

Round the Lake

Round Lake Property Owners Association

Spring/Summer 2007

www.roundthelake.com



President's Corner by Bob Strachota

Water Management Policies

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Dear Round Lake Property Owners,

It has been a busy winter as a result of the Water Management Task Force meetings that have been on-going for over a year. Many of your dedicated, volunteer Board Members have been attending these meetings at great expense to their personal lives. I would like to publicly thank them for all of their efforts.

The task force meetings have ended and the water level issues are in the hands of the County and the DNR. Throughout the past year, the County ordered an engineering study by the SEH firm from the Twin Cities. The results were presented in March and SEH recommended the construction of a "weir" dam as a replacement for the existing dam, which is inadequate. For various reasons, the County seems reluctant to follow SEH's recommendations.

The County wants to proceed with the abandonment and closure of the Lake Placid dam that drains water into Round Lake. The RLPOA Board opposes this action by the County because it is a small part of a larger puzzle that needs to be addressed

in total. A "piece meal" pull back by the County with the ultimate goal to abandon water management entirely is not acceptable to RLPOA.

Please attend one of the public hearings to get informed and to represent your interest in Round Lake. The water management policies that the County intends to establish will have long term consequences to the lake. RLPOA needs to get out in front of this matter and clearly state our wishes to the County and the DNR.

The Board understands the issues thoroughly and can answer many of your questions. I hope to see you at the next association meeting. In the meantime, be sure to watch the Web site for all the latest information.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Strachota
President, RLPOA

Round Lake Informational Meetings

Hayward High School
June 29, 6:00 pm - 9:00 p.m.

LCO Convention Center
July 6, 6:00 pm - 9:00 p.m.



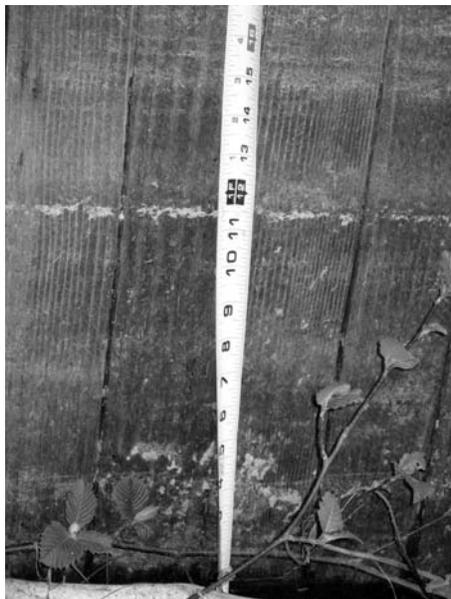
Round Lake Water Level Update

May 9, 2007 by Tom Kintzinger

The 1941 PSC (Public Service Commission) Order is for Round Lake to be managed between 77.0 to 77.25 local datum or 1344.75 to 1345 feet. Based on the water mark on the wooden bridge at County B and Carlson Dam on May 5, 2007, the lake appears to be about 18 or 19 inches below the highest water marks. Based on these high water marks it appears that Round Lake routinely has been several inches above the 1941 order in recent years.

At County B the gauge says the normal level is 5.25 and on May 5, 2007 the gauge showed 4.55 thus, about .7 of one foot below "normal". If 5.25 is 1344.75 to 1345 feet then the lake would be about 1344.05 to 1344.3. The lake seems lower to a lot of people because in reality the lake level has been consistently above the 1941 PSC in the last 20 years.

The picture on the left shows the water level just above the Carlson Dam on May 5, 2007 and there are definite high water marks well over a foot above the present lake level (close to 18 or 19 inches). The picture on the right shows the lake level to be 4.55 at the County B Bridge on May 5, 2007 and the normal is posted there at 5.25. These are all estimates and not precise engineering measurements.



Water level just above the Carlson Dam on May 5, 2007.



Lake level was 4.55 at the County B Bridge on May 5, 2007.

The new proposed 100 year flood elevation for Round Lake is 1346.98 feet and the Carlson Dam sill is at 1343.7 feet and this is overlain by considerable sediment.

Since our special Water Level mailing in early April there has been a Round Lake Task Force Meeting on April 19, 2007 & a Land & Water Conservation Committee Meeting on May 7, 2007. Less happened at these meetings then

was promised by Ms. Riedmann Task Force moderator and Sawyer County Board Member.

SEH Engineering and their dam expert were not at the May 7 Land & Water Conservation Committee Meeting as promised. Specific proposals were also not discussed. There was more discussion about Placid Diversion Canal

Round Lake Water Level Update...continued on page 3



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HYDROTHERAPY

Abandonment. RLPOA has drafted a letter formally requesting public input and a complete study by the DNR or County if an application is indeed forthcoming for abandonment from the County. The County seems to be trying to do a piecemeal abandonment of their water level management obligation rather than a comprehensive plan.

The County is still waiting for an official written statement from LCO Tribal Council concerning The Round Lake watershed. The County seemed to be trying to make the case that the Beaver Dams upstream of NN at elevation 1344.8 would substantially limit the value of any new wider dam. Their apparent scenario goes like this: if the LCO Tribe will not allow removal of these Beaver Dams on their reservation land then a new wider dam cannot be built because it will not be effective. This is NOT true and has been completely addressed on the website www.roundthelake.com. The SEH March 2007 report on the website does not support The County's purported conclusion. The LCO Tribe may have a completely "natural" approach to watershed management but this does not conflict with a new wider dam or more

realistic water level guidelines. The Beaver Dam above Highway NN does not need to be removed for a new wider dam to be effective. In fact these Beaver Dams provide Round & Osprey Lakes an additional low water protection buffer.

The County appears to be moving away from the SEH Engineering Report recommendations and again trying to abrogate all Round Lake management which includes abandonment of the Carlson Dam and vacating the 1941 PSC Round Lake management order. This means that during drought times NO boards could be legally put into the Carlson Dam. During high water times the narrow old wooden Carlson Dam may not be wide enough to drain water efficiently and also may be obstructed with debris.

There has also been no responsible discussion concerning the natural drainage channel from the SE corner of Little Round Lake. This channel is currently obstructed by an undersized culvert and driveway (1347.11 ft.). Another earthen berm (1345.72 ft.) several hundred feet downstream is also partially obstructing this channel.

There has also been no discussion concerning what will happen to the

Carlson Dam if it is abandoned and who will keep the channel clear of debris and beaver activity. The existing Carlson Dam is wooden and old and most likely near the end of its useful life.

The County is talking about having public informational hearings this summer (late June and July). The exact proposal they will present is not certain at this time. Ms. Riedmann states that she wants the public to know what they have been doing and has always been very careful to say no decisions have been made yet (this statement may not be consistent with the pending Placid Diversion Canal Abandonment Application). In reality it may be a chance for the County to size up the opposition/support to their apparent inclination for complete removal of all legal obligations the County has to manage Round Lake Water Levels. The first public meeting is scheduled for June 29 at the Hayward High School and the second one on July 6 at the LCO Convention Center (both from 6-9 PM). Please check www.roundthelake.com or The Sawyer County Record for finalized official public informational dates. These public informational hearings will be very important.



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INTRUSION • FIRE • ENVIRONMENTAL • MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Round Lake Receives Environmental Study Grant From DNR

by Terry Kingston

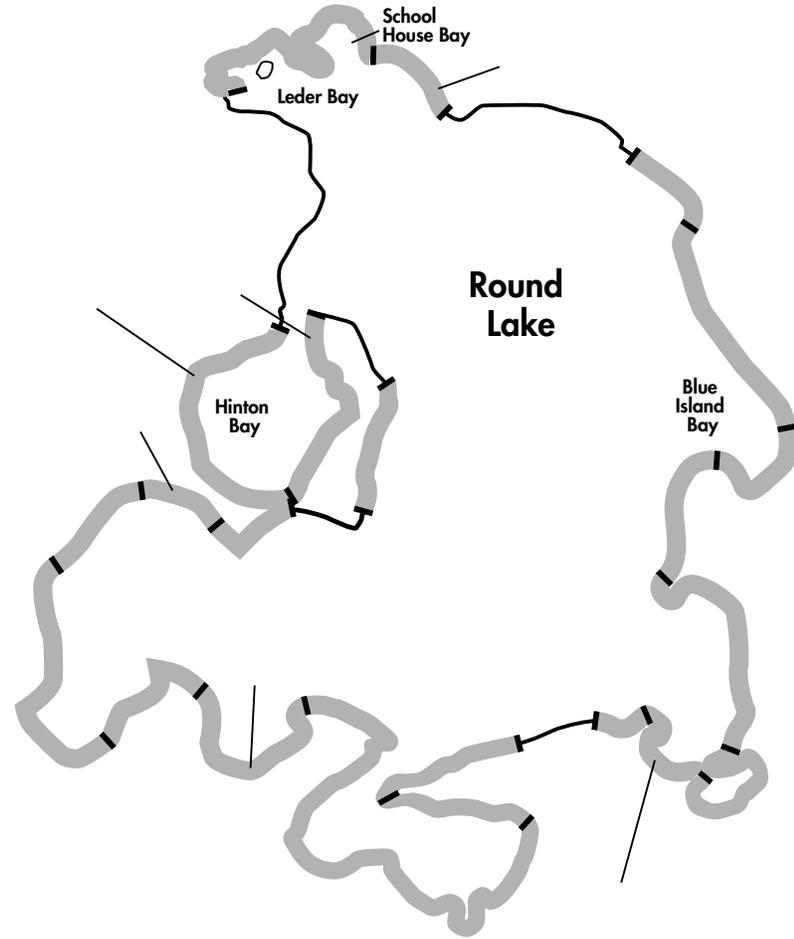
We are very pleased to report that the RLPOA, after much effort, has received a grant from the DNR to help pay for an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan. During the summer of 2007, Harmony Environmental will be on Round Lake cataloging and mapping aquatic plant life.

Results will be tabulated and analyzed this fall. It is anticipated that the APM plan will be published during the winter of 2007/08.

In addition to providing the RLPOA with a “base line” of information that will be used in future years to better understand changes (good or bad) to Round Lake, the APM plan has three additional benefits:

- 1) It will give us better guidelines for treating Eurasian water milfoil (EWM);
- 2) It will help us to potentially receive additional funding from the DNR; and
- 3) It will insure that requests from the RLPOA to the DNR to chemically treat large outbreaks of EWM will more favorably be approved.

With regard to EWM, in 2006 we treated a large (6 acres) area of Leder Bay in addition to several other “hot spots” on the lake. This spring we will treat as necessary, Leder, Schoolhouse, and Musky Bay. EWM was discovered



in a lagoon on the southwest side of the lake last summer and will also be treated this spring.

As most readers will remember, we recently started an “Adopt A Shoreline”. The primary purpose behind this effort was to help identify EWM while still in a small, contained area. Early detection allows us to physically pull the plant or use a minimum amount of chemicals.

Included above is the most recent map indicating those people who have volunteered their time to help control EWM. For those volunteers identified, please e-mail me at tkingston@northstarparkers.net to confirm you are still willing to help. For those wishing to adopt other parts of the shoreline not currently being monitored, you may also e-mail me.



Lawns Green, Lakes Clean from The Lake Connection*

Statewide ban on phosphorus lawn fertilizer would benefit lakes

Polluted runoff is Wisconsin's number one water quality problem, degrading or threatening an estimated 90% of inland lakes. Phosphorus is the main nutrient that drives eutrophication in most lakes. Using phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer is one easy way everyone can contribute to better water quality – regardless of where they live. The Wisconsin Association of Lakes passed a resolution in May of 2006 supporting a statewide ban of phosphorus in lawn fertilizer, modeled after Dane County's existing ordinance.

Adding phosphorus lawn fertilizer to soil that already has sufficient phosphorus to maintain a healthy lawn contributes to chronic nutrient loading problems. Excess phosphorus is stored in watershed soils, where it slowly works its way towards surface waters. Although not all phosphorus stored in watershed soils will reach lakes, only a small amount is needed to maintain or "tip" a lake into a nutrient rich (eutrophic) state. This sensitivity of lakes and rivers to phosphorus means even small sources of phosphorus in runoff – that by themselves may seem inconsequential – can result in water quality problems as phosphorus from lawns, streets, farm fields, and other sources in the watershed wash into lakes.

Changing land use patterns throughout a watershed can also increase the volume and rate of flow of runoff into lakes. In an undisturbed watershed, vegetation slows down runoff and water soaks into the soil. Development pressure frequently replaces lands that were once wooded or open space with lawns and hard surfaces (such as roads, buildings; and compacted soils). Water cannot penetrate these hard surfaces and runs off rather than soaking into the ground. Studies have indicated that lawns also significantly reduce infiltration of water, and increase both the amount of runoff and nutrients making its way to the lake.

Converting a natural shoreline into a lawn and unnecessarily applying phosphorus fertilizer are some of the many watershed changes that exacerbate the impacts polluted runoff has on lakes.

Statewide policy needed

Using phosphorus free lawn fertilizer – unless a soil test confirms the nutrient is needed – is a common sense, simple, and cost effective way to reduce the amount of nutrients entering our waterways. Many lake groups, local governments, counties and citizens are calling for a statewide phosphorus lawn fertilizer ban modeled after Dane County's existing

ordinance. A statewide policy would save local governments the duplicative costs of developing independent ordinances and ensure consistency for consumers, retailers, and suppliers.

Dane County was uniquely able to pass a county-wide phosphorus fertilizer ordinance because the legislature gave the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission the authority to regulate fertilizers. No other Wisconsin county has this authority to create a county-wide ordinance to regulate fertilizer. Several counties have passed resolutions supporting a statewide ban on the sale and use of phosphorus lawn fertilizer, modeled after Dane County's existing ordinance.

Dane County model a fit for Wisconsin

Dane County passed its county-wide phosphorus lawn fertilizer ordinance in 2004. Like Minnesota's statewide law, the ordinance allows people to use phosphorus lawn fertilizer if a soil test demonstrates the nutrient is needed. A simple, inexpensive soil test tells property owners if their lawn already has enough phosphorus. Phosphorus free fertilizers are available at a comparable cost to phosphorus fertilizers.

Lawns Green, Lakes Clean...continued on page 7

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RLPOA Website Update

by Tom Kintzinger, Website Administrator

Our website www.roundthelake.com or www.RLPOA.net continues to grow getting about 1000 to 2000 unique visits per month.

Our website www.roundthelake.com or www.RLPOA.net continues to grow getting about 1000 to 2000 unique visits per month. Website activity is increasing now because of the water level issue and growing awareness of the website.

We have recently added a **search** page:
<http://www.roundthelake.com/search.htm> that can be used to search www.roundthelake.com using key words.

We are also testing a new **forum** that requires a simple registration to do postings:
www.forum.roundthelake.com/phpBB2/index.php

Most of our old *Round the Lake* newsletters are on the website www.roundthelake.com/round_the_lake_archive.htm. We are missing a few old issues and if anyone has these old issues please send or email a copy to us tk25@roundthelake.com

Upcoming newsletters and Round Lake Property Owners Association (RLPOA) mailings are usually on the website well in advance of receiving them by US mail.

Membership application forms can also be downloaded and sent to: RLPOA Inc.; PO Box 1070; Hayward, WI 54843
www.roundthelake.com/Applications/RLPOAApplication.pdf

The last year has been a very busy time for RLPOA because of the **water level issue** and our website has assembled more information concerning this than anyone:
www.roundthelake.com/rlpoa_inc.htm#Round_Lake_Water_Level_Information

We are contemplating setting up the website in the future so that donations and membership applications can be done online in addition to US mail.

The website is updated on a regular basis depending on news and our volunteer schedule.

Please visit our website and let us know what you think. If you have any comments or photos posted on the website let us know.

Membership Report by Wally Narr

The year 2006 was a record year for paid memberships. We had 382 paid members out of 600+ property owners. That's almost two thirds. Thank you for your support.

There are many issues that must be addressed. Milfoil, water clarity, & water level to name just a few. Others will be writing about the various issues in much more detail. The reason I, as membership chairman, am mentioning these is to encourage everyone to actively support the RLPOA with your verbal input and activity as well as your paid memberships. To date we have 184 paid memberships for 2007.

I know it's very easy to set this aside and forget. Please send you membership checks to **RLPOA P.O. Box 1070, Hayward, WI 54843.**

Several years ago it was suggested to support the Eurasian milfoil fund to the degree of a one time contribution of \$1.00 per foot of lake shore frontage. If you have already done so, thank you. If you have not, please consider doing so.

For renewal of your membership please use the form in this newsletter.

Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. / 2007 Membership Application and Renewal

I am interested in helping on one of the following committees:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government Awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | |

- Enclosed are my dues of \$20.00 for calendar year 2007.
 Enclosed are other donations that I would like to contribute as follows (*i.e. Milfoil Fund or other - please describe*)

Send to:
Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1070
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843-4048

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The ordinance also allows phosphorus fertilizer to be used on newly established turf and lawns during their first growing season and exempts fertilizer intended for flower and vegetable gardening, indoor plants, and agricultural trees and shrubs. Yard waste, compost, and biosolids intended primarily as soil amendments are also exempt from the ordinance.

Dane County's ordinance ensures the default fertilizer choice for consumers is phosphorus free by prohibiting retail display of phosphorus fertilizer. This

provision ensures the system is self regulating. Retailers do not have to monitor their customer's purchases as customers have to specifically ask for phosphorus fertilizer products. Because of Minnesota's statewide law, regional supplies of phosphorus free lawn fertilizer are readily available.

*This article consists of excerpts from *The Lake Connection* publication, published by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

Editorial Correction

Sawyer County Attorney Tom Duffy has advised RLPOA that Sawyer County Board Representative Fred Zietlow is not ready to take any position on Round Lake Water Level Issue until all the information is received and reviewed. It is still the opinion of RLPOA Board that Mr. Zietlow is not in favor of the RLPOA Water Level Position or active management particularly after observing him at 3/22/07 Round Lake Management Meeting.

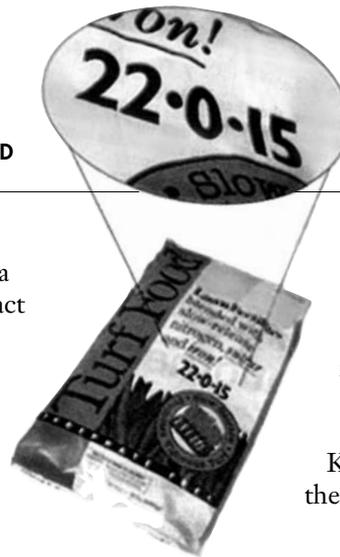
Land & Water Conservation

by the Sawyer County LWCD

Spring Update

Before you begin your spring lawn maintenance check the label on your fertilizer. To protect water quality use only fertilizers with no phosphorus. Phosphorus content is the middle number of the three numbers you'll need on the label. For instance, 22-0-15 indicates the product contains zero percent phosphorus.

Phosphorus is rarely needed for a healthy lawn, in fact most lawns have three times more phosphorus than needed. Adding phosphorus to



lawns increases the chances of it entering lakes where it provides fuel for excessive weed and algae growth. This excessive growth reduces water clarity to the point of turning a lake green.

Keep our lakes clean...help reduce the unnecessary input of phosphorus.

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