

Windemere Township Lakes Association

<http://windemere.mnlakesanddrivers.org/>



WINDOW

"If you want information, just open a window"

Spring 2023

Shoreland Ordinance Amendments

By Laurie Patrick, Board Chair, WTLA

The Pine County Coalition of Lakes Associations held a meeting on April 21 concerning Shoreland Ordinance Amendments. The purpose of the meeting was to ask for lake association's input on shoreland ordinance amendments regarding commercial land uses on/near lakes in our county. The question was asked what concerns we would have if someone proposed to open a campground, vacation rental, resort, or similar business in our neighborhood. Three of the Windemere Township Lakes Association board members attended that meeting and provided our input. The notes from that meeting were gathered by Caleb Anderson, Pine County Land and Resources Manager and can be found at <http://windemere.mnlakesanddrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/COLA-Meeting-Outcomes-04-21-2023.pdf>.



The Windemere Township brush pile drop off location re-opened on April 15 and will be available Monday through Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. If you have any questions, please call **Bill Patrick** (651-336-3487)

High Water Committee – Sturgeon Lake Update

By Bill Yechout, Board Member, WTLA

The ice went out on Sturgeon Lake on May third this year. The lake level is up, around 10 inches since last fall. Last fall Windemere Township hired Houston Engineering to do a feasibility study. The study was to lay out options to lower the lake. The report was finished and presented in November to the township. I talked to Tony Bakhtiari, one of the Windemere Township supervisors. He is planning on putting it on the agenda for discussion at the township's June meeting. High water events will continue to flood and erode our shore lines unless some action is taken.



**JUST
SAY
NO!**

Shoreline Buffer

By Dan Benzie, Board Treasurer, WTLA

One of the most important things lakeshore owners can do to protect and improve water quality is to “say no to mowing all the way to the shoreline.” This simple task of leaving 10-25 feet of buffer not mowed saves you work, keeps the geese off your lawn, and most importantly decreases phosphorus and sediment runoff into your lake. While not mowing is a very significant first step, going a bit further and creating a native shoreline buffer can improve the aesthetics of your property and make you the envy of the neighborhood. While keeping your beach and developed recreation area to 50-75 feet, the remaining natural shoreline can increase your fish habitat, wildlife viewing and water clarity.

A shoreline buffer is defined as a vegetated strip of land along the lakeshore that consists of mix of native aquatic plants, grasses, wildflowers and/ or shrubs and trees. Studies reported by the DNR show that a single “lawn to lake” lot can introduce enough phosphorus to produce 100 pounds of algae each summer. By restoring native aquatic plants, you will lessen the invasives like milfoil and provide significant fish and wildlife habitat and protection. The aquatic vegetation also reduces the shoreline erosion impact of watercraft wakes. The native upland plants will slow runoff, with roots stabilizing soils and stems, branches, and flowers all retaining water to help maintain lake levels.

If you would like to have more time to play at the lake, watch the wildlife, catch more fish and enjoy a cleaner lakeshore, “**just say no**” and put the mower away earlier. For further information on shoreline buffers good reads are “Lake Scaping for Wildlife and Water Quality” or “Restore Your Shore.” For information on grants available to offset the costs of creating a shoreline buffer contact Pine SWCD at 320-216-4240.

Membership

By Joann Murphy, Board Member, WTLA

"Thank you to all who have renewed your 2023 Memberships. It's great to see enthusiasm in members and support for WTLA! Stop by the Membership table at our monthly meetings and introduce yourself. It's always nice to put a name with a face. If you have new neighbors,

share the meeting dates with them and encourage them to join WTLA. This is a chance to meet other lakeshore owners, learn about AIS/Milfoil and what WTLA is doing about it, and receive updated information regarding water quality and lake water levels."



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

By Loren Radke, Board Member, WTLA

Thank you again for your financial contributions to our AIS fund. We are well positioned to continue our AIS work managing invasive Eurasian watermilfoil on Sand Lake and Sturgeon Lake. Beginning first in June, these two lakes will be surveyed by our contact at the DNR to identify the areas of concern. Secondly, these lakes will be treated by a third party using the DNR recommended herbicide which showed positive results in 2022. Third, we will continue working with the state as part of our grant requirement to perform a follow-up native plant survey which will help provide information to assist aquatic invasive species treatment and prevention programs throughout MN. The required native plant survey will be conducted by a third party who specializes in lake ecosystems.

Fortunately for our township area lakes, invasive Eurasian watermilfoil is the only risk at the present time. There are, though, numerous other invasive species that exist and have been identified elsewhere in the state. It is our associations' intent to focus on prevention by increasing education and awareness about these other relatively common invasive plants or invertebrates.

Remember to: Clean, Drain & Dry

To learn more about AIS please visit:

University of MN > AIS Research Center <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu>

MN Department of Natural Resources > AIS <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais>

NOTICE: In early June the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be surveying Sand and Sturgeon Lakes for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The Windemere Township Lakes Association will be having both lakes treated for EWM by a licensed applicator with approved herbicides. Both the onshore as well as the offshore areas will be treated. If you, as an owner of lakeshore property, object to the treatment on your onshore area you must contact the association by June 14, 2023. You can call or text Loren Radtke (218) 348-1077 or Chip Wells (218) 380-0409 or email us at windemerelakes@yahoo.com.

WTLA Moves Toward Tax Exempt Status

By Noah A. Cashman, Board Vice-Chair, WTLA

At the September 2022 Board Meeting of the Windemere Township Lakes Association (WTLA) your Board of Directors decided to prioritize establishing WTLA as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The Board decided to pursue this for numerous reasons even though it does entail additional work beyond the organization's current unincorporated status. The decision to become a 501(c)(3) organization is ultimately the decision of the members and a discussion of this move, and amendment of the bylaws, will occur this summer at the general meetings of the organization.

The primary reason the association is pursuing tax exempt status is accountability, and secondarily the flexibility to pursue additional revenue streams to fund the work of the association. The association will be more accountable to the members in becoming a 501(c)(3) organization because it will be incorporated, subject to member scrutiny, and under oversight requirements of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Charities Division of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. Your association will also be empowered to pursue additional streams of revenue beyond membership dues and state grants that fit with its status as a tax-exempt organization.

Tax-exempt status brings additional burdens, such as additional cost for incorporating, filing fees, and reporting to the IRS and the Minnesota Attorney General. Your Board does believe it is worth the effort and cost. The decision is ultimately the decision of the membership, and your Board of Directors looks forward to beginning this discussion with you at the June 10 General Meeting. We hope to see you there.

2023 Lake Association General Meetings: General meeting space has been reserved at the Social Hall in Holy Angels Catholic Church, 60 Hartman Dr, in Moose Lake, at 9:00 AM.

June 10 - Dennis Genereau, Windemere Township Planning & Zoning and Jeremy Williamson, Pine County Environmental Technician
July 8- To Be Determined
August 12 - Richard Rezanka, Minnesota DNR

Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Members

Sturgeon Lake	Sand Lake	Island Lake	Small Lakes
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