

Dodge County

boating and recreation; quality of life in the County which may attract new residents to grow the County tax base;

- Healthy lake with improved water quality will maintain and improve property values for all;
- A lake district has the strength to take action to address issues so that all can enjoy the lake; ability to develop and implement lake management plans and projects;
- Promote public health by encouraging water activities/recreation; will attract people to the area, tourism; and,
- Coordinated efforts, working in collaboration with farmers and agricultural associations to address run-off, fertilizers/phosphorus (natural and chemical) entering the lake.

Following are excerpts of testimony **opposed** to the formation of the lake district:

- Don't want another tax; all properties in the area should be included not just those parcels that touch the lake;
- Algae blooms are due to non-point source pollution; fertilizer; run-off from farm fields; bad farming practices like spreading treated sewage on fields;
- Object to the petition process; signatures were not obtained in a timely fashion; petitioners made false promises and engaged in a sales job to get signatures;
- The lake is a marsh and cannot be fixed; lake district will not eliminate the algae, bullheads, carp, weeds;
- Need to address the entire watershed in order to address the water quality;
- City of Beaver Dam storm sewers discharge into the lake; this needs to be addressed to improve water quality; double tax on water discharge;
- Many sources contribute to lake problems, everyone (local community, businesses, general public, lake property owners) benefits from improved water quality and a healthy lake; everyone is responsible for the care of the lake; burden should not just be on lake property owners; lake property taxes are already too high; don't want to pay more taxes; and,
- Another government entity; duplication of government; let the DNR take care of the lake; enforce regulations to improve water quality.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce submitted a resolution in support of the formation of the lake district (Attachment No. 6).

FINDINGS

Based on a review of the Petition submitted on September 10, 2019, requesting the formation of the Beaver Dam Lake District, the validation process undertaken by staff of the signatures included on the Petition, the Public Hearing testimony offered on October 3, 2019, a review of the complete transcript of the Public Hearing, a review of all timely submitted written statements/comments, the Land Resources and Parks Committee hereby finds that there is sufficient evidence to support the following findings:

1. **The Petition is signed by the requisite number of owners of land in the proposed district.** According to the 2018 tax rolls for the affected taxing districts, there are 1,399 landowners in the proposed district. The total number of signatures needed to achieve at

least 51% of landowners in the proposed district is 714. The total number of valid signatures obtained is 730.

2. **The proposed district is necessary.** The Committee heard testimony describing the limitations of a lake association organization and the benefits of forming a lake district. Testimony was presented indicating that it is now necessary to form a district to overcome the limitations of an association. The district, as a formal, recognized unit of government governed by statute with representation by all property owners within the boundaries, is necessary for the establishment and advancement of the lake management plans and priorities to provide the best opportunity to improve the quality of the lake for the benefit of all. The district will have access to grant and other funding to implement lake management plans and priorities as decided by the owners within the district.
3. **Public health, comfort, convenience, necessity of public welfare will be promoted by the establishment of the proposed district.** The Committee heard testimony describing the benefits to the public health and welfare to be gained by improving water quality, controlling algae blooms by addressing erosion and run-off into the lake and controlling aquatic invasive species. In addition to the benefits to the lake property owners, the general public is benefited by access to a healthy lake for water recreational activities, potential increase in tourism which in turn may benefit local businesses and increase state and local sales tax revenues. There is agreement, even by those opposed, that the lake is degraded. The Committee believes that the formation of the district provides the best opportunity to address water quality, algae blooms, aquatic invasive species and other lake concerns.
4. **The property proposed to be included in the proposed district will be benefited by the establishment of the proposed district.** On the whole, parcels included in the proposed district will benefit by its formation. Property owners within the proposed district are afforded representation to establish plans, priorities and an annual budget to promote improved water quality, fish and wildlife habitats, control aquatic invasive species and to promote collaboration among stakeholders.
5. **The proposed boundaries of the district are as described on the attached map/sketch.** (Attachment No. 7).

RECOMMENDATION

The Land Resources and Parks Committee does hereby recommend to the Dodge County Board of Supervisors that, by County Board Resolution, an Order be issued to establish the Beaver Dam Lake District, and that the district be established with the same boundaries as those proposed in the original Petition to form the Beaver Dam Lake District (Attachment No. 6).

The Land Resources and Parks Committee does further recommend that the Dodge County Board of Supervisors require the district to provide a legal description identifying the district boundaries and lands to be included, consistent with the parcels listed in the Petition.