

Round Lake Property Owners Association Inc.

8/20/2007

Bob Strachota, President
Tom Kintzinger; Vice President & Secretary
Round Lake Property Owners Association (RLPOA)
PO Box 67
Hayward, WI 54843

James Bassett, Chairman
Sawyer County Zoning Administration
Sawyer County Zoning Committee
PO Box 676
Hayward, WI 54843, 0676

Dear Mr. Bassett:

This letter has been approved by a majority of Round Lake Property Owners Association Board Members.

This letter is in response to the new proposed flood levels on Round & Little Round Lakes which are reportedly 1346.98 and 1346.97 feet respectively. We are certain that the vast majority of the general public does not know what is going on with these flood levels and does not understand the ultimate negative ramifications.

Enclosed is a CD with [**The Barr Engineering County Highway NN and Round Lake Flood Analysis**] & The Barr report on [**A Study of the Cause of Shoreline Loss at Hausman Property on Round Lake during 2002/2003**]. **These reports cost in excess of \$200,000 and are now owned by The Round Lake Property Owners Association. Feel free to use these reports – you have our official permission.** The flood analysis report is missing about 100 pages of computer number print outs and raw data supporting the conclusions of the report and are available if necessary.

It is our opinion that these “new” flood levels are too high and not in the best interest of the public. **It is our estimation that these flood levels and the addition of the “two foot” buffer on top of them will put several dozen if not more than a hundred properties on these lakes into the “flood plain” regulation zone.** This will mean onerous Sawyer County zoning restrictions and would necessitate flood insurance if these properties are sold and a mortgage is needed for the purchase. In addition any lots that are below the flood level and buffer will dramatically lose value for no good reason. We would predict that over the long term this will eventually result in unneeded public frustration and bitterness with the Sawyer County Zoning Department and may cause several legal actions.

It appears to us that these flood levels are being prematurely processed and approved before the “comprehensive” Round Lake Management has been officially determined. If these flood levels are approved they are not consistent with the 1941 PSC Order governing Round Lake or The RLPOA proposed compromise plan. It also appears to us that their premature approval may be used as an excuse not to implement a responsible Round Lake Water Management Plan.

It is clear to us that these new flood levels are based on existing conditions that are not compliant with the prevailing 1941 PSC order regulating Round Lake water levels. It is our opinion that the Round Lake water control structures have been under built and significantly neglected over the years. RLPOA has proposed a responsible compromise management plan which was presented at the July 26 Round Lake Task Force meeting and also on our website www.roundthelake.com. This plan may lower the flood level by one foot or more. It is not in anyone’s interest to have too high of a 100 year flood level just because the current water control structures have been mismanaged for decades.

- 1.** The wooden **Little Round Lake Dam** is undersized and in a deteriorating state. The channel downstream of the dam has been allowed to fill in with sediment over the years decreasing flow rates.
- 2.** The natural Little Round Lake drainage channel known as the “Anderson Channel” where the snowmobile trail is (by Thunderbird Road) is partially blocked by a private driveway embankment with an undersized culvert at an improper height.
- 3.** The NN culverts are too high also causing a backwater obstructing effect.
- 4.** The beaver dams upstream of NN are a public nuisance and also causing a downstream obstruction.

Please refer to the **Barr Report Highway NN & Round Lake Flood Analysis page 10** in the first paragraph which states: **“Increasing the capacity of the Little Round Lake Dam and the drainage channel to Osprey Lake without increasing the capacity of the County Highway NN culverts could lower the 100 year flood levels on Round Lake about 1 foot.”**

If the NN culvert capacity is increased the Round Lake flood level would be lowered even more. This would clearly be in the interest of the 700+ property owners on Round & Little Round Lakes. See **page 9 of the Barr Flood Analysis** where it shows that the **100 year flood level on Osprey Lake will be lowered by almost 2 feet if the NN culverts are replaced with four 48 inch CMP culverts at elevation 72.**

The other Barr report shows how to comply with the 1941 order or at least how to get closer to that 1941 PSC Order and responsibly lower the new proposed flood levels on Round/Little Round Lakes. Please refer to page 15 of that report. Complete compliance with the 1941 PSC Order is probably not necessary to have

responsible, reasonable/compromise water level management on Round Lake which would lower the 100 year flood levels being evaluated now.

In addition please refer to **Figure 6 in the Barr Highway NN & Round Lake Flood Analysis**. This figure shows that since the Little Round Lake Dam and downstream channel have been put in about the mid 1940's that the highest recorded elevation on Round Lake are all less than 78 feet local datum or 1346.25 feet when corrected for datum conversion errors. These water levels are all about .75 feet below the new 100 year flood levels.

Consequently it is our opinion that these new flood levels should not be prematurely approved and that responsible compromise modifications should be done at The Little Round Lake Dam & downstream channel, Anderson Channel and NN culverts. Then the flood levels should be recalculated/lowered to reflect the kind of Round Lake water management that is expected by the vast majority of people that live on Round/Little Round Lakes.

Please let us know if you have any questions. My phone number is 715-462-3770 or cell# 715-699-8752. We would like very much to come to some sort of reasonable compromise.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Kintzinger RLPOA VP & Secretary

Bob Strachota RLPOA President