

Hello RLPOA and Round Lake interested Parties:

November 8, 2007 Round Lake Task Force Meeting Summary and Analysis/Opinion

At the latest Round Lake Task Force Meeting 11/8/2007 Sawyer County has made it clear they are going forward with their latest proposal and present it to the Sawyer County Finance Committee then the full Board. The negotiation phase and scheduled task force meetings are over as far as they are concerned. \$175,000 has already been approved by the Land & Water Conservation Committee for the following "potential" project.

The proposal involves a dam and weir as described in the latest SEH report: http://www.roundthelake.com/roundlakeplanningmeetings/SEH%20Engineering/Hydraulic_Design_Feas_Analysis%20nov%202007.pdf

In short this is a 10 foot wide concrete box replacing the existing 10 foot wide wooden structure. Thus the new dam/box will be the same size as the old one. The sill/floor will be at about 1343.7 the same as the existing dam. The dam/box will have a concrete floor and no center support like the present structure.

There also will be a new weir or wooden dam about 12 feet wide in front of the new concrete box with removable boards in it and a "V" notch in the boards to provide low water flows so the boards do not have to be removed during low water. The "V" notch will go to the sill level which will also be concrete. The top of the rest of the boards in the 12 foot weir in front of the concrete box would be at 1345 feet or 77.25 feet. The boards are completely removable down to the sill.

The "V" notch design can raise the lake a few inches for a few weeks longer during drought times and should capture more water in the spring runoff period then having no boards in the dam like now.

Exact parameters or elevations about when the boards would be removed has yet to be determined - presumably when the lake level gets a few inches above 1345.

An application will be made to the WDNR to modify or change the 1941 PSC Order to reflect "natural elevations" - at this point it is not clear what that means but undoubtedly will be worded to release the County from future liability. In addition the replacement dam plans would also be evaluated in conjunction with this. The 1941 Order allows 150cfs flow rates and the new dam and regional flood elevations use about 100 cubic feet per second flow rates.

An application will be made to the WI DOT to drop the 2 48" NN Highway culverts to the natural stream elevation and to most likely add a third culvert.

WDNR would like to see the new dam specifications and then there will be "public Hearings". Dallam of WDNR preliminarily stated that there did not appear to be a significant problem with this new dam structure and weir.

Placid Diversion Canal abandonment permit application most likely will be joined together by WDNR with the above proposals to have one complete package.

An administrative judge possibly may make the final decision.

The beaver dams will stay the same with this proposal.

Nothing was said about the natural Little Round Lake outlet by Thunderbird Road.

The new RFE (Regional Flood Elevations) stay the same. These would be lower if the 1941 Order was followed-Dallam of WDNR appeared to not understand this. All new construction and building modifications that require permits will now need elevations if your property is on the flood plain maps. If you are below 1346.98 no new building allowed and limited repairs to existing structures. If 1348.98 or below that is in the flood fringe zone and may require fill or other restrictions.

WDNR/Frank Dallam approved the flood levels (100 year regional flood elevations-RFE) in May of 2007 based on existing conditions for Round/Little Round & Osprey Lakes. These are based on non permitted illegal NN Highway Culverts, non code compliant culvert on NE side of Little Round Lake natural outlet by Thunderbird Road and "temporary" obstructing beaver dams upstream of NN Highway. This is why this plan cannot have more protection against high water and may be damaging to Round Lake. It's my opinion that WDNR intentionally approved these flood levels to undermine and sabotage Round Lake management options. Frank Dallam (Water Regulation and Zoning Engineer out of WDNR Spooner office) is a strong proponent of passive management and appears that he will do anything to have his way. Because of the WDNR/Dallam flood level approval they say that we will raise this new flood level on Osprey Lake greater than .01 of a foot if the Carlson Dam is bigger thus requiring easements.

Dallam of the WDNR has also used the minimum flow requirements to implement his passive management goals for Round Lake. He talks about minimum flow at

the artificial channel downstream of the Carlson Dam but does not talk about minimum flow at the Little Round Lake natural outlet channel by Thunderbird Road that has a non code compliant culvert blocking flow. He also does not talk about minimum flow at the Placid Diversion Canal which may have a true stream history. We believe his decisions are inconsistent with the true meaning of [Wisconsin Chapter 130 Water Levels and Flow](#) and have been damaging to Round Lake.

It appears WDNR/Dallam decisions may be biased, arbitrary non objective and detrimental to Round Lake. His decisions appear to be based on predetermining the outcome that he personally wants and not what is good for the general public.

His minimum flow decisions drain Round/Little Round Lake quicker and thus lower the lake artificially more then it should be limiting navigation between bays and under Highway B bridge, damage fish spawning areas, [limit public access](#), and increase weed/milfoil growth etc..

These new WDNR flood levels are not consistent with current law the - [1941 PSC order](#). This order allows for higher flow rates and would [lower the flood levels](#) on all of the above lakes significantly.

This has also caused damage to Round Lake owners by reducing value, marketability and requiring additional survey costs and flood insurance.

The WDNR and County appear to be hoping that these issues do not become widely known. This WDNR flood level decision was made to predetermine a passive management plan but it became clear that if The Carlson Dam was abandoned with Sill & floor removal that Round Lake [could drop a few feet more](#) then what it was this summer. Then it also became clear that the Carlson Bridge is old and not safe and would have to be fixed anyway. Hence this explains the background for where we are at now: A new dam with no significant increased high water protection and less low water protection because of the "V" notch in the proposed dam boards.

This new dam proposal does repair the old wooden dam and make it safer. It does address the new contrived problem of minimum flow requirements with the "V" notch but the dam capacity is not significantly increased over the present structure. Consequently the risk of high water problems will be about the same as in the past in my opinion. The low water protections will not be as good because the boards have a "V" notch that will allow more flow then the old style of conventional board. This proposal is an improvement over abandonment that was a serious option a few weeks ago.

SEH Engineering calculated flood levels from Round Lake to Billy Boy dam were approved by WDNR in early 5/07. Then a few days later about half of these new approved flood levels were retracted except Osprey, Little Round and Round Lakes were still in effect even with the obvious flaws noted above. This retraction raises questions about all of the SEH Engineering work.

Nothing was said about dam abandonment at the meeting.

There will be a County Board Meeting 11/13/07 where this will be presented.

Comments and Opinions welcome.

Round Lake Property Owners Board is in evaluation phase.

Sincerely,

RLPOA