

Ebert and Lime Lake Management Planning Meeting

Oct. 27, 2009

7:00 pm

Amherst Town Hall

Present: George Rogers, Amy Dean-Wojcik, Will and Corinna Neeb, Art and Frieda Filter, Ward and Ramona Wolff, Brian Cory, Myron Trzebiatowski, Ryan Trzebiatowski, Tony Trebiatowski, Robert Lion, Lesley Sheridan, Lynn Markham (UWSP CLUE). Robert Freckmann (UWSP), Paul Skawinski, Golden Sands RC&D, Randy Slagg (Portage Co LCD), Nancy Turyk (UWSP CWSE), Jen McNelly (UWSP CWSE), Linda Stoll (UWSP CLUE)

Linda welcomed everyone and those in attendance introduced themselves. Linda provided an overview of the topics for discussion and introduced Lynn Markham.

Lynn began her presentation by explaining that the lake is a reflection of the watershed – whatever happens on the land that drains to the lake impacts the lake. Properties on lakes with cleaner water have higher property values. She indicated that land management should focus on pollution prevention as the most cost effective way of maintaining water quality. Goals should be to prevent erosion, reduce or eliminate fertilizer use as much as possible and let water soak in where it falls. There are three avenues to address possible pollution to the lake: limit the sources, keep potential pollutants such as fertilizer on the land where it is spread, and finally, filter it out through the use of such practices as shoreline buffers before it reaches the water.

Lynn showed the difference in runoff between shoreline covered with trees, shoreline with light development and shoreline with heavy development. She also explained the difference a plants root structure can make on shoreline stability an ability to absorb water. Research has shown that when development on a lake reaches 30 homes per shoreline mile, frogs are no longer able to live in that area. Frogs can serve as an indicator species to the health of a lake. Finally, she showed several options for improving degraded shoreline and shared how land owners could get help in accomplishing these improvements.

Lime Lake is sensitive to development. Possible recommendations include strengthening the existing shoreline ordinance, maintaining existing forested shoreline, restoring trees and native plants to the remainder of the shoreline, changing the definition of the county Conservancy Zone to conserve land, increasing landowner education, developing a plan for obtaining conservation easements or outright purchases from willing sellers and changing the existing zoning to require larger lots with greater setbacks from the lake.

Ebert is a largely undeveloped lake and would be very sensitive to any future development. It has excellent habitat but existing zoning would allow it to have 100 foot lots possible resulting in fairly dense development. While the presence of wetlands would prevent this from happening along the shore,

there is potential for this happening in the watershed. Plan recommendations could include maintaining existing forested shoreline, changing the definition of the county Conservancy Zone to conserve land, developing a plan for obtaining conservation easements or outright purchases from willing sellers and changing the existing zoning to require larger lots.

Dr. Robert Freckman provided information on the aquatic plants found in and around Ebert and Lime Lakes. He stated that both lakes have marl bottoms. Ebert Lake has the best example of a fen in Portage County. Dr. Freckman showed photos of common plants including those specific to fens. Lime Lake has Eurasian Water Milfoil, abundant duckweed as a result of high phosphorus in the lake and hybrid cattails. The lake's plan should address these plants. Recommendations for Ebert Lake include keeping Ebert undisturbed and watch for invasive species.

Paul explained the difference between invasive and non-invasive plants and native and non-native plants. Invasives and non-natives were transported through ballast water and boat traffic, the nursery industry and aquarium trade, intentional stocking and by anglers. Paul passed around examples of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and banded mystery snails. EWM can be treated by hand pulling and with 2, 4-D application. Snails can only be controlled by mechanical removal. Citizens can assist with the "Clean Boats, Clean Water" program which trains volunteers to do boat inspections and monitor for invasive species.

Attendees broke into separate groups based on their lake of interest and discussion goals, objectives and actions items on the topics presented.

Jen explained the lake plan worksheet and how to use the management menu.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30pm

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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