

## **August 6, 2007 Land & Water Conservation Committee RLPOA Summary Notes & Impression**

### **May not be accurate and is best recall from observer at meeting with analysis.**

Shirley Riedmann and Fred Zietlow were determined to get proposals to take to the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors in September. They were not willing to wait a couple of weeks for additional engineering information that the RLPOA wanted answers to. We told them that we have employed an engineering firm to answer 4 questions. Bob Vitcenda from the committee thought it was a good idea to give the association a week or two to get these answers, but he was voted down by the other L & W committee members. Bob Vitcenda seemed to say that RLPOA was important and that the county would not get thru this whole process without RLPOA on their side.

The key point is that if the dam is abandoned with removal of the sill and floor then the lake could drop another foot or two even during non drought years after a scouring event. Some on the committee did not seem to understand this. SEH and the County did not seem to understand this and blamed current and future low water on the droughts. **The present dam sill is a 76 feet local datum but if the sill/dam floor are removed it is our speculation that the actual non silted scoured ditch channel bed is a couple of feet below 76 feet.** Consequently this is how the lake could be lowered even more in non drought years.

Shirley Riedmann went on to say that engineering work could be highly influenced by who was paying for it with the exception of the County & SEH which is completely unbiased??

**In a nutshell, the Land & Water committee has a six point presentation that they are going to pursue:**

- 1. Lower the NN culverts to comply with DNR elevations.**
- 2. Continue abandonment of the Placid Lake Diversion Chanel. The county thinks this will be approved by DNR.**
- 3. Modify 1941 order (no lows - no highs)?**
- 4. Bridge and/or dam to be decided on with a controlling feature (stop logs, gate, etc.).**
- 5. Beaver Dam Management.**
- 6. Address Little Round Lake east/snowmobile trail culvert for drainage enhancement.**

Dale Olson comments were that the county could be spending lots of money, for very little return in the way of being able to manage Round Lake water levels. Other lakes will be asking why the county is not spending money on their lakes and/or township. Dale Olson also reportedly said that the Carlson Dam was deteriorating and would need to be addressed sooner or later. There was a fair amount of talk about a replacement dam after this. To make a dam fit the current diversion ditch seemed to be the consensus.

RLPOA opinion-The answers to this question include: there is a prevailing water level order on Round Lake; the lake has been developed and tax valuation set based on the 1941 order or higher water levels; almost a million spent on lawsuit and engineering work with even more to come; put a new dam in and modify the prevailing order to get this over once and for all; navigation into many bays; deteriorating present dam and channel that need repair and or replacement; The diversion channel downstream of Carlson Dam is needed to keep lake from

getting too high; public access at boat landings; Round Lake homeowners want this; 300 million worth of property etc. etc. As taxpayer we are asking why the County is spending more money to fight this then to do what is right for Round Lake and the County as a whole.

RLPOA has already send letters to the DNR regarding the Placid Lake Diversion Channel closure-I think the DNR responded in a way that they will advise us when an application is actually received. The county basically implied that Placid Diversion Canal abandonment was a "done deal".

No one from the DNR was in attendance.

The LCO Tribal Council is going out this Tuesday to view the NN culverts.. Input from the tribe has still not been received, but according to Dan Tyrolt they are working on this.

Fred Zietlow said that there was enough "historical data" to support the abandonment of the Carlson Dam. Bernie Lenz said the highest recorded elevation is how SEH determined the 100 year flood elevation.

Shirley Riedmann said that Gary Gedhard, head of Sawyer County Roads has applied for permits to lower the NN culverts.

Repair and replacements of the current Carlson Dam is now a possibility. The above options will go to Frank Dallman from the DNR before the county board of supervisors meeting. Shirley Reidman stated that the wild card is the "DNR".

It would be my assumption that we should be contacting the DNR again for follow-up.