

MODIFIED

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
CREATING RULES

The State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to create ch. NR 109 relating to aquatic plant management.

FH-28-02

Summary Prepared by Department of Natural Resources

Statutory authority: ss. 23.24(2) and (4)(c) and 227.11(2)(a), Stats.
Statutes interpreted: ss. 23.24 and 30.715, Stats.

2001 WI Act 16 included new legislative language for the protection of native aquatic plant communities and control of invasive aquatic plant species. The department is directed, under Section 23.24, Stats., Aquatic plants, to establish a program for the waters of this state to: 1. Protect and develop diverse and stable communities of native aquatic plants; 2. Regulate how aquatic plants are managed; and 3. Provide education and conduct research concerning invasive aquatic plants. The department is further directed to designate by rule which aquatic plants are invasive species and to administer and establish by rule procedures and requirements for issuance of aquatic plant management permits.

Under the new law, traditional aquatic plant management activities that previously have been unregulated, such as manual removal and control using harvesting equipment, now require a permit from the department. The rule, NR 109, establishes procedures to regulate the introduction, manual removal, burning and the use of mechanical means or plant inhibitors to control aquatic plants and designate invasive aquatic plants.

The rule provides application procedures, specifies fees, and contains the conditions for issuance or denial of permits. The rule specifies waivers from permit requirements for manual removal by riparian waterfront owners as well as prohibitions designed to limit the distribution of invasive aquatic plants. The rule contains provisions for the department to designate invasive aquatic plants for management purposes on a body of water. Aquatic plant management plan specifications are outlined to guide community-based preparation and department approval. The rule asserts that if a permit issued by the department under other authorities contains the appropriate conditions as required under this chapter for aquatic plant management, a separate permit is not required under this chapter. The consequences of permit violations are stated in this rule.

2001 WI Act 16 included new legislative language to prevent the spreading of nuisance aquatic plants between waters of the state. Section 30.715, Stats., prohibits the launching of boats or boating equipment or trailers in navigable water if the person has reason to believe that the boat, boat trailer, or boating equipment has any aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached.

SECTION 1: CHAPTER NR 109 IS CREATED TO READ:

**Chapter NR 109
AQUATIC PLANTS: INTRODUCTION, MANUAL REMOVAL & MECHANICAL CONTROL
REGULATIONS**

- NR 109.01 Purpose.**
- NR 109.02 Applicability.**
- NR 109.03 Definitions.**
- NR 109.04 Application requirements and fees.**
- NR 109.05 Permit issuance.**
- NR 109.06 Waivers.**
- NR 109.07 Invasive and nonnative aquatic plants.**
- NR 109.08 Prohibitions.**
- NR 109.09 Plan specifications and approval.**
- NR 109.10 Other permits.**
- NR 109.11 Enforcement.**

NR 109.01 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish procedures and requirements for the protection and regulation of aquatic plants pursuant to ss. 23.24 and 30.715, Stats. Diverse and stable communities of native aquatic plants are recognized to be a vital and necessary component of a healthy aquatic ecosystem. This chapter establishes procedures and requirements for issuing aquatic plant management permits for introduction of aquatic plants or control of aquatic plants by manual removal, burning, use of mechanical means or plant inhibitors. This chapter identifies other permits issued by the department for aquatic plant management that contain the appropriate conditions as required under this chapter for aquatic plant management, and for which no separate permit is required under this chapter. Introduction and control of aquatic plants shall be allowed in a manner consistent with sound ecosystem management, shall consider cumulative impacts, and shall minimize the loss of ecological values in the body of water. The purpose of this chapter is also to prevent the spread of invasive and non-native aquatic organisms by prohibiting the launching of watercraft or equipment that has any aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached.

NR 109.02 Applicability. A person sponsoring or conducting manual removal, burning or using mechanical means or aquatic plant inhibitors to control aquatic plants in navigable waters, or introducing non-native aquatic plants to waters of this state shall obtain an aquatic plant management permit from the department under this chapter.

NR 109.03 Definitions. In this chapter:

- (1) "Aquatic community" means lake or river biological resources.
- (2) "Beneficial water use activities" mean angling, boating, swimming or other navigational or recreational water use activity.
- (3) "Body of water" means any lake, river or wetland that is a water of this state.
- (4) "Complete application" means a completed and signed application form, the information specified in s. NR 109.04 and any other information which may reasonably be required from an applicant and which the department needs to make a decision under applicable provisions of law.
- (5) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of natural resources.
- (6) "Manual removal" means the control of aquatic plants by hand or hand-held devices without the use or aid of external or auxiliary power.

(78) "Navigable waters" means those waters defined as navigable under s. 30.10, Stats.

(87) "Permit" means aquatic plant management permit.

(98) "Plan" means aquatic plant management plan.

(109) "Wetlands" means an area where water is at, near or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions.

NR 109.04 Application requirements and fees. (1) Permit applications shall be made on forms provided by the department and shall be submitted to the regional director or designee for the region in which the project is located. Permit applications for licensed aquatic nursery growers may be submitted to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection.

Note: Applications may be obtained from the department's regional headquarters or service centers. DATCP has agreed to send application forms and instructions provided by the department to aquatic nursery growers along with license renewal forms. DATCP will forward all applications to the department for processing.

(2) The application shall be accompanied by all of the following unless the application is made by licensed aquatic nursery growers for selective harvesting of aquatic plants for nursery stock. Applications made by licensed aquatic nursery growers for harvest of nursery stock do not have to include the information required by par. (d), (e), (h), (i) or (j).

(a) A nonrefundable application fee. The application fee for an aquatic plant management permit is:

1. \$30 for a proposed project to manage aquatic plants on less than one acre.
2. \$30 per acre to a maximum of \$300 for a proposed project to manage aquatic plants on one acre or larger. Partial acres shall be rounded up to the next full acre for fee determination. An annual renewal of this permit may be requested with an additional application fee of one-half the original application fee, but not less than \$30.

(b) A legal description of the body of water including township, range and section number.

(c) One copy of a detailed map of the body of water with the proposed introduction or control area dimensions clearly shown. Private individuals doing plant introduction or control shall provide the name of the owner riparian to the management area, which includes the street address or block, lot and fire number where available and local telephone number or other pertinent information necessary to locate the property.

(d) One copy of any existing aquatic management plan for the body of water, or detailed reference to the plan, citing the plan references to the proposed introduction or control area, and a description of how the proposed introduction or control of aquatic plants is compatible with any existing plan.

(e) A description of the impairments to water use caused by the aquatic plants to be managed.

(f) A description of the aquatic plants to be controlled or removed.

(g) The type of equipment and methods to be used for introduction, control or removal.

(h) **A description of other introduction or control methods considered and the justification for the an explanation of why alternative methods are not selected.**

(i) A description of any other method being used or intended for use for plant management by the applicant or on the area abutting the proposed management area.

(j) The area used for removal, reuse or disposal of aquatic plants.

(k) The name of any person or commercial provider of control or removal services.

(3)(a) The department may require that an application for an aquatic plant management permit contain an aquatic plant management plan that describes how the aquatic plants will be introduced, controlled, removed or disposed. Requirements for an aquatic plant management plan shall be made in writing stating the reason for the plan requirement. In deciding whether to require a plan, the department shall consider the potential for effects on protection and development of diverse and stable communities of native aquatic plants, for conflict with goals of other written ecological or lake management plans, for cumulative impacts and effect on the ecological values in the body of water, and the long-term sustainability of beneficial water use activities.

(b) Within 30 days of receipt of the plan, the department shall notify the applicant of any additional information or modifications to the plan that are required. If the applicant does not submit the additional information or modify the plan as requested by the department, the department may dismiss the aquatic plant management permit application.

(c) The department shall approve the aquatic plant management plan before an application may be considered complete.

(4) The permit sponsor may request an annual renewal in writing from the department under s. NR 109.05 if there is no change proposed in the conditions of the original permit issued.

NR 109.05 Permit issuance. (1) The department shall issue or deny issuance of the requested permit within 15 working days after receipt of a completed application and approved plan as required under s. NR 109.04(3).

(2) The department may specify any of the following as conditions of the permit:

(a) The quantity of aquatic plants that may be introduced or controlled.

(b) The species of aquatic plants that may be introduced or controlled.

(c) The areas in which aquatic plants may be introduced or controlled.

(d) The methods that may be used to introduce or control aquatic plants.

(e) The times during which aquatic plants may be introduced or controlled.

(f) The allowable methods used for disposing of or using aquatic plants that are removed or controlled.

(g) Annual or other reporting requirements to the department that may include information related to pars. (a) to (f).

(3) The department may deny issuance of the requested permit if the department determines any of the following:

(a) Aquatic plants are not causing significant impairment of beneficial water use activities.

(b) ~~The proposed introduction or control will not remedy the water use impairments caused by aquatic plants as identified as a part of the application in NR109.04(2)(e), provide effective relief of the water use impairment caused by aquatic plants.~~

(c) The proposed introduction or control will result in a hazard to humans.

(d) The proposed introduction or control will cause significant adverse impacts to threatened or endangered resources.

(e) The proposed introduction or control will result in a significant adverse effect on water quality, aquatic habitat or the aquatic community including the native aquatic plant community.

(f) The proposed introduction or control is in locations identified by the department as sensitive areas, under s. NR 107.05(3)(i)1., except when the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that the project can be conducted in a manner that will not alter the ecological character or reduce the ecological value of the area.

(g) The proposed management will result in significant adverse long-term or permanent changes to a plant community or a high value species in a specific aquatic ecosystem. High value species are individual species of aquatic plants known to offer important values in specific aquatic ecosystems, including *Potamogeton amplifolius*, *Potamogeton Richardsonii*, *Potamogeton praelongus*, *Stuckenia pectinata* (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), *Potamogeton illinoensis*, *Potamogeton robbinsii*, *Eleocharis* spp., *Scirpus* spp., *Valisneria* spp., *Zizania* spp., *Zannichellia palustris* and *Brasenia schreberi*.

(h) If wild rice is involved, the stipulations incorporated by *Lac Courte Oreilles v. Wisconsin*, 775 F. Supp. 321 (W.D. Wis. 1991) shall be complied with.

(i) The proposed introduction or control will ~~not~~ interfere with the rights of riparian owners.

(j) The proposed management is inconsistent with a department approved aquatic plant management plan for the body of water.

(4) The department may approve the application in whole or in part consistent with the provisions of sub. (3). A denial shall be in writing stating the reasons for the denial.

(5)(a) The department may issue an aquatic plant management permit on less than one acre in a single riparian area for a 3-year term.

(b) The department may issue an aquatic plant management permit for a one-year term for more than one acre or more than one riparian area. The permit may be renewed annually for up to a total of 3 years in succession at the written request of the permit holder, provided no modifications or changes are made from the original permit.

(c) The department may issue an aquatic plant management permit containing a department-approved plan for a 3 to 5 year term.

(d) The department may issue an aquatic plant management permit to a licensed nursery grower for a 3-year term for the harvesting of aquatic plants from a publicly owned lake bed or for a 5-year term for harvesting of aquatic plants from privately owned beds with the permission of the property owner.

(6) The approval of an aquatic plant management permit does not represent an endorsement of the permitted activity, but represents that the applicant has complied with all criteria of this chapter.

NR 109.06 Waivers. The department waives the permit requirements under this chapter for any of the following:

(1) Manual removal or use of mechanical devices to control or remove aquatic plants from a body of water 10 acres or less that is entirely confined on the property of one person with the permission of that property owner.

Note: A person who introduces native aquatic plants or removes aquatic plants by manual or mechanical means in the course of operating an aquatic nursery as authorized under s. 94.10, Stats., on privately owned non-navigable waters of the state is not required to obtain a permit for the activities.

(2) A riparian owner who manually removes aquatic plants from a body of water or uses mechanical devices designed for cutting or mowing vegetation to control plants on an exposed lake bed that abuts the owner's property provided that the removal meets all of the following:

(a) 1. Removal of native plants is limited to a single area with a maximum width of no more than 30 feet measured along the shoreline provided that any piers, boatlifts, swimrafts and other recreational and water use devices are located within that 30-foot wide zone and may not be in a new area or additional to an area where plants are controlled by another method; or

2. Removal of nonnative or invasive aquatic plants as designated under s. NR 109.07 when performed in a manner that does not harm the native aquatic plant community; or

3. Removal of dislodged aquatic plants that drift on-shore and accumulate along the waterfront.

(b) Is not located in a sensitive area as defined by the department under s. NR 107.05(3)(i)1., or in an area known to contain threatened or endangered resources or floating bogs.

(c) Does not interfere with the rights of other riparian owners.

(d) If wild rice is involved, the procedures of s. NR 19.09(1) shall be followed.

(4) Control of purple loosestrife by manual removal or use of mechanical devices when performed in a manner that does not harm the native aquatic plant community or result in or encourage re-growth of purple loosestrife or other nonnative vegetation.

(5) Any aquatic plant management activity that is conducted by the department and is consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(6) Manual removal and collection of native aquatic plants for lake study or scientific research when performed in a manner that does not harm the native aquatic plant community.

Note: Scientific collectors permit requirements are still applicable.

(7) Incidental cutting, removal or destroying of aquatic plants when engaged in beneficial water use activities angling, boating, swimming or other navigational or recreational water use activity.

NR 109.07 Invasive and nonnative aquatic plants. (1) The department may designate any aquatic plant as an invasive aquatic plant for a water body or a group of water bodies if it has the ability to cause significant adverse change to desirable aquatic habitat, to significantly displace desirable aquatic vegetation, or to reduce the yield of products produced by aquaculture.

(2) The following aquatic plants are designated as invasive aquatic plants statewide: Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and purple loosestrife.

(3) Native and nonnative aquatic plants of Wisconsin shall be determined by using scientifically valid publications and findings by the department.

NR 109.08 Prohibitions. (1) No person may distribute an invasive aquatic plant, under s. NR 109.07.

(2) No person may intentionally introduce Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed or purple loosestrife into waters of this state without the permission of the department.

(3) No person may intentionally cut aquatic plants in public/navigable waters without removing cut vegetation from the body of water.

(4)(a) No person may place equipment used in aquatic plant management in a navigable water if the person has reason to believe that the equipment has any aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached.

(b) This subsection does not apply to equipment used in aquatic plant management when re-launched on the same body of water without having visited different waters, provided the re-launching will not introduce or encourage the spread of existing aquatic species within that body of water.

NR 109.09 Plan specifications and approval. (1) Applicants required to submit an aquatic plant management plan, under s. NR 109.04 (3), shall develop and submit the plan in a format specified by the department.

(2) The plan shall present and discuss each of the following items:

(a) The goals and objectives of the aquatic plant management and protection activities.

(b) A physical, chemical and biological description of the waterbody.

(c) The intensity of water use.

(d) The location of aquatic plant management activities.

(e) An evaluation of chemical, mechanical, biological and physical aquatic plant control methods.

(f) Recommendations for an integrated aquatic plant management strategy utilizing some or all of the methods evaluated in par. (e).

(g) An education and information strategy.

(h) A strategy for evaluating the efficacy and environmental impacts of the aquatic plant management activities.

(i) The involvement of local units of government and any lake organizations in the development of the plan.

(3) The approval of an aquatic plant management plan does not represent an endorsement for plant management, but represents that adequate considerations in planning the actions have been made.

NR 109.10 Other permits. Permits issued under s. 30.12, 30.20, 31.02 or 281.36, Stats., or under ch. NR 107 may contain provisions which provide for aquatic plant management. If a permit issued under one of these authorities contains the appropriate conditions as required under this chapter for aquatic plant management, a separate permit is not required under this chapter. The permit shall explicitly state that it is intended to comply with the substantive requirements of this chapter.

NR 109.11 Enforcement. (1) Violations of this chapter may be prosecuted by the department under chs. 23, 30 and 31, Stats.

(2) Failure to comply with the conditions of a permit issued under or in accordance with this chapter may result in cancellation of the permit and loss of permit privileges for the subsequent year. Notice of cancellation or loss of permit privileges shall be provided by the department to the permit holder.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register as provided in s. 227.22(2)(intro.), Stats.

SECTION 3. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on _____.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Darrell Bazzell, Secretary

(SEAL)

FROM: Pat Mahoney
Weed Harvesting Manager,
White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

DATE: March 13, 2003

RE: Public Hearing on Clearinghouse Rule 02-061
Relating to aquatic plant management

I live on Lower White Ash Lake which is in the northwestern part of the state. I am in charge of harvesting the weeds. Our district consists of two lakes: Lower White Ash and Upper White Ash. Both lakes are shallow. Lower White Ash is 153 acres and is 7-8 feet deep, with a small area of 9-10 feet. The Apple River flows through the lake which increases the weed growth. Upper White Ash is 108 acres and is 6-8 feet deep. We have harvested the weeds in both lakes since 1987. Before last summer, we would spend, on average, 325 hours harvesting the weeds per season, and we have as many weeds today as there was then.

Last year the DNR's Clearinghouse Rule 02-061 restricted our harvesting drastically which dropped our harvesting hours per season down to only 150. On Lower White Ash we were only allowed to cut 50 feet wide navigational channels around the lake which is 50 feet out from the docks. About 40% of the lake has a weed problem.

This new plan does not work well. Floating weeds partially fill in the channels, people anchor their boats in the channels to fish, people troll and are casting, making it impossible for people to pass through with their boats. People enjoy driving their pontoons slowly around the lake relaxing and enjoying the scenery. This plan of harvesting the weeds makes this difficult.

The DNR allowed us to cut a 100 feet navigational channel on Upper White Ash. We could cut a 400 feet section (the length of the lake) across the middle and four 100 feet channels across the lake (the width of the lake). Attached are maps of the lakes showing how they are cut. I have also attached a copy of permit conditions we are to follow. I feel we are being regulated too much with this new rule.

The fishing on our lake is really good. Our past weed harvesting has not hurt our fish population. About 4 years ago, the DNR shocked the lake to evaluate the population. We went down and watched. They said that it looked good. There was some big fish and a lot of smaller fish to take the place of the big ones.

Another part of the Clearinghouse Rule 02-061 that troubles me as much as the above part is the amount of weeds we can manually remove next to our shoreline. I have 123 feet of shoreline and it is very weedy. In the past, I have tried to keep it clean. With the new rule I am only allowed to clean out 30 feet, which includes the width of my dock, boat lift, etc. This does not leave much room for swimming and splashing around for children.

Permit for Mechanical Removal of Aquatic Plants

The White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District is hereby granted under Section 23.24, Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code NR 109, a permit to conduct mechanical harvesting of aquatic plants in ?? acres of North White Ash and White Ash Lakes, subject to the following conditions. This permit is issued for a 1 year term and will expire on 12/31/2002.

Permit Conditions

1. You must notify Water Resources Specialist, Jim Cahow at 715/537-5046, 4 working days prior to anticipated start of the harvesting operation, or provide a schedule of harvesting on request. The Water Resources Management Specialist may schedule and conduct an onsite supervision of harvesting. In the absence of or in conjunction with the Water Resources Management Specialist, DNR Environmental Law Enforcement Staff may schedule and conduct an onsite supervision of harvesting and general permit compliance.
2. Mechanical harvesting will only be allowed in the areas specified and approved in this permit letter and clearly designated in the permit map of approved areas for vegetation removal by mechanical means.
3. All aquatic plants cut must be removed immediately from the water. Disposal of the harvested aquatic plants must be located in department approved areas and must be in accordance with any applicable county and local regulations.
4. All mechanical harvesting records must be maintained and made available to the Department upon request. Annual reports summarizing harvesting activities shall be given to the Department by November 1 each year. The annual report shall include a map showing the areas harvested, the total acres harvested and the total amount of plant material removed from the water body.
5. All harvesting shall be done in a manner to avoid any possible disturbance of bottom sediments and the organisms living there. Harvesting shall be limited to the top half of the water column to avoid possible disturbance of bottom sediments and protect remaining aquatic plant habitat and the ecology they support. Disturbance of bottom sediments resuspends sediments which negatively impacts water quality and habitat. Cutting plants at or near the bottom substrate can also stress out and eventually kill more sensitive native species reducing biological diversity and potential which may result in the expansion of aggressive exotics such as Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curlyleafed Pondweed. The roots of aquatic plants also stabilize lake bottom sediments and reduce the opportunities for resuspension which can impact water quality. No harvesting shall take place in water shallower than two feet.
6. Chasing floaters outside of approved cutting areas is not allowed; however cleaning up or removing floaters within approved cutting areas is allowed.
7. Approved cutting areas can be maintained and recut as needed.

Findings of Fact (Facts which were considered in making this decision)

1. The White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District has filed an application for a permit to conduct a mechanical harvesting operation. The specific areas to be harvested are currently marked on the map attached to this permit.
2. The Department has determined the proposed mechanical harvesting will provide aquatic plant nuisance relief in the designated areas. The mechanical harvesting will provide for increased ease of navigation through designated navigational channels. Some areas may have to be modified in the future to protect critical and sensitive aquatic habitat areas, as they are identified.
3. The total harvesting area is ?? acres in size as shown on the attached map.

Page 2

Some people clean more than 30 feet of their shoreline and some clean less than the 30 feet. Some do not clean at all. The amount of weeds removed at the shoreline would probably be minimal on our lakes even with all the weeds we have. This is if we are allowed to clean up what ever amount of weeds we want. Every lake is different, every shoreline is different. People with no weeds, will not have a problem with this rule. According to a representative from the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, a survey was taken. The results was 260 in favor of this rule, and 2 opposed. This survey does not mean much to me. All it means is that the people surveyed probably did not have a weed problem on their lake. We can not have the same rule for all lakes. There should be an exception for shallow lakes with rivers and creeks flowing through them. Most lakes like this, will have run off from farms. This out of our control, but by letting us clean up our shorelines as we wish, will give us some satisfaction.

Under this rule, people with 50' of shoreline are allowed to clean 30' (60%). People with 100' of shoreline are allowed to clean up 30' (30%). People with 200' of shoreline are allowed to clean 30' (15%). This is not fair. A percentage would be more fair. Not 30% but 75%!

Looking out on to rotting weeds it not a pretty sight. This reduces the value of my property but does not reduce my property taxes for lake property.

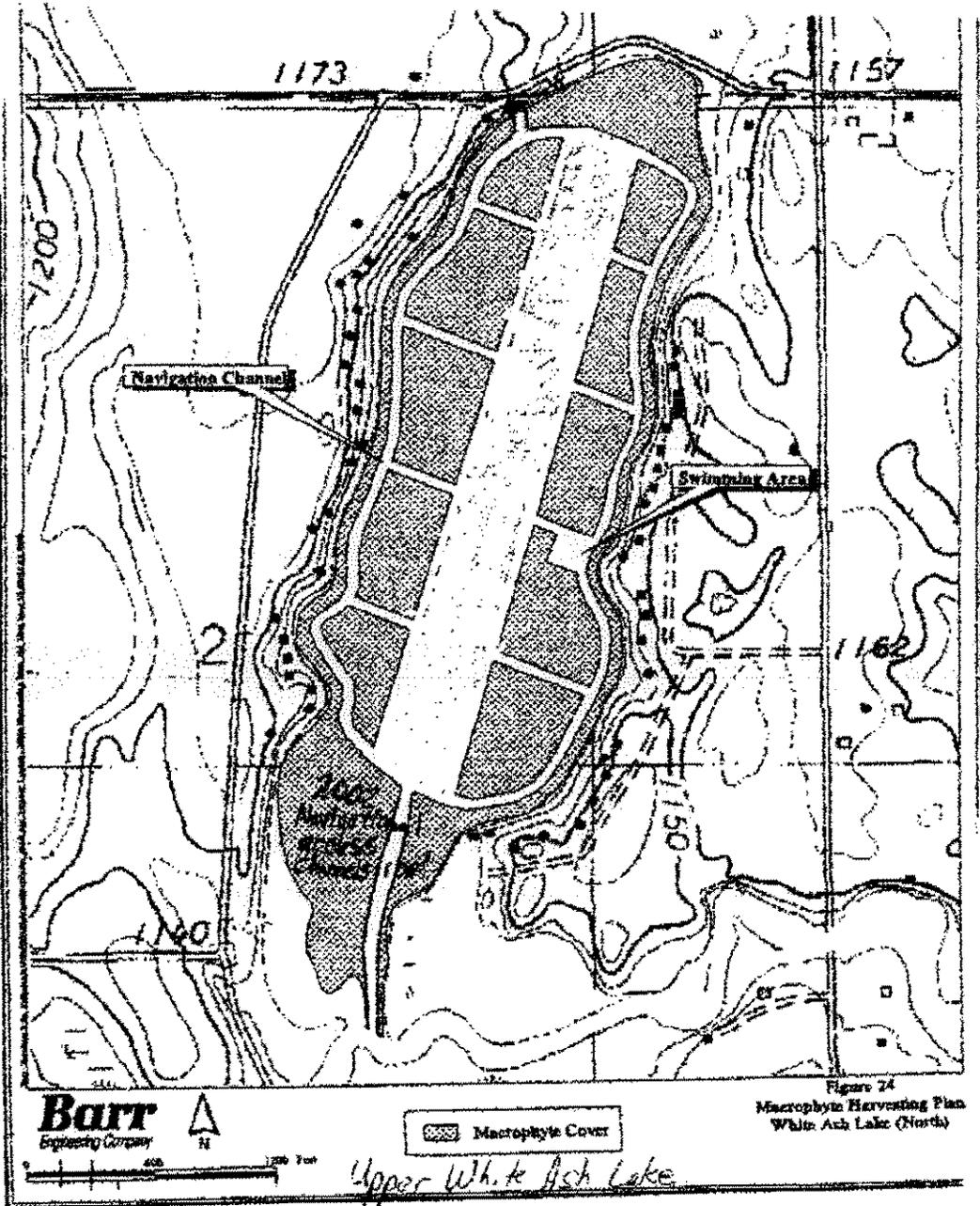
The people of the White Ash lakes do not want to harm their lakes. We feel we have not harmed our lakes and would like to continue harvesting the weeds as we have prior to the 2002 season. Every lake is different and a lot of lakes are not affected by this rule like ours is.

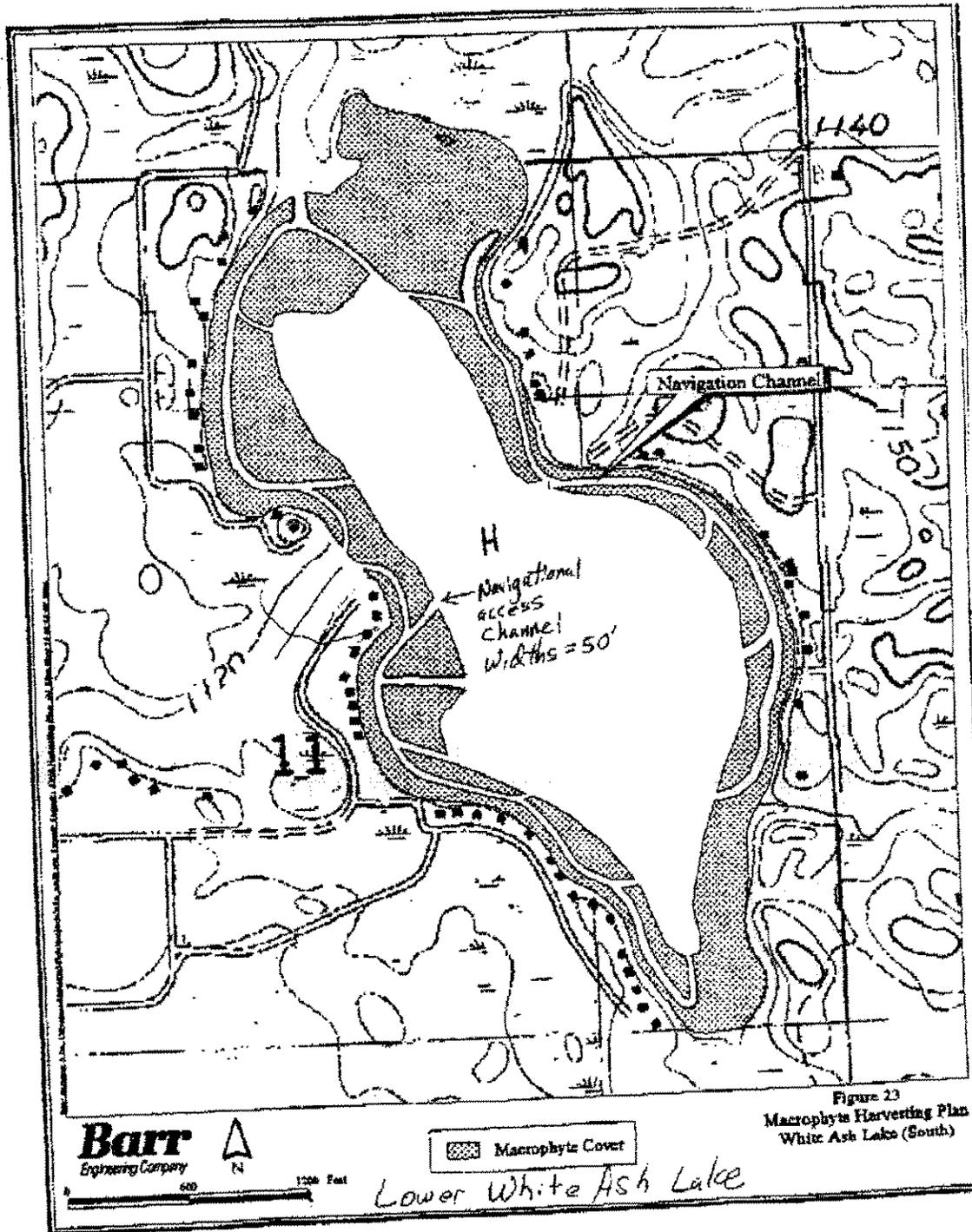
Please help us. We don't need this many restrictions when our past harvesting technique has not harmed the lake in any way. If anything, our prior way of harvesting weeds made the lake easier for its residents to use. If people cannot use our natural resources, what good are they?

Thanks,

Pat Mahoney

Pat Mahoney
Weed Harvesting Manager
White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
1637 S. White Ash Lane
Balsam Lake, Wi. 54810





March 2, 2003
Pat Mahoney
1637 South White Ash Lane
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Dear Mr. Mahoney:

Please forward this letter of concern to the DNR meeting on March 13 in Madison, Wisconsin.

I have been a property owner on North White Ash Lake for over 45 years. During that time I have seen many changes to the two lakes – mainly the weed problem. The weeds have grown aggressively thick over the last ten years and without weed harvesting, I fear that there will no longer any access to the lake except for walking across!

I suggest we have a much more aggressive weed harvesting plan than last year and maybe looking at other alternative measures such as spraying. Please help us in returning our lake to a condition that can be used for fishing and recreation.

Sincerely,



Georgia Hinna
1755 Belisle Court
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Home Address:
1318 Alton St.
St. Paul, MN 55116

March 4, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

We are lakeshore owners with property on the North side of South White Ash Lake. White Ash Lake is an extremely weedy, shallow lake and we have great concerns as to what would happen if we are not allowed to harvest the weeds from the lake. At times the weeds are so thick, we find it difficult to navigate through these with our boat. We hope the DNR will not prohibit the use of harvesters on lakes such as ours.

Sincerely,

Robert & Judith Meier

Robert and Judith Meier

March 2, 2003

Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Whorney
South White Ash Lane

am Lake, WI 54810

We have owned property on North White Lake for over 30 years. The lake has been shallow and weedy, but since Rehabilitation District was formed and harvesting started, the lake has been

useable through most of the summer. since the DNR has limited the amount of harvesting that can be done, lake is virtually unuseable for most the summer.

We feel the DNR restrictions are a bit too stringent and should be changed to allow more harvesting.

Al + Ann Jorgenson
1760 W. White Ash Drive
Balsam Lake, WI, 54810

to whom it may concern.

The White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District must be permitted to harvest weeds from the lake and river in order for anyone to be able to use them. Without the harvest, people wanting to fish or use the lake's river for any other recreation, would not be able to even launch a boat.

The south lake is approximately 160 acres, without the harvesting of weeds, would be about the size of a football field and the north lake would be all weeds.

The property values of all the homes and cabins on South and North White Ash Lake and on the river would go down considerably.

Please give serious consideration to permitting the district to continue harvesting the weeds.

Thank You.

Allen + Ann Jorgenson Bentley

759 So White Ash Ct

R.O. ... L.S. WI. 54810

March 4, 03

To whom it may concern.

In regards to having ~~the~~
weeds from our lake.

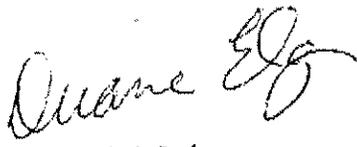
If this is stopped, we
will end up with a mud
hole for a lake. That would
a very expensive mud hole.

We have owned our cottage
since Aug-1971, that's 32 yrs,
now we are faced with a
possible mud hole.

Would you be interest in
buying some boats & a
cottage?

Jerry Hillson
Lot (64) Plat
of White Oak Park.

March 5, 2003

To: Wisconsin DNR
From: Duane Elg, 1678 W. White Ash Drive 
Subject: Weed Harvesting on Upper and Lower White Ash Lakes

Last year saw the implementation of Draft Rule Chapter NR 109 as it applies to issuing weed control permits in the state of Wisconsin. As a property owner on lower White Ash Lake in Polk County, I was unaware of the consequences of the new rule until I received a copy of what was being proposed under the weed harvesting permit issued to the White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District for 2002.

After many years of harvesting weeds in a manner that met the recreational needs of both residents and visitors that balanced fishing, swimming and other water sports, the new permit severely restricted weed harvesting for 2002. There was some discussion on the part of the DNR district lakes manager that the new restriction was designed to restore and maintain a more "natural" status for the lake. As a result, the lake association called a meeting to hear a presentation from the DNR lakes manager on the permit and to discuss whether the restrictions were appropriate and could be modified.

In the course of this meeting it became clear that there were differing notions of what the "natural" status of upper and lower White Ash lakes meant. For those of us who have been on the lake since the 1950's, our memories and photos recalled lakes that were much more weed free, particularly of the invasive kinds of weeds that have choked out much of the wild rice and lily pads that were prevalent in the past. There was discussion that suggested that what has occurred could be the result of the amount of non-natural nutrients that have entered the lakes through runoff into the Apple River and subsequently into the lakes. Until last year, the weed harvesting that had been done was in an effort to control the more invasive weeds and attempt to retain some of the past character of the lakes.

However, the initial permit that was issued would have allowed the upper lake to completely weed over with the harvester only allowed to cut paths through the weeds. On the lower lake a similar plan was outlined by the permit. This proved to be unacceptable to the residents of the lakes and at the rule hearing in Spooner, association representatives asked the DNR to consider modifying the permit for 2002 to be less restrictive on weed harvesting. Subsequent to the hearing the lakes manager agreed to an amended permit that relaxed some of the restrictions.

It is my understanding that there is a hearing scheduled at the DNR in Madison on March 13, 2003 to review NR 109. I am unable to attend this hearing, so I am writing to request that greater flexibility be allowed for the harvesting of weeds through the permits based on differing local conditions. As part of the Apple River flowage, the White Ash Lakes exist in a different environment than other lakes in the area that do not have any farmland runoff or other sources of non-natural nutrients. To use a single standard invariably creates the situation of pounding some square pegs into round holes, and I believe this is the circumstance of upper and lower White Ash lakes. I have yet to understand the benefit that would accrue to the state or its residents by letting these lakes continually weed over and ultimately turn into wetlands.

TO: WISCONSIN DNR
MADISON, WI

MAR. 6, 2003

SUBJECT: WEED HARVESTING ON WHITE ASH LAKE

1. WE ARE 27 YEAR PROPERTY OWNERS ON THE LAKE. THUS WE HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH THIS ISSUE.
2. IN 1984-85 THE WIS. DNR RECOMMENDED MECHANICAL WEED HARVESTING AS THE BEST APPROACH TO CONTROLLING OUR WORSENING PROBLEM. WE WERE TOLD THAT WITH HARVESTING OUR PROBLEM SHOULD BE MINIMIZED IN 4 TO 5 YEARS. UNFORTUNATELY IT HAS GOTTEN WORSE.
3. IN REALITY, BECAUSE WE ARE A FLOWAGE OF THE APPLE RIVER, WE HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OF WHAT COMES IN TO THE LAKE FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA. (FARMLAND WITH ALL ITS FERTILIZER) THEREFORE WITH SEDIMENT FROM THE RIVER MAKING THE LAKE SHALLOWER AND THE NUTRIENTS, WE HAVE A HUGE PROBLEM.
4. WE FEEL THAT THE CURRENT DNR REGULATIONS ARE FAR TO RESTRICTIVE FOR HARVESTING ON WHITE ASH LAKE. WITHOUT MAJOR HARVESTING IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO USE THE LAKE NOW. THE WEEDS ARE SO THICK AND COVER SO MUCH OF THE AREA THAT:
 - a. MOTORS CAN'T GET THRU
 - b. FISHING LURES CAN'T GET THRU
 - c. CANNOT BE USED FOR SWIMMING
 - d. APPEARANCE - WEED BLOOM AND ALGAE COVERS THE SHORELINE MOST OF THE SUMMER SEASON AND IT STINKS

5. WITHOUT THE RIGHT MAINTANCE PROGRAM (WHICH WE AS PROPERTY OWNERS ARE PAYING FOR) THE PROBLEM WILL ONLY GET WORSE AND OUR PROPERTY VALUES ALONG WITH THE COUNTY AND STATES TAX BASE WILL GO DOWN.
6. IF THE LAKE CAN'T BE USED THE WAY WE THE TAXPAYERS WANT TO USE IT, IT HAS LITTLE VALUE.

SINCERELY,

RICHARD A. & SHARON L. SONSTEGARD
1268 STANFORD AV., ST. PAUL, MN 55105
1605 SO. WHITE ASH LN., BALSAM LAKE, WI 54810

*Richard A. Sonstegard
Sharon L. Sonstegard*

Robert & Judy Fischer
4051 Albany Circle
Eagan MN
55123

March 1, 2003

We are writing in regard to the harvesting of weeds from White Ash Lake in Polk County Wisconsin. We have owned property on Lower White Ash Lake for the past eight years. We are concerned about the effect of further restrictions on the harvesting of weeds from White Ash Lake. The lake is rather shallow, and if the weeds are left unattended it will become unnavigable by boaters and fishermen. We are also concerned about the potential impact to both property values and natural resources in the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert & Judy Fischer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R" and "J".

March 3, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Wisconsin DNR

White Ash Lake Protection and Rehab District

This letter is to show our support for the continuing use of The Harvester for cleaning weeds out of White Ash Lake. We have Lived at our present residence of 1796 W White Ash Drive since 1997.

The first year the harvester was not used. We remember the Condition of the lake and hearing friends and relatives calling it our Swamp. We do not want to return to that status of shore to shore Swamp, layers of weeds, and slime green water, making it unsuitable For recreational use (swimming, boating and fishing) all summer long.

Please do not place further restrictions on maintaining the Beauty and use of our retirement home and property.

Lowell and Barbara Monroe
1796 W White Ash Drive
Balsam Lake, WI 54810-2415
715-857-6105

Lowell D. Monroe
Barbara L. Monroe

3/6/03

D.N.R.

We have been on North White Ash Lake for 35+ years, The lake is a weed bed, if we don't keep harvesting weeds it will be a swamp,

The lake district has tried to keep the lake up, but the DNR puts a stop to every thing they try, if you want another wet land your off to a good start.

The D.N.R. should work to improve lakes not make them worse. Harvesting weeds is a must

Richard Rehberg
1774 W. White Ash Dr
54810

March 4, 2003

State of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

I'm writing with great concern for our once beautiful White Ash Lake. I have been a lakeshore owner since 1977 & a widow since 1979. I have seen the lake change over the years. It was mostly free of weeds in 1977. I have paid my taxes & White Ash dues every year even tho at times it was really tough. Our Association has worked hard obtaining knowledge of weed control & harvesting. It has been expensive. Now every summer weeds grow & restrict our ability to enjoy the beauty of our lake. We can not move freely around the lake by boat & can not get thru the channel to the big lake at all. When the weeds are harvested, we can fish & ride around the lake with freedom. It's great! Swimming is still not enjoyable.

Please consider the ability to harvest the weeds as being important to us as lake owners. We do not want to lose our lake to weeds.

A concerned tax payer
Pat Seewell
11230th N.W. New Brighton MN.

**Chuck & Beth Wright
9020 Highview Lane
Woodbury, MN 55125**

Pat Mahoney
White Ash Protection and Rehabilitation District
1637 South White Ash Lane
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

March 1, 2003

Dear Pat,

We regret that we will be unable to attend the DNR hearing in Madison on March 13, 2003 and hope this letter will serve as our "voice" during the proceedings. We attended the meeting last year with the DNR Field Representative and hope that we can reach a resolution on the weed harvesting issue so that another season on the lakes is not compromised.

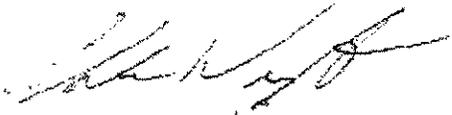
It is our belief that the previous studies done on the lake provided us a good road map for weed harvesting which balanced environmental concerns and our ability to enjoy the lake. Last year the pendulum swung too far and the property owners suffered. We appreciate everyone's efforts to re-balance things for 2003.

Our concerns lie in 2 important areas, safety and property values. Last year the weed cutting patterns lead to hazardous boating conditions in that all boat traffic was forced into narrow lanes of open water. All boaters are not content traveling at the same speed and there were a few "close calls" as water skiers and "tubers" competed with fishing and pontoon boats for the same space.

We have owned seasonal property on White Ash since 1997 and have treated our property as both a place for recreation and an investment. As a result of last years' weed conditions, property values on the lake are dropping. It would be in everyone's best interest to stabilize property values to protect our investments and the property tax revenues associated therewith.

We have had many years of enjoyment on the two White Ash Lakes and it is distressing to have our interests as property owners so easily dismissed by the DNR, an organization which has done so much good over the years to protect our environment and preserve our long term enjoyment of our natural resources. We're confident that a solution can be found if we foster a spirit of understanding and cooperation.

Thank-you.


Beth Wright

February 26, 2003

Pat Mahoney
1637 South White Ash Lane
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Dear Mr. Mahoney:

As property owners on White Ash Lake-North for 25 years, we have some concerns regarding the new laws for harvesting weeds.

With the lake the way it was last summer, recreation was very limited. It was impossible to fish by drifting, you could not water ski or jet ski, using a paddle boat was difficult, and swimming was limited to shore areas. Most of the above activities are what property owners came to the lake for.

Harvesting on White Ash has been done for many years, and until last year, fishing and recreational activities have been very good.

A few of our questions and concerns are:

- If the current cutting pattern continues, what will the lake look like in the future?
- Could dredging be considered as an option?
- Is it possible to spray again like we did many years ago?
- What will happen to the valuation of our property?

We are concerned about managing and protecting aquatic plants, however, harvesting has been done for many years for management of the weeds, and in the last five years, the lake has shown great improvement for all recreational activities.

With the improvement over the last five years, we would now hate to see the lake return to its previous condition before harvesting was initiated.

Sincerely,

Allen Von Borgen
Diane Von Borgen

Allen & Diane Von Borgen

February 23, 2003

Pat Mahoney
1637 South White Ash Lane
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Pat -

Regret we are unable to go to Madison, WI., on March 13th , to meet with the DNR, to express our concerns as to the proliferation of weeds the North and South White Ash Lakes have experienced over the years.

Beginning with our first summer on the South lake in 1952, (we were the 6th cabin on the lake) we never envisioned the dramatic change in the growth of the weeds we are seeing.

Our first few years, the small amount of "weeds" we needed to remove by hand to make our dock and swimming area accessible was minimal and was confined mostly to removing some wild rice growth.

With the continued influx of cabins and runoff of fertilizers and other sources of

February 23, 2003

Pat Mahoney
1637 South White Ash Lane
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Pat -

Regret we are unable to go to Madison, WI., on March 13th, to meet with the DNR, to express our concerns as to the proliferation of weeds the North and South White Ash Lakes have experienced over the years.

Beginning with our first summer on the South lake in 1952, (we were the 6th cabin on the lake) we never envisioned the dramatic change in the growth of the weeds we are seeing.

Our first few years, the small amount of "weeds" we needed to remove by hand to make our dock and swimming area accessible was minimal and was confined mostly to removing some wild rice growth.

With the continued influx of cabins and runoff of fertilizers and other sources of nitrogen, we have seen our weed beds explode in growth that it became necessary for our district to take action before we lost our lakes. This was done by harvesting the weeds with our harvesters in a selective way that has kept the growth at bay. With the new restrictions imposed on us in 2002, we may well be facing a dilemma that will drastically reduce the value of our property and the aesthetic being of the lake.

It is our desire that our district be allowed to return to a more aggressive harvesting of weeds to keep our lakes reasonably useable for the use of all concerned. Please express this to the DNR in Madison. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marv & Audrey Hunsaker
7524 W. 101st St.
Bloomington, MN 55438

March 3, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express our concern of the Department of Natural Resources', DNR, management plan for preservation of aquatic plant life and the ecosystem and habitat on South and North White Ash Lake in Polk County Wisconsin. We want to address issues that are key to the continued existence of the lakes. As we understand, the DNR would like to preserve the lakes to they're past natural state by implementing a plan for minimum aquatic plant control.

Upon talking with a past resident of the lake, Bonnie Gunderson; 35 years ago when her parents lived on the east side of North White Ash Lake she and her siblings recognized the plant life on the lake, but commented that it was not as abundant as its current status. Over the past 35 years, the lake has evolved to its current overgrowth of aquatic plant life due to increased fertilizer usage by agriculture and residences along the lake. This new problem of excess plant growth has been controlled by clear-cut mechanical harvesting practices, similar to a farmer mowing his hay field. The plant life is not eliminated, as the plants continue to grow and management practices have been in place to preserve the top growth in areas that have had top growth as in the past. This practice has not interfered with the fish, insect, amphibian, bird, and wildlife habitat, which continue to flourish on these lakes.

As property owners of North White Ash Lake, we believe that the preservation of the ecosystem and habitat on these lakes are important, but we also believe that excessive management will be detrimental to the future of these bodies of water. The proposed/currently implemented control management practices by the DNR may be the loss of the ecosystem and habitat that has been a part of these lakes over the past 35 years. The proposed practices may lead to the loss of the recreational habitat for humans, birds, fish, wildlife, plant life, amphibians, and insects. Grant it may create a new habitat, but what is wrong with the past habitat.

It is the responsibility of the residents around bodies of water to preserve the ecosystem and habitat, hence the creation of the White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District several years ago. It is the responsibility the DNR to monitor these ecosystems and habitats and to work with these districts to maintain a constant habitat. It is not the charge of the DNR to "over manage" our limited resources, which will change the future of these lakes forever.

Based upon the changes proposed by the DNR, the officials are looking at the current status of these lakes and projecting short-term benefits for the ecosystem and habitats. Please look back to see how this ecosystem and habitat was in the past and look into the far off future to preserve the pristine beauty of these bodies of water for future generations.

Sincerely,



Joel Kraemer
131 Hwy. 63
Baldwin, WI 54002

Lynne Kraemer
131 Hwy. 63
Baldwin, WI 54002

March 2, 2003

To the members of the DNA:

I am writing to you on behalf of myself, my three daughters and two granddaughters. We purchased a cabin on Upper White Ash Lake last September, and we are looking forward to Spring when we can all get together at our new lake cabin.

My husband and I purchased this particular cabin and lake lot because we felt that it would provide many years of boating, fishing, and swimming at this beautiful Wisconsin lake. We were informed that the White Ash lakes can get quite weedy, but we learned that harvesting of some of the weeds each year helped keep the weed condition controlled so that we could enjoy the above mentioned summer family fun.

Please, please allow the White Ash Lake Association to continue the harvesting of weeds as they have done each year.

Thank you for your consideration in this manner.

Sincerely,

Kris Berg family

Kris Berg

March 2, 2003

To Members of the DNR:

My name is Gordy Berg, and I am a new cabin owner on Upper White Ash Lake. I have heard so many good things about White Ash Lake and am looking forward to the summer.

I hope that we can continue to harvest weeds, so that the lakes can be enjoyed by all for boating, fishing and swimming.

I understand that without harvesting, the lakes would be un-boatable and swimming almost impossible. Please continue to let us harvest weeds so that the lakes can be enjoyed by young and old.

Thank you.

Gordy Berg

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordy Berg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Jack & Jan Benz
1692 W. White Ash Drive
Balsam Lake WI 54810

March 5, 2003

Mr. Pat Mahoney
1637 South White Ash Lane
Balsam Lake, WI. 54810

Dear Pat:

RE: Hearing scheduled with the DNR on March 13, 2003 in Madison:

We are very concerned regarding the restrictions being placed upon the harvesting of weeds on upper and lower White Ash Lake. For years the DNR has provided us technical information, maps, grants and suggestions on the proper removal of weeds. The navigational channels being enforced do not seem to be the proper answer.

We are at an age where we must soon put our lakeshore property up for sale. We are sure that the view of the lake with the weeds and channels will greatly lower the value of our home and property! It seems unfair to us that the DNR can place lake vegetation as more important than the valuation of the property of tax-paying residents. In addition, the harvesting of weeds over the years has not resulted in destruction of the vegetation.

We trust that fairness may prevail in your meeting, and any further discussions in the future.

Yours very truly,

Jack Benz
Janet Benz

March 4, 2003

Ref: **White Ash Lake**
DNR Meeting 3/13/2003
Madison, WI

Dear DNR Representative,

This letter is being delivered to you on our behalf by the representative of the White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, as we are unable to attend the March 13, 2003 meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

We, and our family, wish to express our grave concerns over the recent restrictions placed on the White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District's ability to harvest aquatic plants in our lake.

As you know, our lake is a shallow flowage lake, which over the last 50 years has gone from a generally sandy bottomed lake with minimal aquatic plants, to a very aquatic plant filled lake with several feet of sediment. In order to try and maintain a balance of usable lake with a balance of plants and lake access, the White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District has been responsible for cutting aquatic plants for years. This practice has been done in a manner not to strip the lake of aquatic plants, but rather to allow the lake to be used and enjoyed by all the homeowners as well as the surrounding community.

We have seen the results of very limited and restrictive cutting already. The access for boating, fishing and canoeing became difficult with over restrictive cutting. The White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District has been responsible for harvesting aquatic plants and I believe the lake speaks for itself on the issue with abundant wildlife and fish present in and on the lake. We have been good stewards of the lake in the past and wish to do so in the future with your assistance to balance aquatic plant harvesting so we can use the lake.

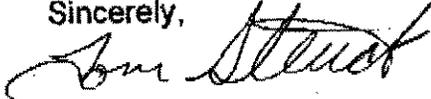
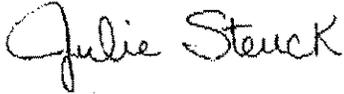
Without diligent efforts in continued aquatic plant harvesting, we will literally lose our lake. It would become impassible by watercraft and suffer the increased effects of sedimentation due to the huge quantities of dying aquatic plants. In the winter, the decaying plants would rob what little oxygen our shallow lake holds and would affect the fish population.

In closing, thank you for whatever action you can prescribe in keeping our lake usable. Without continued mechanical harvesting or some other means to control the aquatic plants, our home values will suffer greatly along with our lake. We

understand aquatic plants are a natural and healthy part of our lake, but we also need to be able to use our lake.

Please feel free to contact us directly should you have any questions or need further input.

Sincerely,

Tom & Julie Steuck
3012 Fairfax St
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-830-0323
715-833-3819 (wk)
715-456-9034 (cell)

Lake Property Location:
1725 E. White Ash Lake Ln
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

/js

March 3, 2003

White Ash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
ATTN: Pat Mahoney
1637 South White Ash Lane
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

RE: Upper White Ash Lake Weed Harvesting

Dear Mr. Mahoney:

Our family recently bought a cabin on Upper White Ash Lake. At the time of purchase, the lake association was harvesting the weeds. The lake was beautiful and we were able to operate our pontoon on the lake with absolutely no problem. Our water activities included fishing, swimming and tubing with our three young children. Yes, there were some weeds in the lake, but nothing that would hinder the enjoyment of living on a Wisconsin lake. The harvesting was not detrimental to the lake habitat and it was beneficial to the people who wanted to enjoy its waters.

This past summer, after the DNR restricted and limited harvesting on Upper White Ash Lake, the condition and recreation provided by the lake drastically changed. We cannot run our pontoon without having to stop it frequently to pull the weeds off the motor, the fishing is difficult, if not impossible, because the lures get so tangled in the weeds. I will not allow my children to tube behind the pontoon, nor do they want to, because if they fell off the tube into the lake they would be surrounded by and struggling to stay afloat in the weeds. Even if we wanted to tube, we can't, because the motor gets so plugged with weeds after a very short time that the motor overheats and the safety alarm sounds.

This is very discouraging as a cabin owner to live on a lake that is virtually impossible to recreate on and enjoy. Because Upper White Ash Lake is so shallow, which promotes the weeds to grow and surface profusely, the DNR should give special consideration to the lake and allow harvesting to resume on the entire lake.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

David & Peggy Rollins

David and Peggy Rollins

3-06-03

DNR--

As summer residents
of White Ash Lake we
are Very concerned that
our lake be kept -
vacation friendly -
Please allow weed
harvesting so our
lake is usable for
boating - paddle boating
and skiing -

Thank you for
keeping our lake
usable"

Fay. Forrest
Herrmann
W. side of Upper White
Ash Lake. -



3-6-03

P. N. R.

We have owned a cabin on South White Ash Lake for ~~over~~ 25 years. In the early years we had the weeds sprayed with chemicals. It took awhile for the weeds to die and decay on the bottom causing more muck. A lot of people did not like the chemical spraying so we bought a harvester. With the harvester we saw results right away and no muck build-up. I have seen no significant change in fishing over the years other than nature's cyclical ups and downs. Weeds decrease the value of our property. I once asked a friend what he thought of the lake. He said, "what lake? It looks like a swamp."

We need more harvesting for property value, aesthetic value, and accessibility to the lake.

Thank you
George Malbone Knope
1051 So. White Ash Lane
Baldwin Lake, WI 54810

3-1-03

To: DNR.

We are writing to tell you how disappointed we were in the weed harvesting on the White Ash Lakes last year. It was a disaster, for \$2000.00 a year taxes we feel we should be able to use lake for recreational purposes. He couldn't even get pontoon away from dock.

We have been on lake since 1972, in our opinion you can never cut too many weeds on Upper White Ash. It is a very shallow lake, not like most lakes if they can only cut tops off weeds then the lake is useless, not good for anything, no swimming, boating, fishing it will become a swamp.

Why were we allowed to buy our new harvester, and then not be able to use it and only be able to look at it!!!

We have worked many hours to help improve these lakes. Now it is such a disappointment to see them go back the other way:

Les & Jean Katula
1742 W White Ash Dr.
Balsam Lake Wi 54810

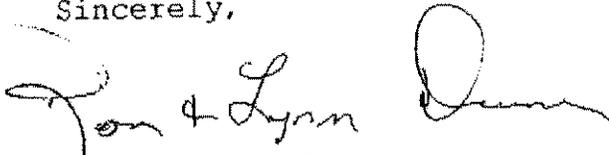
March 4, 2003

Department of Natural Resources
Madison, WI

Dear DNR representative,

As cabin owners on White Ash Lake, we would like to express our concern over last year's decision to limit the harvesting of weeds within the lake. When we were looking for cabins about two years ago one of the things that drew us to White Ash was the knowledge that the weeds would be controlled by use of a reasonable harvesting process. You can imagine our disappointment last year to learn that the harvesting process we counted on was being curtailed, dramatically affecting our ability to use the lake for many of the activities that we bought the cabin to enjoy. We spent some time trying to learn both sides of the issue. We understand the delicate balance required when harvesting weeds, however the experts that we spoke with suggest that it was curtailed beyond what should reasonably cause concern. By allowing White Ash to harvest the transient types of weeds that populate our lake, it will make the waters more usable while not effecting the ability to keep the "non native" weeds from taking over. We appreciate the difficulty of your task, in determining what measures are best for a lake. We encourage you to look at the success that we enjoyed with our harvesting program before last year and the ability to keep the ecological balance that makes the lake enjoyable. Thank you for your consideration of this matter, that is so important to the cabin owners on White Ash Lake.

Sincerely,



Ron and Lynn Durner

March 6, 2003

DNR

As property owners on Lower White Ash Lake, we strongly protest the discontinuance of weed harvesting on the two White Ash Lakes. Without harvesting the weeds, not only would our property value go down, but the lakes would become virtually useless for any type of lake activity such as swimming, fishing, boating etc.

Roy + Corinna Sellen
708 Country Place
Burnsville, MN 55337

03/01/03

To whom it may concern:

This a concern in regard to the harvesting of weeds on White Ash Lake. The weeds in the lake are unweal and need to be taken care of. What is the purpose of having a Lake home when you cannot use the lake. We can't even swim in the water around the shore because the weeds are so thick. I fear that with out the weeds being harvested the lake will turn into pure vegetation. Something needs to be done to keep these weeds under control. They are not only a hazard but also a nuisance to lake goers.

Thank You,
Harlan Christensen
lover White Ash Lake

Sr. Clare Bellisle
1787 70th St
Baldwin Lake, MI 48110-2421

counts on just 25¢ for 4 lbs
green salad (meats), we
all want our leeks in
good condition. No one
wants the bad meats.
I try would be brought
in by the "leek farmers".
I try go from leek to leek
+ "Meat" in evidence.
So - I try you - I will
even pray with you
I bet you let in lowest
I hear me.
I have open for you
I have + condensation,
In person,
Sister Clare Bellisle
Sister's 7 st. garage.

9-25-03

D.N.R.

To whom it concerns,
I am writing to you
concerning the need
for money on our leek, the
organ & I am what can
leek. It is important
I had me keep up the
for money as I said it
last meeting - we will
only need "FAITH" to pull
action it of this in re-
or even limited for money
I try to cover your
from me the portion and
I have your support but
you with the your
of need removal. No or try
to pick. I must say, you
from come up with a low
leek or low - always could

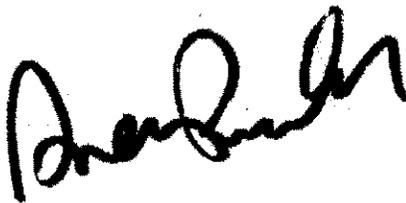
February 24, 2003

Pat Mahoney
1637 South White Ash Lane
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

This letter is written to express concerns regarding the harvesting of weeds in the White Ash Lakes.

I have enjoyed both lakes for the past 6 years. I appreciate the channels that have been cut by the weed harvester. While understanding that the weeds are a necessary part of the lake eco-system, I do not see why we cannot continue to harvest weed quantities as we have in past years. I have not noticed any reduction in the fish I have been able to catch—in fact, they get bigger and better every year I've been out there.

I am in support to continue weed harvesting in these lakes and if these practices change, I am afraid that the lakes will be overcome with weeds and lose its beauty and sporting attraction in future years. I welcome additional information regarding harvesting practices to help increase my understanding of lake management needs.



Doreen Praschak
940 2nd street NW
New Brighton, MN 55112

My lake cabin is at:

1798a W. White Ash Drive
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Feb. 24, 2003

DNR Representatives,

I have owned property on South White Ash Lake and paid Wisconsin real estate taxes for over 24 years. I am a resident of Minnesota.

I feel very strongly that the new laws regarding weed harvesting on all lakes in Wisconsin is very short-sighted. All lakes are not the same! White Ash Lakes are small shallow lakes that need more harvesting than now allowed, to make them of recreational value.

People on these lakes have worked very hard to improve the lakes over the last 25 years. The White Ash Lake Association has purchased two weed harvesters over this span of years, which have done a good job of making the lakes useable. Fishing hasn't been adversely affected in the past when the weeds have been harvested.

Please let it be known to lawmakers that these rules are not workable and need to be revised.

They severely lower the recreational value of the lakes and lower property values.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Bonnie S. Mann
White Ash Lake
property owner

To the Department of Natural Resources

In reply to: Weed Harvesting on Upper & Lower White Ash Lake.

My wife and I purchased our first lake home on Upper White Ash Lake 9 years ago. We were told at the time about the weed problem and the use of a weed harvester to control it. We were happy living on the lake and decided to purchase a lake lot on Lower White Ash Lake to build our dream home. After spending a great sum of time and money, our home is now finished. We enjoy using the lake for swimming, boating, tubing, and of course fishing. These activities will not be possible if we let our lake turn into a swamp.

The following is a list of reasons I hope the DNR considers while reviewing the weed harvesting issue for Upper & Lower White Ash Lake.

- The DNR approved and helped pay for the lake association's weed harvester.
- The weed harvester cost the association a large sum of money. (Would have been helpful to know weed harvesting was going to become an issue before purchasing the equipment.)
- People that live on the lake should have the greatest say on how the lake is used. (Lake homes and cabins are big investments.)
- We have been harvesting weeds for a long time and this has not seemed to hurt the fish population at all. (DNR fish studies back this up.)
- Our taxes are based on lake front property if our lake becomes a swamp will the DNR help us get a property tax reduction?
- Lake front property values have greatly increased over the last couple of years and people who purchased during this time would be hurt the most financially if the weeds are allowed to grow unchecked.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Jeffrey & Judith Pearson

714B 167TH Ave. Lower White Ash Lake. 952-895-5723

To D.N.R. -

My name is Kyle Prentice my wife Debbie and I own a home on Lower (South) White Ash Lake. I'm writing this letter with deep concern that the harvesting of weeds could be stopped or minimized by the D.N.R. Having lived on White Ash Lake for six years my concern is that if there is not a certain amount of harvesting done the lakes could become almost non-navigable and dangerous to any water recreation whether it be fishing or swimming. I also believe each lake needs to be examined as an individual, not as Counties or Areas or Districts. I can appreciate and understand your position because of gross understaffing due to the lack of funds this is very difficult. But please don't let the concerned tax payers of our beloved White Ash Lake District have their lakes choked in solid.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Kyle + Debbie

~~Prentice~~

To whom it may concern.

This is in regards to the letter concerning the weed cutter on White Ash. There are no two lakes in Wisconsin that are the same. I can't understand how people in Madison can tell what this lake is like in the summer. People living on this lake are doing the best they can. The weeds on the North lake are so bad you can't get a boat through there unless the weeds are cut and the south end is getting as bad. It gets worse every year no matter how many times you pull the weeds.

Ray & Darlene Richards
1643 70th St
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
(South White Ash)

March 3, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I writing to express our concern with the recent hearings on weed harvesting on Wisconsin Lakes. This seems to be a broad plan covering all lakes in Wisconsin not taking in to account the diverse types of lakes we have in the state.

White Ash lake is a very shallow lake near the beginning of the Apple River. Over the past years White Ash has become full of weeds of all varieties and silt has been filling the sandy bottom. The DNR has told us that they wish to return White Ash to its natural state. Allowing it to be taken over by weeds and filled up by silt is not restoring White Ash in any way. When we harvest the weeds we are only removing the top of the weed, not removing the weed itself from the lake. These weeds continue to grow so I don't see the negative effect they say it is having on the lake. There continues to be an abundance of fish in the lake and wildlife surrounding the lake.

Rather than regulating the harvesting of weeds which will be the end of White Ash Lake and the beginning of a swamp. Wouldn't the DNR's efforts be better spent educating the landowners on the lake and adjacent Farmers who own the land along the river on the direct effects they have on the lake (i.e. the use of fertilizers, phosphates, etc.) We truly believe if everyone in the area really understood their role in the restoration of White Ash we could return it to the healthy lake it once was.

All of us on and near the lake sincerely wish to return White Ash to its natural beauty so that we can continue to live and enjoy the lake. By not harvesting the weeds we are just expediting the end.

Sincerely,



Norm and Lorene Finch
1645 South White Ash Lane
Balsam Lake, WI 54810