Lake Waubesa Conservation Association, Inc.

Winter 2001/02



GALA MARKS OFFICIAL OPENING OF LUSSIER FAMILY HERITAGE CENTER

By Dave Zweifel

It was dark, but the nearly full moon cast enough light to make out most of Mud Lake Marsh while the waters of the widened Yahara River, known as Upper Mud Lake, glimmered in the background. On the far side of the

water, the lights on the cars and trucks traveling the South Beltline appeared to be in another place, far away. And to the left – over the top of the trees in the background – the dome of the State Capitol shined, as always, like a beacon.

About 100 of us took in those sights on December 1 at the official opening of the Lussier Family Heritage Center, the spanking new building at Lake Farm Park that will serve as a historical, educational and social center in the midst of one of the county's most pristine areas. This is the place, after all, where the Winnebago (now Ho-Chunk) Indians made their home as far back as 6,000 years.

Thanks to dozens of tireless folks who care about the wonders of nature and some forward-looking county and state politicians, this land on the northwest shore of Lake Waubesa and the connecting marshes to the north will remain that way forever. And to

think, just a few years ago, there was a move to locate a landfill along nearby Libby Road, a project that would have surely destroyed what is there today.

The Saturday gathering was held to celebrate that accomplishment, but it was also held to formally say thank you to Jack Lussier, whose \$400,000 donation made it possible to build and open the Heritage Center far earlier than anyone dreamed.

County Parks Director, Ken LePine, said more money needs to be raised to finish off some appointments on the lower floor of the center, but already the classy building is being used for meetings, classes about the surrounding

environment and even a wedding rehearsal dinner. When it is completely finished, the upper level will serve as an educational and interpretive gallery containing exhibits about Dane County history, its culture and its people.

The lower level will feature a big hall and attached kitchen that can be rented for everything from club meetings to wedding receptions. The Dane County Historical Society, which has been bounced around seemingly forever, will also have a permanent office on the lower floor. A director for the center, Linda Mittnacht, has already been hired and can answer questions at 224-3604.

LePine= told the gathering that the center is the crown jewel of the Nine Springs E-Way system, which starts at Lake Farm Park and rings the south side of Madison with greenspace and a new bike path that links into others.

A special treat at the event was an Indian dance show in full dress by Art Shegonee and his daughter, Maral, a student at McFarland High School. Art told of the Indian lore about living on the shores of Lake Waubesa and explained how important it is for all of us to honor nature. The wildlife in the marsh, he said, know no

racism, have no cultural boundaries, but treat each other with respect.



Entertainment at the grand opening was a gift of Art Shegonee and his family, members of the Call for Peace Dance and Drum Company

The Center and its connections to the marsh, park and the E-Way are well worth a visit. And if you're feeling generous, the County Parks folks can use any contribution

to help refine and bolster this outstanding connection with our history and environment.



We were pleased to receive permission to reprint this column appearing in the <u>Capital Times</u> on Wednesday, December 5, 2001. Dave Zweifel is editor of the Capital Times.

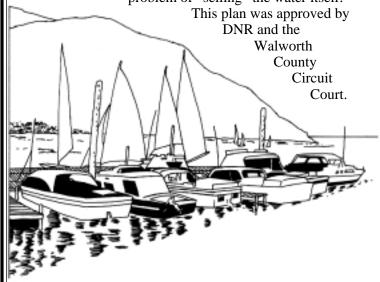
"DOCKOMINIUMS" UNCONSTITUTIONAL SAYS APPEALS COURT

Supreme Court Challenge Pending

Attorney William P. O'Connor

After years of proceedings, spurred by a suit brought by WAL (the Wisconsin Association of Lakes), the Wisconsin Court of Appeals reversed two lower court judges and declared "dockominiums" a violation of the Constitutional Public Trust Doctrine that safeguards Wisconsin lakes and streams. (ABKA et al. v. DNR, et al, Case No. 99-2306).

The case involves the Abbey Marina on Geneva Lake in Walworth County. The marina owner, ABKA Limited Partnership, converted the 407-slip facility to condominiums in 1994. The condominium units were pint-sized "lock boxes" on the shore, but each included an exclusive right to use a boat slip designated as a "limited common element." This, they claimed, avoided the problem of "selling" the water itself.



WAL has consistently argued that the trust doctrine is violated when a riparian owner aims to establish "lots" on the surface of a public lake and sell the exclusive right to occupy each lot. We have argued that the fundamental public interest in water cannot be defeated by convoluted real estate documents.

In its August 22 decision, the Court of Appeals agreed with WAL that the form of the deal cannot hide its substance. The Court said:

A boat slip is the water and the lake bed under the water. Thus, ABKA is attempting to convey a portion of the waters of Lake Geneva to the unit owners as tenants in common... The public trust doctrine should not be manipulated to allow a conveyance of interest in the water as tenants in common.

Four of the parties to the "dockominium" litigation have petitioned the Wisconsin Supreme Court to review the August Appeals Court decision – the developer, the association of units buyers, the statewide Realtors Association and the DNR. If the Supreme Court declines review, the Court of Appeals decision will stand. If the Supreme Court accepts the case, WAL and the other parties will be required to prepare briefs to the Court, with oral arguments likely in the spring of 2002.

30. 30. 30. 30. 30. 30. 30. 30.

William P. O'Connor is the Legislative Counsel for the Wisconsin Association of Lakes and has represented WAL in the "dockominium" lawsuit. This article was reprinted from columns appearing in two recent WAL publications.

This Issue

- 1 Heritage Center Grand Opening
- 2 Dockominiums Update
- 3 Capital Springs Centennial Park
- 4 Third Street Wetland
- 4 Heritage Center Update
- 5 LWCA Annual Meeting Flyer 1/10
- 6 Shoreland Zoning Changes
- 7 Lake Levels Group (YLAG)
- **8** Kesterson on Conservation Fund
- 8 Refinancing/Flood Plain Insurance
- **9** Personal Watercraft Ordinance



It may have been Halloween, but it was no trick. Governor Tommy Thompson makes it official on October 31, 2000, dedicating Capital Springs Centennial State Park and Recreation Area. Joining in the festivities are Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, Darrell Bazell (Secretary of the Wisconsin DNR), and many others.

CAPITAL SPRINGS CENTENNIAL STATE PARK

The New Jewel Next to Lake Waubesa
By Dana White Quam

Wisconsin's newest State Park, <u>Capital Springs Centennial State Park and Recreation Area</u>, encompasses the Nine Springs E-Way Boundary from Nevin Fish Hatchery to Lake Waubesa and Upper Mud Lake. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources purchased approximately 326 acres in the past year from Lake Farm Associates and the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, which has been designated as the new State Park property. The larger State Park and Recreation Area is jointly managed by Dane County Parks and the Wisconsin DNR and consists of more than 2,500 acres of public lands.

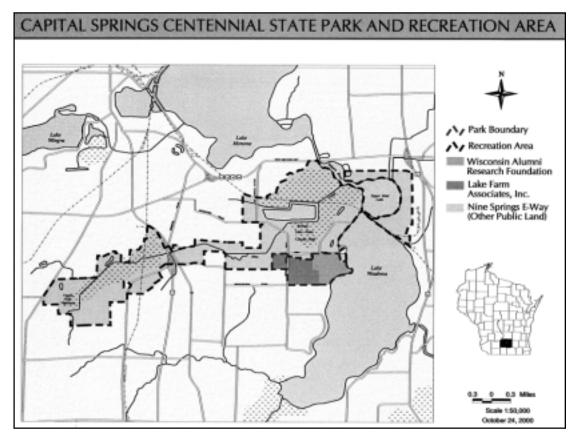
The newly acquired State Park lands are currently closed to public access because the area is not being maintained or inspected for public use. The property will be closed to the public until the Master Plan is completed. The lands are being rented to local farmers for cropland until it is decided what kind of development will take place on the property. After the Master Plan is completed much of the farmland will be converted to prairie.

Dane County Parks and the Wisconsin DNR have formed a project team that is working on the preliminary planning for the management and operations of the State Park and Recrecation Area. A document will identify how the agencies and partners will work together to manage the property as one. While the Management and Operations agreement will identify how the property will be operated, the Master Plan will be the document showing how the property will look and what amenities will be developed. A consultant will be hired to complete the Master Plan, and the Request for Proposal should go out in early 2002. During the Master Planning process the public will be encouraged to provide input.

If you would like to be on the mailing list to be notified of upcoming meetings send an e-mail to whited@dnr.state.wi.us or call Dana White Quam at 608-275-3302. Mention that you would like to be place on the mailing list for Capital Springs and leave your name and a complete address.

Dana White Quam is the Parks and Recreation Expert for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources South Central Region.

A dream came true for members of the Lake Waubesa Conservation Association on October 31, 2000. As the ribbon was cut by Governor Thompson inaugurating the new Capital Springs Centennial State Park and Recreation Area, the threat of the proposed Libby Landfill ended forever. Capital Springs Centennial Park was one of two state parks designated that day in 2000 out of more than 50 proposed statewide. The Capital Springs Centennial State Park project was proposed in February 2000 by Dane County Executive in a detailed report presented to then Secretary of the DNR George Meyer.



THIRD STREET WETLAND

Future Restoration Effort Highlighted at LWCA Annual Meeting January 10

LWCA is delighted that our January 10th Annual Meeting at the new Lussier Family Heritage Center will include a keynote presentation about the restoration effort being proposed for the Third Street Wetland. The program will include speakers Jeff Nania, Project Director of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, and Derek Strohl, Program Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association. The two organizations have worked together diligently over the last eight months to secure funding for the project

that could result in construction as early as spring 2002. The speakers will discuss the status of project funding, what will be involved in the restoration process, the wildlife and wetland functional benefits that are anticipated, and how LWCA can help. The talk will also include a slide presentation of other successful restoration projects. The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association spear-headed the restoration project at Dunn Heritage Park on the south side of Lake Waubesa in the summer of 1995.

For too many years, residents of the Waubesa Beach neighborhood, recreational lake users, and numerous individuals concerned with the health of Lake Waubesa have expressed their concern and frustration with upland runoff in the area just south of Christy's Landing. Rain events sending plumes of sediment into this shallow bay on the western shore of Lake Waubesa have become increasingly more frequent. The impacts on many of the homes along this stretch of shoreline are exacerbated by the rising lake levels and owners are literally being flooded from both sides. In addition, the increased deposition of phosphorus-laden material into the lake is filling up the bay and exotic weed growth conditions and water quality continue to deteriorate. It is hoped that restoration of the Third Street Wetland will help restore the functional values of the wetland system including flood abatement in this area, and enhance wildlife habitat.

During an LWCA strategic planning effort, the Third Street Wetland issue was singled out among numerous projects as deserving a special project committee status. Members of the "Third Street Wetland Committee" met on several occasions in 1996 to explore the potential for this restoration effort. With a number of promising funding programs, we hope that time is now.

It's Happening at the Lussier Family Heritage Center!

It's been a busy three months since we officially moved into the Lussier Family Heritage Center at Lake Farm County Park. Our very first event, a rehearsal dinner on Friday September 21st, was an elegant affair for thirty-five. Kitchen Hearth served the guests a delightful meal on china dinnerware, and the happy couple celebrated with champagne in crystal flutes.

Since then we've hosted such events as a wedding reception for 160, monthly meetings of the Ancient Earthworks Society, a Halloween party with over 50 ghosts and goblins, several all day training seminars and a strategic planning meeting. Future events include more wedding receptions, training programs, a family reunion, holiday and retirement parties, an open house for 300 guests, a new business launch reception, company picnics, and a variety of corporate meetings. As you can see, just about any event can be accommodated in our 2,300 square foot exhibit room.

Our own event on Saturday evening December 1st, a grand opening-fundraising dinner, was a huge success. Over one hundred guests socialized in the reception area

with the flames from the massive stone fireplace flickering in the background. Prior to the buffet dinner, catered by Lums, we were treated to a performance by Art Shegonee and his daughter, Maral, of the Madison Call For Peace Drum and Dance Company. The Native American music and dance was a touching reminder of the diverse cultural heritage of the Lake Farm Park area, emphasizing the vision of this beautiful facility.

Linda Mittnacht, Manager Lussier Family Heritage Center

For more information about how you can utilize the Heritage Center for your upcoming event, contact Linda at 224-3604 or e-mail: Mittnacht@co.dane.wi.us.



Thursday, January 10, 2002 – 7:00 P.M.

Lake Waubesa Conservation Association

ANNUAL MEETING



Lussier Family Heritage Center

Lake Farm County Park 3101 Lake Farm Road Madison, Wisconsin

(located 1 mile south of the Beltline.

Travel south on Southtown Drive,
left on Moorland at the Farm Tayern)

SPECIAL PANEL DISCUSSION AT 7 PM

"Proposed Changes to the County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance"
Featuring panelists from the Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission,
F.O.L.K.S. (Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society) and LWCA

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Jeff Nania, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association and Derek Strohl, Wisconsin Wetlands Association.

"Third Street Wetland Restoration"

Come hear the latest on what's planned for the restoration of this wetland near Waubesa's western shore. This presentation will include a slide show of other successful wetland projects undertaken by these two organizations!

DON'T MISS IT!!!!

ANNUAL ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominees for Board Positions Include:

Kitty Brussock, James Bowen, Sally Ann Miller, Judie Pfeifer, Tim Zinkgraf, and Scott Zimmermann.

<u>Continuing Board Members are</u>: Cal DeWitt, Dean Hein, Kevin Kesterson, Doug Kornetzke, Bill Lunney, Joe Lynch, NIK Meiers, Dale Ollhoff, Mark Pernitz, Judy Plambeck, Kathy Sitter, Stan Solheim, and Jan Zimmermann.

If you would like to be considered for nomination, or if you are interested in nominating someone for LWCA Board membership, please contact LWCA Treasurer, Judie Pfeifer at 222-0070 or Executive Director, Jan Zimmermann at 221-8423.

Proposed Changes to County Shoreland Zoning

Comment Period Extended to January 15, 2002

Lakes & Watershed to Appear at LWCA Annual Meeting

Selected members of the Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission will join members of LWCA and FOLKS (Friends of Lake Kegonsa) for a special panel discussion of the proposed changes to the Dane County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance at the January 10 LWCA Annual Meeting. The discussion will be preceded by a County staff powerpoint presentation, illustrating how these changes would change existing shoreland zoning in Dane County.

The Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission has extended the public comment period through January 15, 2002 to accommodate the feedback received from the LWCA meeting, so don't miss this opportunity to learn and ask questions!

What specific changes are proposed to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance?

The proposed amendments would make two major policy changes:

- 1. Bring the Dane County ordinances into compliance with recent changes to the state statutes signed into law as part of the 1999-2001 Biennial Budget requiring counties to permit "minor structures" within 75 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a navigable water body (such as gazebos or decks). Such structures would be permitted only if landowners restore a 37.5-foot wide buffer of natural vegetation along the shoreline
- 2. Strengthen language regarding removal of shoreline vegetation and expand the area where

such restrictions apply from 35 feet to 37.5 feet from the shore. A "grandfather clause" would exempt most areas (such as existing residential lawns or agricultural areas) where natural vegetation no longer exists. Changes to restrictions on vegetation removal would apply primarily to new development. However, once an area is left unmowed, uncut, or untilled for 12 months or more, the property would then be subject to the standards of this new amendment.

A number of other minor changes would be made to clarify the existing shoreland zoning policy.

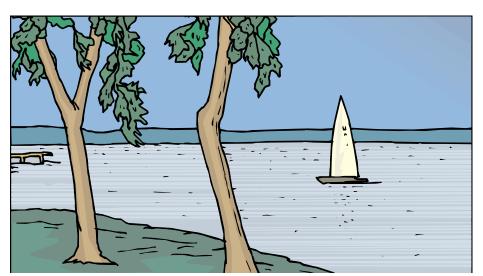
Who will be affected by the proposed changes?

Like most county ordinances, the shoreland zoning ordinance currently applies only to the unincorporated areas of Dane County (towns). For recently annexed lands, NR 115 does require that cities and villages apply standards that are at least as restrictive as the county's.

Through its Lakes & Watershed Commission, Dane County has unique authority granted by the state legislature to establish shoreland zoning standards that would apply within cities and villages. At the current time, the Commission has not yet decided whether to extend these new standards to cities and villages. Applying these standards within older developed areas in areas such as the Madison isthmus may be impractical due to the amount of development that has already occurred.

How do you feel about these proposed changes? To add your voice to others, please attend the LWCA Annual meeting on January 10 at the Lussier Family Heritage Center. You can also mail your comments to Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission, Room 421 City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd, Madison, WI 53703-3345 or e-mail your feedback to: jones.susan@co.dane.wi.us. Questions on the substance of the proposal should be directed to Brian Standing at 267-4115 or Sue Jones at 267-0118.

A complete text of the proposed amendment and an explanation of the proposed changes can be found at www.co.dane.wi.us/commissions/lakes/activities.htm.



Erratic Levels On Our Yahara Lakes

Diverse Panel Ponders Causes, Effects, Solutions

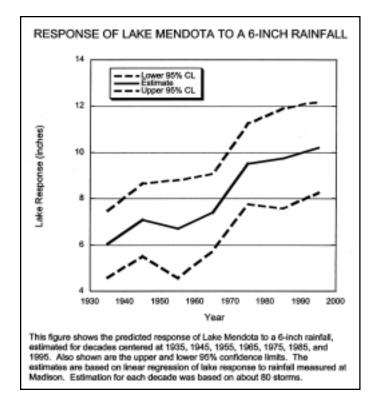
Storm and drought events alike over the last 15 years have demonstrated that something is amiss with the Yahara Lakes' ability to maintain any semblance of equilibrium. 100-year floods seem to be occurring every year or two, and our delicate lake and river system cannot respond as it should or has in the past. As a result a great deal of community concern and attention has been focused on this and other water level issues. Members of the Yahara Lakes Association have received two newsletters in recent months that have included extensive coverage about the seriousness of these flooding impacts, proposing potential short and long term solutions in an exchange of letters with Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk.

This heightened awareness motivated the DNR to invite a select group of about 25 individuals to explore this perplexing topic and to brainstorm about potential solutions. The group is being spearheaded by Ken Johnson, the DNR's Rock River basin manager. The basis for this series of meetings stems from the DNR's authority under Section 31.02 Wisc. stats to establish and enforce minimum and maximum water levels in the Yahara Lakes in the "public interest."

The panel, named the "Yahara Lakes Advisory Group," includes representatives from area public works and planning agencies, town and county supervisors from affected districts, DNR water resources staff, hydrologists, fisher groups, fisheries biologists, and lake organizations (including LWCA). The draft mission statement which continues to evolve is:

"YLAG will evaluate the existing lake level operating orders for Lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa, and the Stoughton Millpond. YLAG will evaluate both individual changes to lakes and operation





of the Yahara River Basin and its lakes as a system. Consideration will be given to the following: (1) potential for flooding reduction; (2) sanitary sewer infiltration; (3) shoreline erosion; (4) fish and wildlife habitat; (5) recreation; (6) impact of future development; (7) economic implications; and (8) natural scenic beauty"

In the context of this mission, YLAG will investigate a range of topics that will assist them in carrying out their mission. YLAG plans to meet regularly over the next six months. The group hopes to conclude its deliberations and make its recommendations by spring or summer 2002.

The Yahara lakes have been regulated in one form or another for over 150 years. Construction and regulation of the dams was originally the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission and the Public Service Commission who set

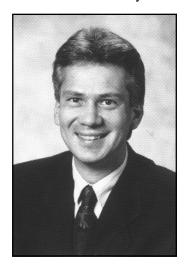
operating orders as early as 1917. Lake Mendota was originally raised 4.5 feet circa 1840 and the original dam operated as a gristmill for most of the 19th century. The Babcock lock and dam, which operates in free flow for much of the year, controls Lakes Monona and Waubesa. Yet during low flow conditions, this dam has a significant effect on lake levels, habitat, and the flow of the Yahara River. Like Monona and Waubesa, Lake Kegonsa is also controlled by a dam that is in free flow for much of the year. Operating orders for these dams, which have been reissued through the years, remained largely unchanged. The DNR most recently issued a series of orders in 1979.

CONSERVATION FUND

In Danger or Not? Maybe?

- Kevin Kesterson, Dane County Board Chair

Despite a 76% approval rating from Dane County taxpayers in 1999 to spend an additional \$30 million over 10 years on parks and conservancy lands, the \$3 million included in the County Executive's proposed 2002 budget



for the New Conservation Fund was supposedly in danger of being dropped, or reduced this year. It's a fair question to ask what's up.

What **is** up?

First of all, the Conservation Fund is a large, separate pot of money. It is still seen by some County Supervisors as a good political tool to threaten to gain other things they want in the budget, or to, in fact, raid.

Secondly, and perhaps most confusing, is the way the referendum approval was implemented. Instead of simply adding \$3 million dollars per year to the Conservation Fund, in effect \$3 million dollars was taken **away** from other County priorities. Like many other Supervisors, I read the referendum results as the majority of taxpayers telling us to go ahead and add \$3 million dollars per year

for 10 years to our budget for purposes of buying land. In effect, a tax increase was approved for this purpose.

Have your taxes gone up because of this? The answer is a resounding NO! While taxes not going up is generally a very good thing, it this case it has ramifications that were unintended. Because the County Executive and County budget staff chose to take the additional \$3 million annually out of our existing base, it means that other Departments including Human Services, and the Sheriff have had to cut back to implement the fund. It means the referendum had the effect of cutting every Dane County budget except Parks. I don't think that is what you as voters intended; it certainly isn't what my vote meant.

Is the Conservation Fund actually in any danger? Again a resounding NO! A core group of Supervisors, including myself, have been, and always will be firmly against cutting the fund. Despite all the early hoopla over the 'threat' to the fund, a cut was never even proposed during our Board budget deliberations.

Could it be in danger in the future? Maybe. We are rapidly reaching a point where further cuts to other Departmental budgets will have a negative impact on services to the most vulnerable citizens in this community. If we continue to take this fund out of the County base budget, it may very well end up being a decision that pits real people and their needs against land, at some point in the near future.

I hope this never happens, but we need to be wary, and protective of the fund. Believe me, I don't mind the calls supporting it every year - it's nice to be able to tell you I'm voting for something we all want!

Frustrations of Refinancing As a Lake Property Owner A New Hidden Cost

By Dan Hartwig, Yahara Lakes Assn. Board

As I discovered recently, we Lake Waubesa residents are all in a flood plain, at least according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). That was particularly surprising to me since our house is on a hill about 14 feet above the high water mark. I figured if we ever flooded, Madison wouldn't be around anymore anyway.

When we refinanced our house a few months ago, I was told by the bank that we needed flood insurance. I tried talking them out of it by inviting them over to see how far above the lake we really were. I was told that the Federal government had created regulations (1974 Flood Disaster Protection Act and 1993 Reform Act)* that essentially said anyone in a flood plain must have private flood insurance so the government won't have to repeatedly bail out the

victims of floods. The enforcement of these requirements was not effective, and with the extensive flooding around the country in recent years, the banking industry stepped up enforcement by reviewing all financing of real property. Banks are now allowed to resell a mortgage, or in many cases even write the loan, on a property in a flood plain without flood insurance.

After receiving flood insurance quotes of around \$1800, I decided to challenge the notion our house was in a flood plain. I discovered that the banking industry contracts with a third party to make determinations of which property is in a flood plain.

I called this third party company in Texas and was sent an old FEMA map that was so out of scale I could see why they couldn't delineate the real flood plain boundary.

I needed a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) to request that they re-designate our property. To obtain that, I needed an Elevation Certificate. I called the 22 surveyors in the phone book. Many never heard of such a thing and



Proposed Personal Watercraft Ordinance

Commission Hears Public Comment

- Information Provided by County Sup. Mark Opitz

About 40 individuals testified this past Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at a heated but civil public hearing held by the Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission. The hearing, held in the County Board chambers at the City-County Building, invited public comment on County Board Supervisor Tom Powell's proposal to create a new chapter in the Dane County Code of Ordinances to regulate personal watercraft use on Dane County waters. The proposal would prohibit operation of personal watercraft on Dane County waters except Lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa, where use would be permitted as follows:

- Operation limited to 11 AM to 4 PM Monday through Saturday
- Operation prohibited Sunday
- Operation permitted on the Yahara River downstream from Lake Mendota and upstream from Lake Kegonsa at slow-no-wake speed.

About 2/3 to 3/4 of the individuals testifying at the 2-1/2 hour hearing opposed the proposed ordinance. The main arguments on both sides were:

For the proposed ordinance

- Objectionable pitch and variable nature of noise levels from the craft
- Pollution emissions and water quality impacts
- ♦ Safety concerns
- Looping activity which keeps craft in same vicinity rather than moving across an area of the lake.

Against the proposed ordinance

- Proposed operation limited to hours when people are not able to recreate
- ◆ Users are already bound by no-wake zone ordinance
- ◆ Refute commonly held views on craft safety history
- Technology in last 5 years significantly reduced emissions
- ♦ Hurts tourism

◆ Favors sone user groups over others. Should other user groups have operation times (canoes, kayaks)?

During the hearing, an interesting question was posed to the audience by Dane County Sup. Brett Hulsey. Through a show of hands, a positive response from the majority of the audience on both sides was given in support of requiring users to have a license to operate personal watercraft.

The Lakes & Watershed Commission took no action on the ordinance proposal. The public comment period has been extended to December 31, 2001. The proposal will next be taken up by the Commission at its February 13, 2002 meeting and will likely be referred to the Commission's Regulations and Standards Subcommittee for further study.

Comments can be directed by mail to Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission, Room 421 City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Madison, WI 53703-3345 or e-mail: jones.susan@co.dane.wi.us. A complete text of the proposed ordinance can be found at www.co.dane.wi.us/commissions/lakes/activities.htm.

Refinancing (cont' from pg. 8)

weren't real interested in hearing about it either. Some had heard of it and said they wouldn't "mess with it". Two firms gave me a quote of around \$1600 with no guarantee the results would yield a re-designation. The price was so high mainly because no one wants to work on these government forms and there was no elevation benchmark near Waubesa Beach. This was getting expensive. I'm now into my 4th week of calling everyone in local, state and federal agencies.

I even got desperate and called Jan Zimmermann who learned from a DNR specialist that FEMA is in the process of updating the flood plain maps (see footnote). I eventually found a surveyor who would do the certificate and create a local benchmark. He verified that we were

indeed 13.7 feet above flood plain. Documents were recently submitted to the third party company for review and I'm hopeful they will grant my request. For those of you who will go through this in the future, there is now a benchmark nearby so you only have to budget an extra \$800 or so to obtain your re-financing.

*According to Sue Josheff, Wisconsin DNR Dam Safety Engineer, FEMA has contracted with an engineering firm to have the 100-year flood elevations reviewed on the Yahara Lakes system. As part of that study, new 100-flood elevations may or may not result. Dane County is developing new contour maps in many areas of the County. These contour maps will be used to delineate the 100-year flood elevations for those area. These maps should eliminate a lot of the delineation errors.



Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Madison, WI Permit No. 2444

🏞 Printed on recycled paper

LWCA MISSION STATEMENT

To engage in informational and educational activities required to preserve and enhance the land, air, and water resources in and surrounding Lake Waubesa to ensure a quality environment.

LAKE WAUBESA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 6521 • Madison, WI 53716 • (608) 221-8423 Web: www.lakewaubesa.org

web. www.lakewaubesa.org

"Lake Currents" is published periodically by The Lake Waubesa Conservation Association, Inc. for the benefit of Association members and supporters.

Board of Directors and Officers

Scott Zimmermann, President Kevin Kesterson Doug Kornetzke James Bowen, Vice President Judy Plambeck, Secretary Bill Lunney Judie Pfeifer, Treasurer Joe Lynch Sally Ann Miller, Executive Committee **NIK Meiers** Jan Zimmermann, Executive Director Dale Ollhoff Kitty Brussock Mark Pernitz Cal DeWitt Kathy Sitter Stan Solheim Dean Hein Tim Zinkgraf

Newsletter Committee Members: Judie Pfeifer (chair), Sally Miller, Kitty Brussock, Kevin Kesterson, Kathy Sitter, Scott Zimmermann, Tim Zinkgraf and Jan Zimmermann (editor)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the Lake Waubesa Conservation Association is free. However, what we do to further the objectives of the association is not. We continue to operate with an all-volunteer effort in furthering LWCA goals.

The Lake Waubesa Conservation Association is a non-stock, non-profit corporation. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

عد عد عد عد عد عد

We encourage new people, new ideas, and talent to get involved with LWCA activities. If you have ideas to share, or would like to become more involved, please call Jan Zimmermann at 221-8423. Visit our Web site at www.lakewaubesa.org for the latest information and current opportunities.

