



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE: 2022 ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 28, 2022

1. Wisconsin Lake Districts

- a. Wisconsin lake district law was first passed over 50 years ago. Now codified in Chapter 33 of statutes.
- b. State law gives lake districts the authority to undertake a wide range of activities to improve and protect the quality of public inland lakes.
- c. Districts deal with the control of invasive weed species as well as boater safety, water quality, public access, etc.
- d. The state has a variety of grant programs to assist lake districts to accomplish their missions.
- e. In Kenosha County, lake districts have been in place for decades in many other lakes: Powers Lake, Twin Lakes, Paddock Lake, Hooker Lake, Center/Camp Lake, Lake George.
- f. Lake districts are (I think) the only unit of government in Wisconsin where non-residents can vote – all lake district residents *and* all owners of property in the lake district, including non-resident owners, have a voice and can vote.
- g. Lake districts are governed by a Board of Commissioners of at least five members. Two commissioners are appointed (one by the county and one by the local municipal government). Three commissioners are elected by district residents and property owners at the annual meeting by secret ballot (no mail-in ballots, no absentee ballots, no proxies).
- h. A lake district's annual budget, which must specifically identify the tax levy and any projects over \$10,000, must be presented and approved at the district's annual meeting.

2. The Silver Lake Management District – Geography

- a. Includes all privately owned properties that actually touch Silver Lake.
- b. Generally includes all private properties east of Cogswell Drive and west of Silver Lake Road.
- c. Does NOT include the Silver Lake County Park, the DNR launching ramp area, or the Village's Dewitt Park or launching ramp.
- d. Total of 178 different properties with about 225 property owners.
- e. Total of about 99 acres or 3.6% of the lake's 4.3 square mile watershed area.
- f. Total assessed value in 2021 of about \$71 million.

- g. District property owners pay over \$1.1 million in annual real estate taxes.

3. History of Silver Lake Management District

- a. Silver Lake Protection Association (SLPA), a private organization, was reconstituted in about 2012 to address the invasive milfoil weed problem in the lake.
 - i. Led by dedicated people like the Mayer family, Jon Hedrich, Kurt Gelbach, Spencer LeRoy, Stormy Grumbeck and others.
 - ii. Did the research, raised over \$75,000 in private funding, secured a \$90,000 WDNR grant, and treated the whole lake in 2013-2015, which was followed by annual surveys and spot treatments.
 - iii. If you were here then, you will understand when I say that we are indebted to those lake treatment pioneers who cleaned up the lake for all of us.
- b. In 2020 SLPA decided that it should sponsor the effort to create the Silver Lake Management District.
 - i. A lake district could provide a continuous and reliable funding source and institution which could address invasive plant issues and other issues going forward.
 - ii. SLPA Board Members: John Coffey, President, Michelle Cullen, Bill Erb, Karen Erb, Kyle Grumbeck, and Dave Zyer
 - iii. SLPA Lake District Committee: Harry Laws, Chair, John Coffey, Dave Zyer, Karen Erb, Jeff Bell, Dave Engels, Donna Kubik, Jim Raker, Randy Schelling, Sue Skalla, and Jim Purinton
- c. Lakefront Property Owners Support Was Invaluable
 - i. Over 180 property owners, about 82% of the total, signed the petition to form the lake district.
 - ii. Only 51% was needed to petition the County for the district's formation.
 - iii. The overwhelming support was important for the subsequent approval process.
- d. Kenosha County Legally Created the District --Thanks to County Board of Supervisors, local Supervisors Erin Decker and Sharon Pomaville, former County Exec Jim Kreuser Corporation Counsel Jim Cardamon, Planning Director Andy Buehler, and the Board's Planning Development and Extension Education Committee.
- e. Village of Salem Lakes Supported the Creation of the District – Thanks to Village Board President Diann Tesar, Trustees Dennis Faber and Ted Kmiec, and Village Administrator Mike Murdock.

- 4. Silver Lake Management District** has now been formed to carry on the tradition started by the Silver Lake Protection Association in managing invasive weed species and to start a new tradition of lake and resource protection and enhancement.