

3/29/2007

RLPOA Website Administrator had a brief phone conversation with Fred Zietlow on 3/29/2007 concerning his position on the Round Lake water level issue.

Fred Zietlow is on the **Sawyer County Board of Supervisors** representing **District 5** which in part includes the south and SW part of Round Lake, all of Little Round Lake and most of Osprey Lake. According to the **Sawyer County government website** Mr. Zietlow got 29 votes in the April 2006 election with a notation that the numbers were not complete. He is on the **Sawyer County Land & Water Conservation Committee** which oversees the **Land & Water Conservation Department** which is in charge of the Carlson Road Little Round Lake Dam and responsible for complying with the prevailing **1941 PSC order**. The **Land & Water Conservation Department/Committee** is leading the **Round Lake Task Force** to study the Round Lake water issue.

Mr. Zietlow lives on Round Lake in Pine Cove Shores on the south side of the lake. His mailing address is: PO Box 13324; Hayward, WI 54843.
His phone #: 715-634-3919

This is a brief summary of the conversation and what Mr. Zietlow stated to me based on my recollection of the phone conversation. There also is some information concerning Mr. Zietlow's position obtained from the 3/22/07 Round Lake Management Meeting by other observers. Mr. Zietlow's position has also been evaluated by information from some Sawyer County Land & Water Conservation Department Committee meetings.

Mr. Zietlow is welcome to submit his position in writing to tk25@roundthelake.com for posting on this website.

Mr. Zietlow has many years (decades) of experience as a surveyor and as an advisor/consultant to the DNR.

He claims he has an open mind and has not made a decision about the Round Lake water level issue even with all of his experience.

He says it is a very complex issue and that **RLPOA** does not understand the complexity.

The Sawyer County Board will not approve anything that affects LCO land unless the LCO tribe supports it.

His main concern is vacating the prevailing **1941 PSC** order that regulates the water level on Round Lake. This seems to be his #1 priority above all else.

At this time he is not in favor of the **SEH engineering recommendations** in their March 2007 report. He questions even if they are recommendations. Specifically Mr. Zietlow is not in favor of a mildly larger dam at the outlet of Little Round Lake without getting LCO approval and much more engineering work.

Mr. Zietlow said his main concern was all Sawyer County taxpayers. He denied that this was a potential conflict with his District 5 constituents that live on Round Lake, Little Round Lake and Osprey Lake.

Mr. Zietlow at this time does not support the **RLPOA Water Level Position**.

Mr. Zietlow disagrees with the conclusion that other observers at the 3/22/07 Round Lake Water

level meeting had that he is in favor of the "passive management plan", not supportive of SEH recommendations, and his top priority is to abandon the Carlson Road Little Round Lake Dam with consequent vacating of 1941 order.

Mr. Zietlow did not seem to be in favor of the RLPOA as an organization and its makeup and goals. Mr. Zietlow has had significant disagreements with some RLPOA Board Members.

He Believes RLPOA should become a taxing district.

Mr. Zietlow says the new SEH flood levels for Round Lake may be acted on by the DNR in about 60 days.

Mr. Zietlow was against the [Hausman lawsuit payment](#) by the County. He thinks that the county can recover the Hausman lawsuit payment. The County now has a different law firm and Mr. Zietlow was not satisfied with the law firm that was representing the county at the time of the Hausman payment.

RLPOA Website Administrator Tom Kintzinger impression/analysis of brief phone conversation with Fred Zietlow and also using other information based on other people's observations at other public meetings:

I believe that Mr. Zietlow has most likely made up his mind about the Round Lake Water Level issue. He is an opinionated man with a lifetime of surveying experience. I and many other objective observers believe he is leaning toward the "passive non management system" and sees that as the easiest path to absolve the County of all responsibility or future liability. There seems to be some evasiveness about his exact position.

It appears to me that Mr. Zietlow wants to remove the County from all legal responsibility for Round Lake Water Levels. That is his number 1 goal and nothing else matters. He seems to think that the easiest way to this goal is to vacate the 1941 order and to abandon the Carlson Road Dam.

He is not pleased with the Hausman lawsuit payout and never wants that to happen again to the county and would like to reverse that. He appears to me to think that the issue is so complex that the easiest thing is to do is abandon all prevailing orders and dams and that is the price Round Lake owners should pay for the greater benefit of all Sawyer County taxpayers. This passive approach which means dam abandonment and vacating the 1941 order is the path of least resistance apparently to Mr. Zietlow and some others at the County. Round Lake Owners will experience wider variations in their water level so that the county as a whole will benefit. The suggestion that RLPOA does not understand the issue because it is too complex is patronizing

He was reportedly very concerned with the [SEH recommendations](#) at the 3/22/07 [Round Lake Management Meeting](#) because they did not conform with his opinion. Mr. Zietlow's main concern at that same meeting reportedly was to break up the prevailing discussion about the new SEH recommendations and to turn the discussion to Carlson Road Dam abandonment.

Mr. Zietlow does not seem to be aware of or care that most of his District 5 Round Lake constituents most likely disagree with him about his apparent "passive approach to non management". He may actually think that most people agree with him.

I live in [Mr.Zietlow's District 5](#) and would like him to see the Round Lake water issue from his constituent's standpoint and to support [RLPOA](#) in their efforts to find a reasonable compromise solution satisfactory to all parties. This may take more work from all parties but it will be worth it. RLPOA members represent a significant % of District 5 voters.

Mr. Zietlow should understand that property values will drop and ultimately less property tax revenues will be collected if there is not some sort of reasonable water control on Round Lake. Recreation access will also be adversely affected both for the public and the homeowners.

Mr. Zietlow does not seem to understand that [RLPOA](#) has over 400 paid members and at the last general membership meeting in September of 2006 there was virtually universal support for continued active management of Round Lake Water Levels. As an elected representative supposedly representing me and other District 5 citizens Mr. Zietlow should attend the next RLPOA meeting on May 26, 2007 and communicate with his constituents over this issue.

Mr. Zietlow does not appear to be in support of the [RLPOA water position](#) or a reasonable compromise at this time. In my view he is not representing Round Lake District 5 constituents best interests.