

Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA) News

P.O. Box 494 Eagle River, WI 54521-0494

Winter 2015

Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Steve Budnik
715-686-7852
skbudnik@centurytel.net

Vice President: Jeff Currie
715-617-0080 cur-
riefam@gmail.com

Secretary: Tom Ewing
630 985-8472
tomewingjr@aol.com

Treasurer: Anne Kretschmann
715 543-2085
anne@discoverycenter.net

Directors at Large:

Sue Drum
715 686-2655
adrum@centurytel.net

W. Terry Howard
608 231-3162
whoward@wisc.edu

Carol Warden
715 358-9494
warden@wisc.edu

Gretchen Watkins
(Newsletter)
715 588-4162
gwsurfacewater@gmail.com

Alan Drum
715 686-2655
adrum@centurytel.net

Rollie Alger
715-545-2711
Alger427@yahoo.com

Karen Dixon
715-543-8141
Ked28bean@yahoo.com

Dennis Berg
414-588-2070
dburg6864@aol.com

Presidential Pebbles and Pearls

Back in August of 1994 a group of far sighted individuals got together and formed the Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association. Wow! We're no longer a teenager. I truly consider it an honor to lead this organization as we stride confidently into the future.

A friend once told me, "you know, up until the last 100 years, the lakes mostly took care of themselves." The things that have happened since then are quite obvious – many more people; more development; more pollution; and a host of others that add up to more stress on the 1,300 lakes of Vilas County.

We've really entered a new era. Lakes have to be actively managed as we go forward. Citizen involvement and lake association involvement is more important than it ever was before. Lake management plans on both large and small scales as well as activities such as monitoring and riparian owner education will only increase in importance.

I don't pretend to have all of the answers. The mission of the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association is to be a partner at the county level to local efforts aimed at improving or maintaining the waters of Vilas County; as well as acting as a clearing house for appropriate information to aid in those efforts. Feel free to contact me at your convenience-I'd love to talk.

Contained in this issue:

A membership renewal form

A review of the new NR115 Zoning Legislation

2014 Clean Boats-Clean Waters Summary

An update on the Vilas Cty Shoreland Stewardship Program.

Lastly, we're looking for appropriate pictures to display on the VCLRA web-site. If you have photos of Vilas County lakes & rivers, or people enjoying those lakes & rivers, please send them to Bobbie Kocim at: bkocim@sbcglobal.net. We'll post them on a rotating basis as space permits.

Steve Budnik,

President VCLRA

Chapter NR 115 - Wisconsin Shoreland Protection Program

Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 115 (Chapter), named Wisconsin Shoreland Protection Program, was enacted per the September, 2014 Wisconsin State Register. The provisions of the Chapter **as it was enacted** are summarized briefly below, in the order that they appear in the printed Chapter document.

- **Purpose**—This section lists objectives aimed at protection of water resources. Three interesting interrelating factors appear in this first section:

- Counties may enact new shoreland zoning ordinances that are more restrictive than the ordinances the county had in effect previously, when they create the new ordinances required by this Chapter

- When counties enact new shoreland zoning ordinances as required by the Chapter, they may not contain provisions more restrictive than provisions contained in the Chapter when regulating replacement, repair or relocation of nonconforming buildings

- Towns having shoreland zoning ordinances in place prior to the adoption of the Chapter in September, 2014, may keep in effect any shoreland ordinance provisions that are more restrictive than the new ordinance provisions (mandated by NR 115) adopted by their county zoning authorities. [See Statutes 59.692 (2)]

- **Applicability**---This section simply states that it applies to "...county regulation of the use and development of unincorporated shoreland areas and to annexed or incorporated areas..." except for certain special cases. It states in addition that all governmental bodies must comply as well with the provisions of the Chapter, except for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation under certain conditions.

- **Definitions**---This section simply defines eighteen (18) terms pertaining to the protection of water bodies and shorelines.

- **Shoreland-wetlands**---Notable features of this section are as follows:

- The opening statement of this section provides that "Counties shall adopt shoreland ordinances that include zoning regulations for shoreland-wetland zoning districts."

- The section then continues to discuss Amendment of Shoreland-Wetland Maps and Zoning Districts.

- **Minimum zoning standards for shorelands**---This section deals with issues important to most shoreland property owners. The notable features in this section are listed below:

Sewered lots served by public sanitary sewer, and unsewered lots not served by public sanitary sewer, must have minimum average lot width and lot areas as listed in this section of the Chapter.

Substandard lots, those created that met minimum area and lot width requirements when created, but do not meet present size requirements, may be used as a building site if three requirements listed in this portion of the Chapter are met.

Planned unit developments are defined for newly created non-riparian lots.

Building setbacks from the water's edge are established at 75 feet except where adjacent property structures are closer than 75 feet. New structures may then be built at a setback from the water equal to the average setback of neighboring structures, but not closer than 35 feet from the water's edge.

Structures exempt from the 75-foot setback are listed in this section of the Chapter.

Counties must provide guidelines for preservation of vegetation, including establishment of 35-foot buffer zones, and rules for maintenance of shoreland vegetation and for dealing with invasive shoreland species

Filling, grading, ditching types of activities must comply with NR 115.04, Chapter 30 Stats., and certain additional state and federal requirements where applicable

Impervious surface standards apply to regions within 300 feet of the water's edge, as follows:

- 1) Impervious surfaces are calculated for surfaces within 300 feet of water's edge on riparian lots and on non-riparian lots that are located entirely within 300 feet of the OHWM

- 2) On lots where the owner has provided engineered stormwater control techniques for a particular stretch of impervious

Chapter NR 115 - Wisconsin Shoreland Protection Program (continued)

surface, this particular impervious stretch does not have to be included in the impervious surface calculation for the parcel. In addition, a stretch of impervious surface may be excluded from the impervious calculation if it drains to an "...internally drained pervious area that retains the runoff on the parcel to allow infiltration into the soil."

3) "...a county may allow up to 15% impervious surface when calculated..." as described in 1) and 2) immediately above except for the following conditions listed below in 4) through 5):

4) A county may designate regions known as "highly developed shorelines" in which residential lots can have up to 30% impervious and commercial, industrial or business oriented lots can have up to 40% impervious. There are standards listed in the Chapter which define how a region is designated as a "highly developed shoreline". Counties may even produce a map of additional areas to become "highly developed shorelines". These additional mapped areas need at least 500 feet of shoreline and must have certain existing characteristics defined in the Chapter and receive approval from the Department of Natural Resources.

5) Counties may allow properties to exceed maximum impervious surface requirements if they can meet all of the following requirements: a) The lot is not in a "highly developed shoreline" and has a calculated impervious surface of between 15 % and 30 %; b) For lots within a "highly developed shoreline", residential lots may have up to 40% impervious and commercially-oriented lots may have up to 60% impervious; For lots in the categories a) and b) immediately above [that do not exceed 30% impervious in the case of a) above, and that do not exceed either 40% or 60%, whichever applies, in the case of b) above], a mitigation plan approved by the county is required.

6) On properties having legal but non-conforming amounts of impervious surface, owners may do the following, but may not increase the percentage of impervious surface: Maintain and repair all impervious surfaces; Replace existing impervious surfaces with similar surfaces within the existing building envelope; Relocate or modify impervious surfaces, as long as setback requirements are met.

7) No new structure may be higher above ground level than 35 feet within 75 feet of the ordinary high water mark.

Nonconforming structures are governed as follows:

1) Generally, legal non-conforming structures cannot be prohibited from continued permitted uses

2) Counties may prohibit continued non-conforming uses of temporary structures. Counties shall prohibit nonconforming uses that have discontinued for over 12 months

3) Maintenance of lawful non-conforming structures within the 75 foot setback may continue within existing building envelopes.

4) Legal nonconforming structures within the 75 foot setback may be expanded laterally or vertically as long as the use, when non-conforming, has not been discontinued for 12 months, the existing structure is at least 35 feet from the water's edge, none of the new construction is closer to the water than the original structure, the height is no more than 35 feet within the 75 foot setback, the lateral expansion is no more than 200 square feet over the life of the structure. Additionally, the county shall require mitigation following a county-approved plan.

5) Principal buildings currently within the 75 foot setback as legally non-conforming structures, when expanded in the region beyond the 75 foot setback, may be expanded vertically and horizontally in the region beyond the 75 foot setback. No mitigation plan is required unless needed under the impervious surface percentage rules.

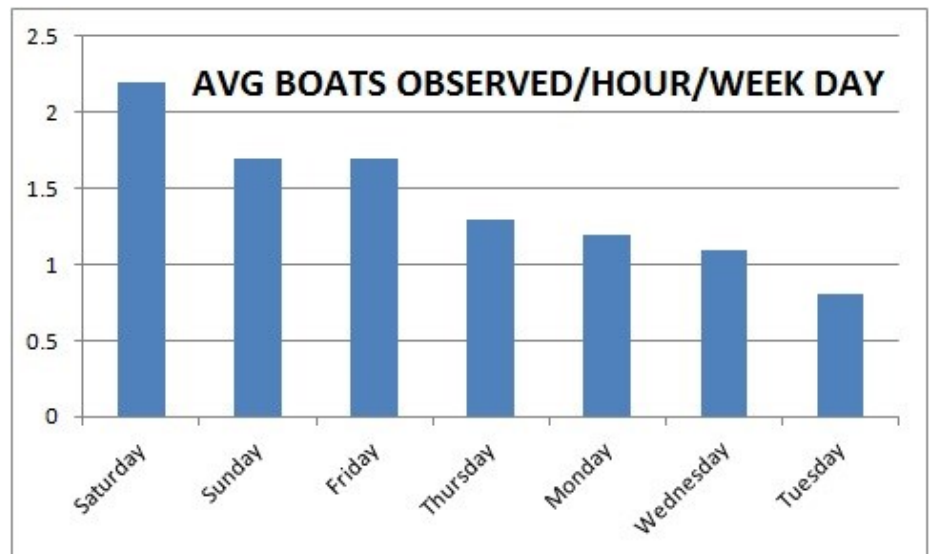
6) Legal non-conforming structures may be replaced or relocated on the property under these conditions: a) The use of the structure, if non-conforming, has not discontinued for over 12 months; b) The existing principal structure is more than 35 feet from the OHWM; c) No portion of the replacement or relocation is closer to the OHWM than the closest portion of the original structure; d) The county determines that no other conforming location is present on the property; e) A county-approved mitigation plan is required.

Counties are required to establish a comprehensive land division governing and review program to adopt sanitary regulations, and to adopt administrative and enforcement provisions in their shoreland ordinance.

• **Department Duties**---The Department of Natural Resources will assist counties in their shoreland protection objectives, as outlined in the Chapter.

Ted Ritter's 2014 Clean Boats-Clean Waters Summary

With the 2014 Clean Boats Clean Waters season having come to an end on many lakes, I have prepared summaries of Vilas County CBCW data entered into SWIMS as of 09/22. Nearly 9,000 hours of CBCW activity was reported at 50 landings ranging from as few as 2 total hours to more than 1,200. The average number of boats observed per hour over the course of the summer ranged from 3.3 to 0.5. The following table represents a quick summary of county-wide data. For more information and graphs visit- http://www.vilasconservation.org/programs_services.html#aquaticinvasives



Hours at landings		Boats observed		People Contacted	Boaters willing to engage in conversation		Inspector confident boater understands AIS laws			
							Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Paid	Volunteer	Entering	Leaving		Yes	No				
8,009	834	8,248	5,903	13,275	12,936	339	7,995	5,515	261	29
8,843		14,151			13,275		13,510		290	
91%	9%	58%	42%		97%	3%	98%		2%	

Shoreland Stewardship Covenant Update

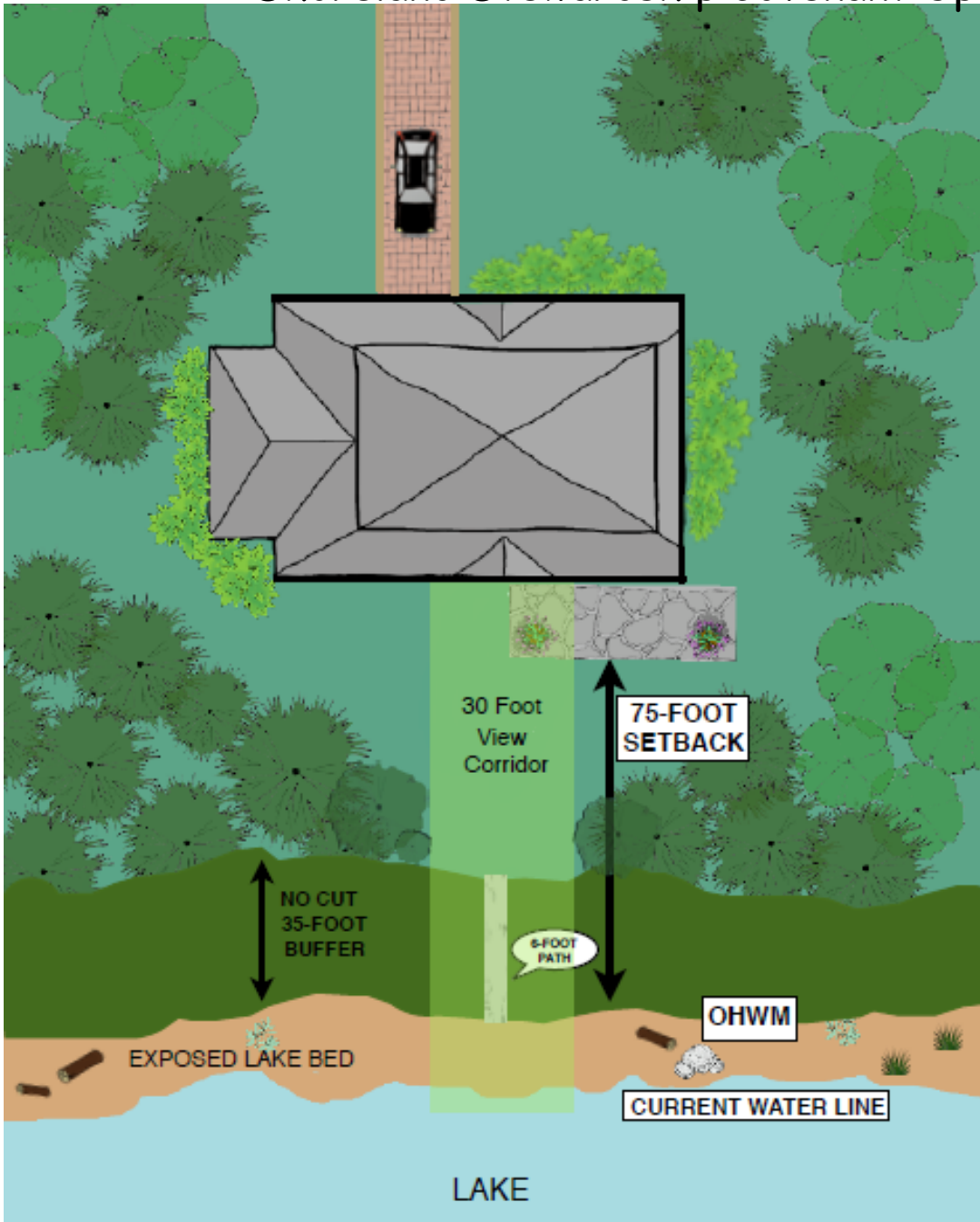
Seven properties are now enrolled in the Vilas Shoreland Stewardship Covenant since its introduction in early summer 2014. The total shoreline in covenant is almost 1,000 feet.

The covenant program, sponsored by the Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association (VCLRA), is simple in concept---properties in compliance with the Vilas County Zoning Ordinances are eligible. The diagram depicts the ordinance requirements. Covenant legal documents are on the VCLRA website at www.vclra.us.

If you are interested in adding a level of protection to your shoreland property and have questions, please call Sandy Gillum (715-617-0031) or Rollie Alger (715-545-2711). NOTE: Lake Associations and Lake Districts are encouraged to place covenant information in their next newsletter.



Shoreland Stewardship Covenant Update



Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association- Shoreland Stewardship Initiative (continued from page 4)

Target Points including Vilas County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Ref.

- 75' OHWM *minimum* Setback: Article V: 5.1 B.
- 35' *minimum* Shoreland Buffer: Article IX: 9.1 C.
- 30' *maximum* width View Corridor: Article VIII: 8.3 B.
- 6' *maximum* width Pedestrian Access Path: Article VII: 7.3 A. 1. f.
- 4' *maximum* width Elevated Walkway (steep slopes, wet soils): Article VII: 7.3 A. 2. c.

Current AIS Research Available Online

The UW Center for Limnology has created a catalogue where anyone can learn about research that is going on right now. You can search by species, location, agency, or individual. Or you can browse through all the current research. Check in often as new projects are always being added and current projects have been updated.

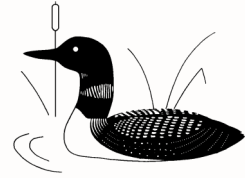
Find this tool at http://cfllibrary.uwcfl.org/ais_projects

If you have any projects you would like added to the list or you need to update an existing project, contact AIS specialist Carol Warden of UW-Trout Lake at warden@wisc.edu or (715) 356-9494.

VILAS COUNTY LAKES and RIVERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 494

Eagle River, WI 54521-0494



January 2015

Happy New Year!!

Just a reminder from the Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association (VCLRA) that 2014 has come and gone and it is now time to renew your membership for 2015. This year promises to be another productive and exciting year.

VCLRA is pleased with the progress to protect our lakes. We continue to work closely with our partner on the state level, Wisconsin Lakes (WL), to support efforts to protect our lakes and maintain our shorelines. Within the county, we have worked with many lake associations to bring greater awareness of the importance of the lake shoreline to overall lake quality. Our new **Shoreland Stewardship Program**, explained elsewhere in this issue, is a prime example of this. Additionally, VCLRA again presented **Blue Heron Stewardship Awards** to recognize lake property owners who have worked to retain, maintain and restore shorelands

We have started initial planning for our annual meeting and Vilas County Celebrate the Lakes Day to be held at the Conserve School near Land o' Lakes on **Friday June 12, 2015. Mark your calendars now** and watch for the complete schedule in the spring 2015 newsletter.

Elsewhere in this issue is a 2015 membership renewal form. Please complete it and submit with your remittance to the address above.

Also, check out our website at www.vclra.us for a wide range of current and latest information.

Don't forget the Wisconsin Lakes Convention April 23-25 (Thursday-Saturday), 2014 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. Registration information is on the back page of this issue and starts around February 1st, 2015.

Enjoy the beauty of our lakes and waterways. They have something unique to offer in each and every season of the year.

Best regards,

Steve Budnik,

VCLRA President

Preserving, protecting and enhancing our Vilas County lakes

and waterways for present and future generations



Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

Preserving, protecting and enhancing our Vilas County lakes and waterways for present and future generations

Type of Membership:

☐ Individual/Family \$25 ☐ Lake Organization \$50 ☐ Associate/Supporting \$75

Section A: Individual/Family or Associate/Supporting Membership

Name(s) _____ Ph _____

Permanent Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Wish to receive newsletter via email? Yes ☐ No ☐ Email Address: _____

Name of Lake of Residence: _____

Name of Lake Organization (if established): _____

Approximate number of individuals represented by lake organization (if established): _____

Other affiliation (i.e. town chairman, county commissioner, etc.) _____

Wish to receive occasional email alerts on lake issues as Key Contact Person? Yes ☐ No ☐

Section B: Lake Organization (Lake Associations and Districts) Membership

Please submit the names and contact information of organization officers/ board of directors/commissioners, each will receive the VCLRA newsletter. If person and contact information is the same as prior year write "NC" after name. Please indicate a **Key Contact Person**, ideally with email, this is used occasionally when legislative updates or call-to-actions occur.

Lake organization name _____

Website _____

Approximate number of individuals represented by lake organization _____

Please attach additional
board members, directors,
or commissioners, if needed.

President/Chairman

Name(s) _____

Permanent Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Wish to receive newsletter via email? Yes ☐ No ☐

Name of Lake of Residence: _____

Receive occasional email alerts on lake issues? Yes ☐ No ☐

Key Contact Person? Yes ☐ No ☐

Secretary

Name(s) _____

Permanent Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Wish to receive newsletter via email? Yes ☐ No ☐

Name of Lake of Residence: _____

Receive occasional email alerts on lake issues? Yes ☐ No ☐

Key Contact Person? Yes ☐ No ☐

Vice-President

Name(s) _____

Permanent Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Wish to receive newsletter via email? Yes ☐ No ☐

Name of Lake of Residence: _____

Receive occasional email alerts on lake issues? Yes ☐ No ☐

Key Contact Person? Yes ☐ No ☐

Treasurer

Name(s) _____

Permanent Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Wish to receive newsletter via email? Yes ☐ No ☐

Name of Lake of Residence: _____

Receive occasional email alerts on lake issues? Yes ☐ No ☐

Key Contact Person? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please make checks payable to: Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association (VCLRA)
Return completed form with annual dues before **June 1st** to: VCLRA; PO Box 494; Eagle River, WI 54521

Mark your Calendar

Mark your Calendar

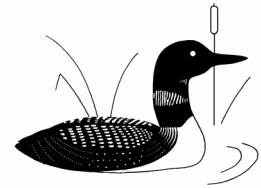
April 23-25, 2015 The 2015 Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Stevens point, WI. Registration @ www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes usually starts around February 1st.

June 12, 2015 Vilas County Celebrate the Lakes Day, at the Conserve School near Land o' Lakes, WI. Contact Jeff Curie at 715-617-0080/curriefam@gmail.com or Steve Budnik at 715-686-7852/skbudnik@centurytel.net, for more information.

JOIN VCLRA TODAY! See membership form inside this issue or

Please go to our website and download the membership form

<http://www.vclra.us/home/membership>



Lake County Journal

Volume 21 Issue 1 Winter 2015

Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association, Inc.

PO Box 494, Eagle River, WI 54521

Website: www.vclra.us

In This Issue

President's Message

Review: New NR115 Zoning Legislation

2014 Clean Boats-Clean Waters Summary

Update: Vilas Cty Shoreland Stewardship Program

Current AIS Research Available Online

Membership renewal form