattails emerge from the shallow water.

Duckweeds and watermeal float on the surface.

Coontail, common waterweed, water buttercup, bushy pondweed, water star-grass, northern watermilfoil, small pondweed and sago pondweed colonize the underwater habitat up to a depth of 8.5 feet.

Exotic eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed are present

Muskgrass and filamentous algae are present.

Water Quality

Maintaining the integrity of this sensitive area is important for protecting the water quality of Mason Lake.

- 1) The submerged and floating-leaf vegetation in this area ties up nutrients in their tissues that would otherwise be available for algae growth.
- 2) The wetlands are filtering water that enters the lake and preventing shoreline erosion.
- 3) The submergent vegetation is protecting the lake bottom from resuspension of the sediments by boat traffic and wind action, thus maintaining clarity.
- 4) The site is stream inlet, providing water for Mason Lake
- 5) The variety of plant species provides more micro-habitats that increase diversity.

Fish Habitat

The fallen woody cover along the shore and the mosaic of emergent, submergent and floating-leaf vegetation provides a diversity of habitat and feeding opportunities for the fish community.

This area provides

- 1) Spring spawning sites, spring through fall nursery areas, feeding and cover for northern pike, large-mouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, bullhead, and yellow perch;
- 2) spring through fall nursery areas, feeding sites and cover for suckers;
- 3) carp and rusty crayfish are present.

Recommendations

- 1) Maintain the aquatic vegetation in an undisturbed condition for wildlife habitat, fish cover and as a nutrient buffer for water quality protection.
- 2) Protect the emergent vegetation as habitat and erosion buffer.
- 3) Do not remove fallen trees along shoreline.
- 4) Maintain shoreline vegetation, shrubs and snag trees to provide wildlife habitat, prevent erosion and protect water quality.
- 5) Limit removal of native aquatic vegetation
- 6) Selectively manage for control of curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil
- 7) Recommend slow-no-wake zone in the cove.
- 8) No alteration of the littoral zone except for improvement of spawning habitat
- 9) Minimize removal of any shoreline or aquatic vegetation.
- 10) Seasonal protection of spawning habitat
- 11) Create a fish refuge area
- 12) No permit approval for pea gravel beds, sand blankets or dredging, except for DNR fishery or wildlife approved projects
- 13) Prohibit drain or filling of wetland
- 14) No bank stabilization needed
- 15) No permitting for bank grading
- 16) No permitting for retaining wall
- 17) limit pier placement, use a common access point
- 18) No boat ramp placement
- 19) Limit by permit recreational floating devices

Sensitive Area ML2

The sediment is sand and silt.

2a Northwest Shore

This sensitive area extends along 800 feet of shoreline and supports near-shore terrestrial habitat (Figure 1). The shoreline is wooded and shrub growth sandwiched between cottage development.

Additional reasons for site selection:

The value of the large woody debris for fish habitat that is abundant in the shallow zone.

The Plant Community:

Duckweeds and watermeal float on the surface.

Common waterweed, water buttercup, bushy pondweed, northern watermilfoil and sago pondweed colonize the underwater habitat up to a depth of 6.5 feet.

Exotic Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed are present

Filamentous algae is present.

Fish Habitat

The fallen woody cover along the shore and submergent vegetation provides a diversity of habitat and feeding opportunities for the fish community.

This area provides

- 1) Spring spawning sites, spring through fall nursery areas, feeding and cover for northern pike, large-mouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, bullhead, and yellow perch;
- 2) spring through fall nursery areas, feeding sites and cover for suckers;
- 3) carp and rusty crayfish are present.

2b – Big Spring Inlet

This sensitive area extends for 800 feet along the lake shore at the mouth and up the Big Spring tributary, averaging 2 feet in depth and supports important near-shore terrestrial habitat, shoreline habitat and shallow water habitat (Figure 1).

The shoreline is entirely wooded with small areas of shrub and herbaceous plant growth. The wetlands contain emergent herbaceous wetlands and shallow open water wetlands. Fallen woody material is present in the shallow zone for habitat

The area provides visual and sound buffers and a unique area of outstanding beauty for lake residents and visitors.

Additional reasons for site selection:

- 1) natural scenic beauty
- 2) the diversity of the aquatic plant community
- 3) the terrestrial plant community.

The Plant Community:

Trees, shrubs, sedges and reed-canary grass colonize the shoreline.

Sedges, bur-reed and cattails emerge from the shallow water.

Yellow pond lilies duckweeds and watermeal float on the surface.

Coontail, common waterweed, water buttercup, water star-grass, sago pondweed, small pondweed, Vasey's pondweed and long-leaf pondweed colonize the underwater habitat up to a depth of 3 feet.

Exotic Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed are present

Filamentous algae is present.

Water Quality

Maintaining the integrity of this sensitive area is important for protecting the water quality of Mason Lake. The site is a stream inlet water source for Mason Lake

Fish Habitat

The large woody cover along the shore and the mosaic of emergent, submergent and floating-leaf vegetation provides a diversity of habitat and feeding opportunities for the fish community. This area provides

- 1) Spring spawning sites, spring through fall nursery areas, feeding and cover for northern pike, large-mouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, bullhead, suckers and yellow perch;
- 2) carp and rusty crayfish are present.

Recommendations

- 1) Maintain the aquatic vegetation in an undisturbed condition for wildlife habitat, fish cover and as a nutrient buffer for water quality protection.
- 2) Protect the emergent vegetation as an erosion buffer.
- 3) Do not remove fallen trees along shoreline.
- 4) Maintain shoreline vegetation, shrubs and snag trees to provide wildlife habitat, prevent erosion and protect water quality.
- 5) Minimize removal of any shoreline or aquatic vegetation.
- 6) Recommend slow no-wake zone in the mouth of Big Spring
- 7) Manage selectively for exotic milfoil and pondweed
- 8) No alteration of littoral zone except for improvement of spawning habitat
- 9) Seasonal protection of spawning habitat
- 10) Create fish refuge area
- 11) No permit approval for pea gravel beds, sand blankets or dredging, except for DNR fishery or wildlife approved projects
- 12) No bank stabilization needed
- 13) No permitting for bank grading
- 14) No permitting for retaining wall
- 15) No pier or boat ramp placement
- 16) No recreational floating devices

Sensitive Area ML3 – West Wetland

This sensitive area extends along 2000 feet of shoreline, averaging 2 feet in depth and supports important shoreline habitat and near-shore terrestrial vegetation (Figure 1). The sediment is sand and silt. The shoreline at this sensitive area extends for about half of its length along a wooded shoreline and half of its length along and emergent wetland. Large woody cover for habitat is present along the wetland, but is common along the wooded stretch.

The area provides visual and sound buffers and an area of beauty for lake residents and visitors.

Additional reasons for site selection:

- 1) the high quality terrestrial plant community
- 2) natural scenic beauty
- 3) the site provides a visual and audible barrier from structures, roads and boat traffic.

The Plant Community:

Marsh fern, reed-canary grass, sedges, bulrush and smartweed colonize the shoreline.

Soft-stem bulrush, bur-reed, water smartweed and cattails emerge from the shallow water.

Duckweeds and watermeal float on the surface.

Common waterweed, coontail, water buttercup, bushy pondweed, water star-grass, northern watermilfoil, long-leaf pondweed, small pondweed and sago pondweed colonize the underwater habitat.

Exotic Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed are present

Muskgrass and filamentous algae are present.

Water Quality

Maintaining the integrity of this sensitive area is important for protecting the water quality of Mason Lake.

- 1) The submerged and floating-leaf vegetation in this area ties up nutrients in their tissues that would otherwise be available for algae growth.
- 2) The emergent wetland vegetation is filtering water that enters the lake and preventing shoreline erosion.
- 3) The submergent vegetation is protecting the lake bottom.

Fish Habitat

The large woody cover along the shore and the mosaic of emergent, submergent and floating-leaf vegetation provides a diversity of habitat and feeding opportunities for the fish community. This area provides:

- 1) Spring spawning sites, spring through fall nursery areas, feeding and cover for northern pike, large-mouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, bullhead, suckers and yellow perch;
- 2) carp and rusty crayfish are present.

Recommendations

- 1) Recommend slow no-wake in the shallow west end of Lake Mason
- 2) Maintain the aquatic vegetation in an undisturbed condition for wildlife habitat, fish cover and as a nutrient buffer for water quality protection.
- 3) Protect the emergent vegetation as an erosion buffer
- 4) Do not remove fallen trees along shoreline.
- 5) Maintain shoreline vegetation to provide wildlife habitat, prevent erosion and protect water quality.
- 6) Minimize removal of any emergent shoreline or aquatic vegetation
- 7) Selective control of exotic milfoil and pondweed
- 8) No alteration of littoral zone except for improvement of spawning habitat
- 9) Seasonal protection of spawning habitat
- 10) Create fish refuge area
- 11) No permit approval for pea gravel beds, sand blankets or dredging, except for DNR fishery or wildlife approved projects
- 12) Prohibit drain or filling of wetland
- 13) No bank stabilization needed
- 14) No permitting for bank grading
- 15) No permitting for retaining wall
- 16) Restrict and limit pier placement
- 17) No boat ramp placement
- 18) Limit by permit recreational floating devices

Sensitive Area ML4 – Amey's Pond

This sensitive area is approximately 60-acres, the entire wetland pond south of the highway, averaging 3 feet in depth and supporting important near-shore terrestrial habitat, shoreline habitat and shallow water habitat (Figure 1). The sediment is comprised of silt and organic muck.

The area provides visual and sound buffers and beauty for lake residents and visitors.

Additional reasons for site selection

- 1) the high quality terrestrial plant community;
- 2) its natural scenic beauty
- 3) its value for wildlife habitat
- 4) its value for preserving water quality
- 5) The site provides a visual and audible barrier from structures, roads and boat traffic.

The entire shoreline is an emergent shallow water marsh with deep water marsh habitat in the pond itself.

The Plant Community:

Bur-reed, swamp loosestrife and cattails emerge from the wetland that surrounds the pond.

Yellow pond lilies, duckweeds and watermeal float on the surface.

Coontail, common waterweed, water buttercup, muskgrass, long-leaf pondweed and small pondweed colonize the underwater habitat up to a depth of 7 feet.

Exotic Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed are present.

Filamentous algae is present.

Water Quality

Maintaining the integrity of this sensitive area is important for protecting the water quality of Mason Lake.

- 1) The emergent and submergent vegetation in this area tie up nutrients in their tissues that would otherwise be available for algae growth.
- 2) The shoreline vegetation is filtering water that enters the lake and protecting the shoreline from erosion.
- 3) The submergent vegetation is protecting the lake bottom from resuspension of the sediments by boat traffic and wind action, thus maintaining clarity.
- 4) The site is a seepage water source for Mason Lake
- 5) The diversity of plant species provide greater micro-habitats the result in greater diversity of aquatic organisms

Fish Habitat

The large woody cover along the shore and the mosaic of emergent, submergent and floating-leaf vegetation provides a diversity of habitat and feeding opportunities for the fish community.

This area provides

- 1) Spring spawning sites, spring through fall nursery areas, feeding and cover for northern pike, large-mouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, bullhead and yellow perch;
- 2) spring through fall nursery areas, feeding and cover for white suckers
- 3) carp and rusty crayfish are present.

Wildlife Habitat

This area is very important waterfowl habitat.

Recommendations

- 1) Maintain the aquatic vegetation in an undisturbed condition for wildlife habitat, fish cover and as a nutrient buffer for water quality protection.
- 2) Protect the emergent vegetation as an erosion buffer.
- 3) Maintain shoreline vegetation, shrubs and snag trees to provide wildlife habitat, prevent erosion and protect water quality.
- 4) Minimize removal of any shoreline or aquatic vegetation.
- 5) Recommend slow no-wake in Amey Pond.
- 6) No alteration of littoral zone except for improvement of spawning habitat
- 7) Seasonal protection of spawning habitat
- 8) Create fish refuge area
- 9) Place water control structure/carp barrier at the Highway 23 bridge to prevent dewatering of Amey Pond during winter drawdowns on Mason Lake.
- 10) 3102 water level orders
- 11) No permit approval for pea gravel beds, sand blankets or dredging, except for DNR fishery or wildlife approved projects
- 12) Prohibit drain or filling of wetland
- 13) No bank stabilization needed
- 14) No permitting for bank grading
- 15) No permitting for retaining wall
- 16) No pier or boat ramp placement
- 17) No recreational floating devices

Sensitive Area ML5 –Spawning Site

This sensitive area extends along 1000 feet of shoreline and supports important spawning habitat (Figure 1). The sediment is rubble, gravel and sand. The shoreline is 75% developed, 20% wooded and 5% shrub and native herbaceous growth.

The Plant Community:

Scattered cattails emerge from the shallow water.

Coontail, water buttercup, bushy pondweed, northern watermilfoil, muskgrass, sago pondweed and small pondweed colonize the underwater habitat up to a depth of 7 feet.

Exotic Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed are present.

Filamentous algae is present.

Fish Habitat

- 1) Maintaining the lakebed of the littoral zone in this area is important for panfish spawning in the lake.

Recommendations

- 1) Restore natural shoreline by creating a buffer of shoreline vegetation.
- 2) Use no pesticide or fertilizer yard care along the shore
- 3) No permitting for bank grading that could cause erosion that would cover the spawning beds
- 4) No sand blankets or sediment covers.
- 5) No removal or alteration of lake bed

IMPORTANT NOTICES

THE LAKE MASON DRAWDOWN IS EXPECTED TO BE A MAXIMUM OF 18"; BUT IT COULD BE LESS. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT ALL PIERS, BOAT LIFTS, ETC. BE REMOVED TO AVOID POSSIBLE ICE DAMAGE. THE DRAWDOWN IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OCT. 8, 2004.

THE NEXT SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 8, 2005, 9 A.M., AT THE DOUGLAS TOWN HALL.