

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
BUILDING INSPECTOR  
PLANNING ADVISORY  
COMMISSION  
SOLID WASTE OFFICER  
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

TELEPHONE 612-629-6497

**COUNTY OF PINE**  
ZONING OFFICE  
PINE CITY, MINNESOTA 55063

November 6, 1973

Honorable Board of County Commissioners  
Pine County  
Pine City, Minnesota 55063

Gentlemen:

At your meeting of October 3, 1973 you directed me to investigate and report on the matter of the elevation of Sturgeon Lake and drainage problems pertinent thereto.

I have examined the file given me by the County Engineer, inspected part of the watershed area, met with a committee from the Windemere Township Lake and Landowners Association, and visited with several long time residents of that community.

It appears that gross mismanagement of this watershed, both legal and illegal has occurred over many years. Much unwise development has compounded the problem. County State Aid Highway 46 and other roads in the area also have some bearing on the situation. As use of this land has increased it seems like things have been done with mainly consideration of conditions at the time. Sturgeon Lake fluctuates considerably but roads, culverts, buildings etc. are situated to be suitable only at certain water levels; in addition some of the district is in trouble at medium to high levels, while other sections may be somewhat unacceptable at low to medium levels.

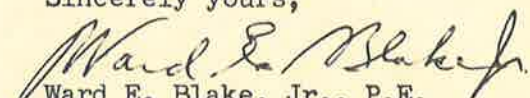
New uses including filling in the shorelands area has quite recently been done, some probably in violation of our Shoreland Management Ordinance.

The County may, in order to promote the public health, safety and welfare, initiate and maintain improvements and operate control works on any body of water within the county. Any proposed project must be approved by the Commissioner of Natural Resources in the form of a written permit obtained prior to the start of such project. Detailed surveys, engineering and design studies must be made prior to the application for a permit.

The County should consider all results that may occur from any action taken to control these water levels. It would not seem right to aid the situation for one group of individuals if it would then compound the problem of many others. I assume the county could be held liable for damages that may occur because of new projects.

However, there is now a serious condition of flooding lands, floors and sewage disposal systems in much of the shoreland of Sturgeon Lake. I do not feel this situation should just be ignored.

Sincerely yours,

  
Ward E. Blake, Jr., P.E.  
Pine County Zoning Administrator



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ST. PAUL 55155

WENDELL R. ANDERSON  
GOVERNOR

November 16, 1972

The Honorable Florian Chmielewski  
State Senator  
Sturgeon Lake, Minnesota

Dear Senator Chmielewski:

Thank you for your letter of October 13th enclosing Mr. E. D. Kuhn's letter to you concerning high water levels of Sturgeon Lake, Pine County.

I have been informed by the Department of Natural Resources that the ditch which permits outflow from Sturgeon Lake to Dago Lake is artificial and was dug a number of years ago. It was dug by persons unknown who apparently thought relief from high water would follow. However, since Dago Lake has no surface outlet and an area of only slightly more than 100 acres while Sturgeon Lake has an area of nearly 1500 acres, Dago Lake quickly filled up without providing the relief sought. I am advised that the ditch crosses the right-of-way of County State Aid Highway No. 46 and directs the water to and away from the culvert. I am also advised it was illegally constructed. Therefore, it appears feasible and proper, I believe, for the county to plug either the ditch within the right-of-way or the culvert. This would stop the flow of water to Dago Lake.

I am advised that in the 1950's, a local engineer named Hanshu made surveys and developed a project to provide an outlet for the lake to the Willow River via a natural waterway to Rush - Little Rush Lakes and a pipeline to Passenger Lake which naturally outflows to the Willow River through Big Slough Lake. The project is being revived by the Windemere Township Lake and Landowners Association, General Delivery, Sturgeon Lake 55783, of which Mr. Gale B. Beccue is chairman. In connection therewith,

Mr. Beccue wrote Mr. Eugene Gere on October 14th. A copy of that letter is indicated as having already been sent to you and a copy is enclosed for Mr. Kuhn. Although the letter has not yet been answered, it was delivered by a member of the organization, Mr. Glenn Rover, who was advised that the project requires a permit from the Commissioner of Natural Resources. He was also told that such permits, for projects affecting the water levels of lakes, are issued only to public agencies, such as counties, municipalities and perhaps townships.

It appears that the association is going to work through Pine County to effect the construction of the project. I suggest that Mr. Kuhn contact Mr. Beccue regarding it and perhaps join the organization.

Thank you for writing. Mr. Kuhn's letter is returned. I suggest that if he has additional questions, he contact Mr. Eugene Gere, Director, Division of Waters, Soils and Minerals, Department of Natural Resources, 300 Centennial Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



Wendell R. Anderson

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