

## **Ebert and Lime Lake Management Planning Meeting**

Feb 2, 2009

### **Minutes**

Present: Brian Cory, Corinna Neeb, Martin Kubisiak, Ward Wolff, Tony Trzebiatowski, T.J. Kennedy, George Kraft (UWSP CWSE), Bob Korth (UWSP Lakes), Pat Goggins (UWSP Lakes), Randy Slagg (Portage Co LCD), Nancy Turyk (UWSP CWSE), Linda Stoll (UWSP CLUE)

- 1.) Linda welcomed everyone and individuals introduced themselves.
- 2.) George Kraft provided background information on groundwater and lake levels in the Central Sands. Portage County pumps more groundwater than any other county in the state. Kraft explained how water moves through the ground and the impact a high capacity well could have on this flow. In some cases, large withdrawals of groundwater can change the boundaries of a groundwater watershed and/or the direction of groundwater flow. Weather can also change the amount of groundwater available. Droughts reduce the amount of water that infiltrates into the ground and limits groundwater recharge. Studies indicate that precipitation in central Wisconsin is slightly below average but not as low as it's been in the past. Kraft noted that northern Wisconsin is in a drought while southern Wisconsin is experiencing wet conditions and flooding. He reviewed the methods used to determine how much water is missing due to pumping and noted that we lack good long term lake level data for lakes in Portage County. Based on the model that he developed, Ebert and Lime Lakes are in an area that shows only a slight impact from pumping though this could change if more water is withdrawn or the weather patterns result in less groundwater storage and recharge.
- 3.) Bob Korth explained some of the resources that are available to people interested in lakes. He stated that most lake groups form over an issue and then evolve to address other needs. There are several different types of organizations beginning with an informal "friends" group to a lake district which is an additional layer of government and has taxing authority. Most organizations are Lake Associations and often choose to become "qualified lake associations" so they are able to receive grant money from the state. He encouraged attendees to start simple and evolve into a form that works for them. He and Pat Goggin offered their assistance to the group when they are ready to discuss the formation of a group or groups for Lime and Ebert Lake or a Town or County lake group. Korth announced that annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention will be held March 30 – April 1, 2010 in Green Bay and encouraged people to attend.

Pat Goggin distributed information about the Lake Leaders Institute which provides training and support for citizens that wish to play an active role in lake management or protection. They also distributed copies of Lake Tides, a free newsletter that comes out quarterly.

Additional information about these topics and can be found on the Extension Lakes Website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/>

- 4.) Randy Slagg handed out and reviewed a packet of information on the services that are provided by the Portage County Land Conservation Department , who to contact, and contact information. The packet contained information on county ordinances and policies as well. Randy offered their free assistance to landowners that wish to learn more about reducing impacts to Lime or Ebert Lake from their land. Randy can be reached at 346-1334.
- 5.) Attendees split into separate lake groups for Ebert and Lime Lakes and developed and refined the goals, objectives, and actions for the lake management plans.
- 6.) The two representatives from Lime Lake requested an additional meeting so others could assist with plan development and discuss the public meeting. This meeting will be held from 7 to 8pm, March 2 at the Amherst Town Hall. Representatives from Ebert Lake requested that an updated copy of the lake plan be sent to their group for review. Barring the need for any major changes, they would like to present their plan to the town board as soon as possible.

Information on the meetings and plan drafts can be found at the Portage County website <http://www.co.portage.wi.us/> . Access the lake information by selecting the County Info tab, then Portage County Lakes.

If you have questions about the survey or the planning process, please contact:

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