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MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND  
UW-EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

on the

CRESCENT LAKE PROTECTION  
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

PLACE: Oneida County Courthouse  
County Board Room/2nd Floor  
1 S. Oneida Avenue  
Rhinelander, WI 54501

and

Via Zoom Video Conferencing

DATE: Saturday, January 9, 2021

TIME: 1:00 p.m. - 2:57 p.m.

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APPEARANCES

Conservation and UW-Extension Education Committee

Members:

Bob Mott, Committee Chair, via Zoom

Jim Winkler, Vice Chair

Mitchell Ives

Robert Thome, via Zoom

Attorney Brian Desmond, Oneida County Corporation

Counsel, via Zoom

Karl Jennrich, Director of Planning & Zoning

Michele Sadauskas, County Conservationist, via

Zoom

Baerbel Ehrig, via Zoom

Jonna Jewell

Meredith Kroening, Court Reporter, via Zoom

Karen Grossbier, Grossbier & Associates, Inc., via  
Zoom

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MR. BOB MOTT: I'm going to call to order the meeting of the UW-Extension Conservation Committee. I'll entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

When speaking today please state your name, when making a motion or seconding a motion or asking a question or commenting.

So at that I will entertain a motion to approve today's agenda.

MR. JIM WINKLER: Motion --

MR. BOB THOME: This is Bob Thome.

MR. JIM WINKLER: (Inaudible) -- today's agenda.

MR. BOB THOME: This is Bob Thome. I'll second that.

MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. So Jim Winkler moved, and Bob Thome seconded. All in favor say aye.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. BOB MOTT: Opposed?

Hearing none, motion carries, and the agenda is approved.

I'd like to make a brief statement. The Oneida County Board assigns the duty of

1 presenting for public hearing any request for a  
2 proposed lake district. Our purpose today is  
3 to allow citizens to comment on the proposed  
4 Crescent Lake Protection and Rehabilitation  
5 District.

6 People commenting should state their  
7 name and address slowly and clearly for the  
8 court reporter. Also try to be respectful of  
9 the event that's happening today and other  
10 people's opinions.

11 I'd like our committee and staff to  
12 introduce themselves. I'll start. I'm Bob  
13 Mott, a county board member and chairman of the  
14 committee.

15 Let's go to Jim.

16 MR. JIM WINKLER: I'm Jim Winkler.  
17 I'm a member of this committee, and I represent  
18 Newbold.

19 MR. BOB MOTT: Mitch?

20 MR. MITCH IVES: I'm Mitch Ives,  
21 District 12 county board supervisor, which is  
22 part of the Crescent area. Also the county  
23 representative for the lake district, Horsehead  
24 Lake District in Lake Tomahawk.

25 MR. BOB MOTT: Bob?

1                   MR. BOB THOME: Hi. Bob Thome. I'm  
2 county supervisor and a member of this  
3 committee. My district is District 11, which  
4 is the Town of Crescent. And I am also a  
5 county representative on the Bear Lake  
6 District.

7                   MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you. I'll also  
8 chime in with the districts that I'm a board  
9 member of. I'm a board member of the Squash  
10 Lake District and also of the Mid Lake  
11 District. And those are positions that come  
12 through our conservation committee. That's how  
13 we are assigned to those different districts.

14                   Staff, Baerbel.

15                   MS. BAERBEL EHRIG: Yes, hello. My  
16 name is Baerbel Ehrig. I'm working with Oneida  
17 County Land and Water Conservation Department.  
18 And I'm helping to host this meeting today.  
19 Thank you.

20                   MR. BOB MOTT: Michele.

21                   MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Good  
22 afternoon, everyone. Michele Sadauskas, Oneida  
23 County Conservationist. I just want to say  
24 welcome to everyone. And I am also helping out  
25 on the Zoom end of things. So we'll try to

1 help everyone as much as we can at this end.

2 MR. BOB MOTT: Karl.

3 MR. KARL JENNRICH: Karl Jennrich,  
4 Planning and Zoning Conservation Director.

5 MR. BOB MOTT: Brian.

6 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: I'm Brian Desmond.  
7 I am Corporation Counsel for Oneida County.

8 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. Is there anyone  
9 else, Michele, that we should speak to?

10 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: I think  
11 we're -- yep. Jonna's --

12 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. And Brian is  
13 going to speak next. He'll talk about the  
14 procedure of the hearing, talk about the court  
15 reporter and so on.

16 So, Brian, take it away.

17 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: Thank you.  
18 Today's hearing is going to be a public hearing  
19 on the proposed lake district for Crescent  
20 Lake. Today's hearing is for the committee to  
21 take comments on whether people are either in  
22 favor or against the proposal for the lake  
23 district.

24 I should tell you that today is not  
25 the day that any decision will be made on this

1 lake district petition. After today's hearing  
2 the land conservation committee has three  
3 months within which they need to provide a  
4 formal report to the county board.

5 That report will contain information  
6 from this public hearing. It will review and  
7 verify the signatures and report to the board  
8 whether or not the 51 percent of the landowners  
9 or 51 percent of the land in the proposed  
10 district, if those measures have been met.

11 Today is also not a time for question  
12 and answers from the public. Again, this is  
13 merely a time for the public to let the  
14 committee know what their feelings and thoughts  
15 are on this proposed lake district.

16 I should also note that if someone has  
17 already stated what you wanted to say about the  
18 lake district, it's perfectly acceptable to say  
19 that you agree, you know, with either someone  
20 who has spoken for the lake district or someone  
21 who has spoken against the lake district, in  
22 order to keep these things orderly. We  
23 certainly don't need a lot of repetition.  
24 You're certainly allowed to do that if you  
25 wish. But I think a lot of people here,

1       whether for or against, will probably have the  
2       same reasoning.

3                 Lastly, within six months of today's  
4       public hearing, the county board is required to  
5       make a decision on whether or not to have this  
6       lake district formed. So, once they get that  
7       report, they'll have at least three months to  
8       consider it and come to a decision at a formal  
9       county board meeting.

10                So that county board meeting will be  
11       posted. I assume that the land and water  
12       conservation department will give notice to --  
13       I believe his name is Mr. Peterson, who is in  
14       charge of this lake district petition, so that  
15       the word can get out as to when that meeting is  
16       going to be.

17                We do have time limits today when  
18       people are speaking. First off, we will give  
19       ten minutes to Mr. Peterson and his group that  
20       has proposed this lake district so that they  
21       can give, I guess, what we could term a  
22       thorough explanation as to why they undertook  
23       this process and why they believe that it is  
24       necessary.

25                After Mr. Peterson or the proponents'



1 time, we will also give time to any town  
2 officials that would like to speak on behalf of  
3 the municipality. We will give those folks  
4 five minutes.

5 We will also give five minutes to  
6 anyone who represents a group of individuals.  
7 That could be a group that is represented to  
8 speak for or against the petition.

9 And then we would ask that if you're  
10 going to represent a group or a municipality  
11 that you identify which group or municipality  
12 you are representing so that we have your  
13 comments clear in the record.

14 Then all other individuals will be  
15 given three minutes to speak to the board  
16 committee, if they so choose to make comments,  
17 whether they are for or against this petition.

18 As we have already stressed -- and you  
19 can probably tell by my tone of voice and the  
20 cadence of my speech -- please speak slowly and  
21 clearly as the court reporter needs to write  
22 down your name and your comments. That's very  
23 important here today. The court reporter's  
24 record will be made part of the official record  
25 of these proceedings as well as any of the

1 comment forms that were filled out today and  
2 the paper slips that people used to register to  
3 speak today.

4 I think that's all that I have to say  
5 here at this point. If I need to step in at  
6 any point for any legal reasons, I will  
7 certainly do that. And I hope that we can  
8 proceed with this in an orderly fashion.

9 I believe that Bob is now going to  
10 give us a short overview of the lake district  
11 formation process, and I will let Bob take the  
12 meeting back over at this point in time.

13 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you, Brian.

14 I'd like to stress that, try to keep  
15 background noise to a minimum. One of the  
16 things that the court reporter was a little  
17 concerned about was background noise and not  
18 being able to hear clearly the statements  
19 you're making. So far it's been great.

20 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: Bob?

21 MR. BOB MOTT: Yes.

22 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: The court reporter  
23 has asked me to just be aware that she may need  
24 a break or breaks at some point, depending on  
25 how long this meeting goes. If that needs to

1 happen, I will ask the court reporter to make  
2 you aware of that. We may need a five- to  
3 ten-minute break, or breaks, just depending on  
4 how this meeting proceeds.

5 MR. BOB MOTT: That would be fine.  
6 Thank you, Brian.

7 And also note that, again, no decision  
8 will be made today. We're just taking public  
9 comment. And Brian will be the timekeeper.

10 Okay. Now I'm going to read the  
11 overview of the lake district formation  
12 process. A lake district can be formed by  
13 landowners petition to the county board.

14 The Oneida County Board -- or Oneida  
15 County received a petition from the Crescent  
16 Lake District on December 14, 2020. The county  
17 board appointed the Conservation and  
18 UW-Extension Education Committee to conduct the  
19 public hearing. By law, land and water  
20 conservation department must hold a public  
21 hearing on the proposed lake district within 30  
22 days of receipt of the petition.

23 A class 1 notice of the public hearing  
24 was published in the Northwoods River News on  
25 December 18, 2020.

1           This public hearing is designed to  
2           accept public comments on the proposed lake  
3           district. No decision will be made on that  
4           today.

5           The committee is required to report  
6           its findings to the county board within three  
7           months of the hearing.

8           Within six months of the hearing, the  
9           full Oneida County Board is required to issue  
10          an order granting or denying the petition to  
11          form a lake district.

12          In order for a county board to create  
13          the lake district, the petition must be signed  
14          by either 51 percent of the owners of land  
15          within the proposed district or the owners of  
16          51 percent of the land area within the proposed  
17          district.

18          Each person whose name appears as an  
19          owner of real property on the previous year's  
20          tax roll is qualified to sign.

21          The county board is required to issue  
22          a decision based on the following four  
23          findings, number one, that the petition is  
24          signed by the requisite number of owners;  
25          number two, that the district is necessary;

1 number three, that the public health, comfort,  
2 convenience, necessity of public welfare will  
3 be promoted by the establishment of the  
4 district; and number four, that the property  
5 included in the district will be benefited by  
6 the district's establishment.

7 I'd like to introduce Oneida County  
8 Conservationist Michele Sadauskas. And she is  
9 talking -- she will talk now about the  
10 registration process, order of speakers and so  
11 on. Michele.

12 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Thank you,  
13 Bob. Good afternoon, everyone. I just want to  
14 give a quick overview here.

15 We requested those that wanted to  
16 testify to fill out registration slips. So if  
17 you came in and are in the county board room,  
18 those registration slips were at the front  
19 right when you entered.

20 Also, for those participants on Zoom,  
21 we were asking those people that wanted to  
22 actually testify to chat with us or just raise  
23 their hand or say something. So we've got -- I  
24 think, to my count right now, we have 20 people  
25 registered to testify.

1           You also may -- with those slips you  
2 do not only have to testify. You can also just  
3 go on record for or against the lake district.  
4 And that's perfectly fine, too. So you  
5 wouldn't actually be speaking at the public  
6 hearing here. But you would be going on record  
7 in favor or of -- in opposition of the lake  
8 district, the formation of the lake district.

9           I'm not going to repeat the times.  
10 Brian went through the time limits. My  
11 understanding also is that Brian Desmond is  
12 keeping -- timekeeping for the speakers.

13           And I want to stress also what Brian  
14 Desmond had said earlier. If -- it is  
15 perfectly fine to agree with an earlier  
16 speaker, that there's nothing wrong with that  
17 instead of being repetitive. But if you feel  
18 that you want to, you know, testify and be  
19 repetitive, that's okay, too.

20           So I think that's all I have here. I  
21 do have an order list of 20. And, at the end  
22 of our registration slips, we will ask for  
23 anybody that did not sign one of those  
24 registration slips.

25           So you do not have to have a

1 registration slip to speak. We just try to  
2 keep things orderly here. And we'll make sure  
3 that we'll be asking for those wanting to speak  
4 to please do so. And we will be getting names  
5 and addresses down. So just bear with us if we  
6 don't have a form in hand with you.

7 MR. BOB MOTT: Anything else, Michele?

8 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: I think  
9 that'll do it.

10 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. And the order is  
11 determined by when the people registered?

12 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Correct. They  
13 could phone in and register this past week. So  
14 we have quite a number of people that did that  
15 during the week and from twelve o'clock to one  
16 o'clock on Zoom. So we've got a fairly good  
17 order here. But yes, time-wise.

18 MR. BOB MOTT: Very good. Thank you  
19 very much. Now I'll officially open the public  
20 hearing for the proposed Crescent Lake  
21 protection and rehabilitation district.

22 I'm going to call on Karl Jennrich,  
23 who is the director of Oneida County Planning &  
24 Development. And he will read the official  
25 public hearing notice. Karl.

1           MR. KARL JENNRICH: Good afternoon and  
2 welcome. My name is Karl Jennrich, as I stated  
3 previously. I am the director.

4           And I apologize to the court reporter.  
5 I have a habit of reading very fast. So if you  
6 do need some of this information, it is  
7 available that we can get it to you as far as  
8 some of the legal descriptions and the comments  
9 that I'm making.

10           Notice is hereby given that the  
11 Conservation and UW-Extension Education  
12 Committee will hold a public hearing on January  
13 9, 2021, actually, in committee room number 2  
14 of the Oneida County Courthouse. We also do  
15 have overflow in committee room number 2. And  
16 we also are doing this meeting virtually via  
17 Zoom.

18           The boundaries of the proposed --  
19 again, this is for a public hearing for the  
20 formation of the Crescent Lake District. The  
21 boundaries of the proposed district are as  
22 follows.

23           The boundary described herein for the  
24 Crescent Lake District, the district, lies  
25 wholly within Section 7, Section 8, Section 16,



1 Section 17, Section 18, Section 20, and Section  
2 21 Township 36 North, Range 8 East, in the Town  
3 of Crescent, Oneida County, Wisconsin. The  
4 district consists of riparian properties within  
5 the district boundary.

6 GIS mapping, available Oneida County  
7 survey maps, and available Oneida County  
8 Register of Deeds documents were used to  
9 transcribe the boundary description. Where  
10 appropriate, the specific survey map and/or  
11 document are referenced with the description.  
12 Some boundary locations were additionally  
13 referenced to ensure the proper location was  
14 noted.

15 The district generally described as --  
16 the district boundary is generally described as  
17 follows. Part of Government Lot 1 lying in  
18 Section 7 Township 36 North, Range 8 East; part  
19 of Government Lot 3, part of Government Lot 4,  
20 part of Government Lot 6, part of Government  
21 Lot 7, all lying in Section 8 Township 36  
22 North, Range 8 East; part of Government Lot 1,  
23 part of Government Lot --

24 COURT REPORTER KROENING: Excuse me  
25 just a moment. Somebody's speaker is not

1 muted, and so it's cutting out the man  
2 speaking.

3 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you.

4 MR. KARL JENNRICH: Part of Government  
5 Lot -- sorry. I may be rereading this. Part  
6 of Government Lot 1, part of Government Lot 2,  
7 part of Government Lot 9, and part of  
8 Government Lot 10, all lying in Section 16  
9 Township 36 North, Range 8 East; part of  
10 Government Lot 1, part of Government Lot 2,  
11 part of Government Lot 3, part of Government  
12 Lot 4, 5, 6, all lying in Section 17 Township  
13 36 North, Range 8 East; part of Government Lot  
14 1, part of Government Lot 4, part of Government  
15 Lot 5, all lying in Section 18 Township 36  
16 North, Range 8 East; part of Government Lot 1,  
17 part of Government Lot 2, part of Government  
18 Lot 3, part of Government Lot 4, part of  
19 Government Lot 5, all lying in Section 20  
20 Township 36 North, Range 8 East; part of  
21 Government Lot 1, all of Government Lot 3, part  
22 of Government Lot 4, part of Government Lot 9,  
23 and part of Government Lot 10, all lying in  
24 Section 21 Township 36 North, Range 8 East.

25 This was published. And it was

1 published as a Class 1 notice, which means only  
2 one insertion in the local paper. But it  
3 was -- a Class 1 notice appeared on the  
4 Northwoods River News December 18, 2020. I do  
5 have proof of publication in the file if anyone  
6 would like to see that.

7 The agenda was posted on Oneida County  
8 Courthouse bulletin board on December 20, 2020.  
9 It was also point -- posted on the Oneida  
10 County Lakes -- or the OCLW.org website in  
11 2020. It was also on the Crescent Lake  
12 proposed lake district page of the public  
13 hearing notice, Squash Lake District public  
14 notice, Squash Lake map of area entire copy of  
15 the submission.

16 No certified letters were mailed. We  
17 did send first class mail. 278 first class  
18 letters were mailed to all Crescent Lake  
19 District landowners during the week of December  
20 14, 2020.

21 If letters are returned -- and as of  
22 today, as of 12-30-2020, eight first class  
23 letters were returned, five letters stating not  
24 deliverable, one letter stating no such number,  
25 and one letter having a forwarding address.

1 Each letter was identified with a new address  
2 and re-sent by first class mail on or before  
3 December 30, 2020.

4 We received one written request to  
5 withdraw their name from the petition, and  
6 that's part of the file. We received various  
7 e-mail comments in favor and in opposition.  
8 Seven persons sent their comments in favor of  
9 the Crescent Lake District, two with  
10 attachments, and one sent in comments in  
11 opposition to the Crescent Lake with  
12 attachments.

13 We also -- as Michele stated, we just  
14 also did have -- I think approximately ten  
15 people called in to register in favor. Two  
16 people called to register in opposition.

17 15 persons called to register to  
18 testify in favor of the Crescent Lake. Five of  
19 those 15 sent a written copy of their  
20 statement.

21 We also document -- we also  
22 e-mailed -- documents were e-mailed to the  
23 following persons. I'm not going to read the  
24 list. It's very voluminous.

25 We also gave notice to staff, Mike

1 Romportl, information; Brian Desmond,  
2 corporation counsel; Grossbier & Associates,  
3 who is the court reporter; Ryan Peterson, who  
4 submitted the petition.

5 The lake comments for the public  
6 record that are in favor, I'm not going to read  
7 the comments into the record, but they are  
8 available here.

9 We have an e-mail from Mark and  
10 Melissa M-e-r-g-e-n-t-h-a-l-r, December 29,  
11 2020 in favor; an e-mail, Monday, January 4,  
12 2021 from Tim Kilgore, in favor, with an  
13 attachment; an e-mail from Terry Goldbach  
14 January 7, 2021, also an e-mail attached of  
15 their presentation in favor; e-mail dated  
16 January 7, 2021 from David Akin, A-k-i-n, in  
17 favor; an e-mail dated January 7, 2021 from  
18 Mark and Amy Peterson in favor; an e-mail  
19 from -- dated January 7, 2021 from Harvey Wolff  
20 in favor.

21 And then we just received this one --  
22 or it was, actually, Friday, January 8, 2021.  
23 And this was in favor for Richard Lower. And I  
24 did see on the screen, I think he's present.  
25 But that was really talking about his

1 presentation in favor.

2 We have one e-mail -- sorry, e-mail in  
3 opposition. And it says, from Tom and Jane  
4 Meyer, not in favor.

5 And that is the -- the summary of the  
6 written correspondence and the notice of public  
7 hearing. So I think that is all I have to say.  
8 Thank you.

9 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: Bob, you're muted.

10 MR. BOB MOTT: Another question --  
11 thank you, Brian. Another question for you,  
12 Karl, regarding the publication of the notice.  
13 You said it was in the River News, I believe.  
14 And then after that you mentioned, I believe,  
15 Squash Lake. Was it -- did you mean Crescent  
16 Lake?

17 MR. KARL JENNRICH: Yes. That was a  
18 good catch, Bob.

19 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. Thank you very  
20 much. All right. Let's continue.

21 So now we'll have a representative of  
22 the proposed landowner's district to give the  
23 petitioner's statement. The group will be  
24 given ten minutes in total to discuss the need  
25 for the district. Several people may speak,

1 but the total time allotted will still be ten  
2 minutes. And Brian Desmond will be the time  
3 keeper for this.

4 Ryan Peterson, I'm assuming, will be  
5 speaking. Is that correct?

6 MR. KARL JENNRICH: He's coming  
7 forward.

8 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay.

9 MR. RYAN PETERSON: Yes. Myself and  
10 Jim Gehrke will be speaking on behalf of the  
11 subcommittee.

12 MR. BOB MOTT: Court reporter, are you  
13 hearing properly?

14 COURT REPORTER KROENING: Yes. I'm  
15 sure once they get up to the mic I will be able  
16 to hear them better, yes.

17 MR. BOB MOTT: All right. Great.  
18 Thank you.

19 MR. JIM GEHRKE: And I'm removing this  
20 because perhaps my speech will be more clear at  
21 that point. First, I want to say my name is  
22 Jim Gehrke. And I live at 6714 Melody Lane,  
23 Rhinelander.

24 And I have been a resident of Oneida  
25 County for 31 years. I have served on the

1 Crescent Lake Association board for 22 years.  
2 The last several years I've served as the  
3 aquatic invasive species coordinator.

4 And we're very, very, very excited to  
5 be here today. We have a lot of things that we  
6 would like to tell you in as short of time as  
7 we have. So I will be talking a little bit  
8 quickly because I've given a printed copy of my  
9 comments to people here so that they don't have  
10 to rely just on what they heard and recollect.

11 Our whole approach to invasive species  
12 on Crescent Lake has been very conservative.  
13 We have been moving gradually and slowly for a  
14 number of years. We believe in research. We  
15 believe in education. We believe in including  
16 members, including residents that aren't  
17 members, and including guests when we meet and  
18 talk and take action.

19 Many of the lake association meetings  
20 have had guest speakers over the years. We  
21 have found in recent years we have been so busy  
22 allocating our time and energy to invasive  
23 species, especially Eurasian watermilfoil, that  
24 we practically have crowded out the opportunity  
25 for other --



1 COURT REPORTER KROENING: Sir, sir, if  
2 I could just have you say especially the --  
3 what were the words before milfoil?

4 MR. JIM GEHRKE: Eurasian water  
5 milfoil.

6 COURT REPORTER KROENING: Okay. Thank  
7 you.

8 MR. JIM GEHRKE: You're welcome. We  
9 have had newsletters to the various members  
10 over the years. We have a website that we have  
11 created and we're very proud of. And so we  
12 think we have done a good job of keeping  
13 communication open with, again, our members and  
14 with other lake property owners.

15 We (inaudible) have formed --

16 COURT REPORTER KROENING: I'm sorry.  
17 Your voice -- sir, I'm sorry. Your voice cut  
18 out.

19 MR. JIM GEHRKE: I might be looking  
20 away a little bit. I'm sorry.

21 COURT REPORTER KROENING: Well, it was  
22 because someone rang into Zoom. So go ahead.

23 MR. JIM GEHRKE: We have formed our  
24 aquatic invasive species response team. And  
25 this consists of eight members of the

1 association.

2 We have written and have been awarded  
3 grants to somewhere in the neighborhood between  
4 180,000 and 200,000 dollars. And we have  
5 worked to accomplish those things by always  
6 staying in touch with and under the guidelines  
7 allowed by the Department of Natural Resources.

8 We have recruited, trained, and  
9 scheduled over 80 volunteers to meet people at  
10 the boat landing, informed them about invasive  
11 species, plants and animals. They have  
12 contributed thousands of hours and met  
13 thousands of boats at the landing so that they  
14 could do inspections as a help to them learning  
15 about the -- the invasive species.

16 We have surveyed the lake since 2010,  
17 tossing rakes every hundred feet. And we did  
18 that a couple of times a year.

19 And not only did we look for invasive  
20 plants, but we logged every single plant that  
21 we found. And we did that in the spring and in  
22 the fall.

23 We noted the bottom of the lake,  
24 whether it was muck or rock or sand. And we  
25 identified every single plant with the help of

1 some very talented people who happen to live on  
2 our lake. And we'll be hearing a little bit  
3 more about that later.

4 Last year we used digital mapping to  
5 improve our process of determining what the  
6 lake bottom is like in terms of the vegetation  
7 on the lake bottom. This was a \$2,700.00  
8 initiative that was taken on here by the  
9 association.

10 We have trained 40 plus shore monitors  
11 who regularly walk, wade, kayak, or otherwise  
12 search the shore of the lake for invasive  
13 species. And in doing that, sometimes they're  
14 searching as deep as 15 feet because the  
15 invasive species are in that whole entire area.

16 We have tried to involve ourselves  
17 with other agencies. Crescent Lake has been a  
18 member of the Oneida County Lakes and Rivers  
19 for many, many years.

20 We have worked with the sheriff's  
21 department to have them come out to the lake.  
22 In fact, during the years when it wasn't being  
23 done free, we were raising extra money to hire  
24 extra hours of sheriff's department people to  
25 be on the water.

1           The Moe Lake Indian Tribe has awarded  
2           us a \$4,000.00 stipend to help protect Crescent  
3           Lake. We have had the Great Lakes Council  
4           speakers to our meetings at one point, at  
5           least. We worked with the University of  
6           Wisconsin limnology department and many other  
7           groups in Wisconsin.

8           We worked with groups in Michigan,  
9           Minnesota and some other states in terms of our  
10          research, especially regarding Eurasian  
11          watermilfoil. We've made trips to the Upper  
12          Peninsula to meet with and talk to people about  
13          the lip line (phonetic), which is a way of  
14          administering a chemical into the lake. We  
15          have gotten information from the Lake Holcombe  
16          people and from Madison Lake and a lot of other  
17          lakes.

18          In 2006 to 2009, we did the lake  
19          management grant. We hired Ayres and  
20          Associates to help us with that. This -- the  
21          bill to Ayres alone was \$12,800.00.

22          So these numbers are just getting  
23          bigger and bigger. When I first got on the  
24          board, the treasurer used to take out the  
25          checkbook and read the checks that were written

1 for the Crescent Lake Association anywhere from  
2 coffee at the meetings and other incidental  
3 things like that.

4 COURT REPORTER KROENING: I'm sorry.  
5 I couldn't hear the last part you said -- just  
6 make sure you speak nice and slowly and clearly  
7 into that microphone the -- about the checks  
8 that were written.

9 MR. JIM GEHRKE: Miscellaneous --  
10 other miscellaneous checks like that. As of  
11 this July, the -- and at the urging of the  
12 response team, the Crescent Lake Association  
13 board of directors appointed the committee of  
14 five to look at getting further involved as a  
15 lake district. The reasons we need the lake  
16 district are because EWM is multiplying  
17 exponentially in Crescent Lake.

18 In 2015 we had one plant. That's what  
19 was discovered, as far as we know. 2016 we had  
20 colonies of plants. 2020 we had many, many  
21 acres of dense plants over 15 feet tall  
22 interfering with boat traffic and recreational  
23 activities.

24 Grant monies are unsure. More and  
25 more lakes are encountering invasive species

1 and applying for grants. And grant money is  
2 not being increased anywhere near as quickly as  
3 the invasive species are being introduced and  
4 spread.

5 There is major support from the lake  
6 property owners for the work that the  
7 association has done over the last 40 years.  
8 We have easily solicited petitions endorsing  
9 the formation of the lake district from 65  
10 percent of the property owners. And we would  
11 have secured more if it had not been for COVID  
12 and the end of the summer.

13 We believe that the reason some owners  
14 might not have supported the petition is  
15 because, number one, they couldn't persuade  
16 themselves to vote for more taxes. That's  
17 human nature, I guess.

18 And, number two, some people are  
19 really concerned about introducing any kind of  
20 and herbicide to take care of plant life on the  
21 lake. And I'm -- there's always going to be  
22 some population that is -- they're concerned --  
23 more concerned than they can be reassured.

24 The lake is full of -- is a full  
25 recreational lake, as you know if you have

1 driven by the lake ever. And I'm sure all of  
2 you have.

3 We have appreciated the assistance of  
4 Mike Romportl and his staff and Michele  
5 Sadauskas and her staff as well as support from  
6 some of this committee's individuals. Thank  
7 you, Oneida County Land and Water Conservation  
8 Committee and UW-Extension Committee for  
9 helping us take this important step in the  
10 history of Crescent Lake.

11 MR. BOB MOTT: Brian, how are we doing  
12 on time?

13 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: We have one minute  
14 remaining.

15 MR. BOB MOTT: One minute.

16 MR. RYAN PETERSON: Hello. My name is  
17 Ryan Peterson, chair of the Crescent Lake  
18 District Subcommittee. And I want to thank the  
19 Conservation Committee for allowing our group  
20 to be here today to advocate for the creation  
21 of a lake district on our beloved lake.

22 I want to continue Jim's comments on  
23 the growing list of reasons for the need for a  
24 lake district by diving into the financial  
25 impact of invasive plant species on Crescent

1 Lake.

2 A study was conducted in 2008 by  
3 UW-Madison on lakes in Vilas County describing,  
4 amongst other factors, the financial impact  
5 that milfoil can have on property values.  
6 There were several significant findings from  
7 the studies.

8 But the most significant, in my  
9 opinion, was that lakefront properties on lakes  
10 affected by EWM lose an average of 13 percent  
11 in value. If properties on Crescent Lake were  
12 to lose 13 percent of their total value, that  
13 would result in a total property value loss of  
14 over 2 -- 9.4 million dollars.

15 Tangible impacts will be seen by all  
16 the taxing bodies that depend on annual  
17 property taxes as well. Based on the average  
18 taxing rate of properties on Crescent Lake,  
19 there would be an annual loss of approximately  
20 \$100,000.00 -- \$120,000.00.

21 On an annual basis Rhinelander School  
22 District would lose over \$74,000.00. Oneida  
23 County would lose \$21,100.00. The Town of  
24 Crescent would lose \$20,800. And, finally,  
25 Rhinelander Library and Nicolet College would



1 each lose \$2,400.00.

2 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: That's our time.  
3 Brian Desmond. If you want to wrap it up with  
4 a final thought, we'll allow that.

5 MR. RYAN PETERSON: I just want to  
6 thank the conservation committee once again for  
7 letting us be here today. And a vote for the  
8 lake district today is a vote for a brighter  
9 future for Crescent Lake. Thank you.

10 COURT REPORTER KROENING: And, sir,  
11 the -- sir, the written comments that you were  
12 reading from, would you be able to provide  
13 those to someone who can -- maybe Mr. Mott or  
14 Ms. Sadauskas?

15 MR. RYAN KILGORE: Yes, I can do that.

16 COURT REPORTER KROENING: Okay. Is  
17 there -- is there somewhere he can place those  
18 that people can place written comments right  
19 now?

20 MR. BOB MOTT: Jonna, are you there?

21 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Yeah, Jonna  
22 does have a number of the prinouts. But she  
23 should just be right out the door there as  
24 well. We'll make sure that we get all those as  
25 much as we can.

1 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. Thank you.

2 Okay. Next, are there any other  
3 representatives of landowner groups who wish to  
4 speak? If so, come to the microphone, please,  
5 the podium.

6 MS. DAWN STONE: I'll be happy to put  
7 in my vote in favor of the lake district. I am  
8 the -- I'm Dawn Stone, and I live at 2976  
9 Wausau Road in Rhinelander.

10 And I hold the proud position of the  
11 Crescent Lake Association president. And,  
12 although I am not actually representing the  
13 Crescent Lake Association board today -- I am  
14 representing myself in favor of the lake  
15 district -- but the board does all support the  
16 lake district.

17 I've been on the lake. My husband's  
18 had the home that I live in --

19 MR. BOB MOTT: I'm going to have to  
20 stop you, ma'am, for a minute. If you are  
21 speaking as an individual, you would have to  
22 speak later. Right now we're looking for  
23 representatives of groups.

24 MS. DAWN STONE: All right. Well --  
25 all right.

1 MR. BOB MOTT: We'll talk to you  
2 later. Okay. Are there any representatives of  
3 groups that wish to speak at this time?

4 MR. KARL JENNRICH: We have someone  
5 coming.

6 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. Your name,  
7 address, and which group you're representing.

8 MS. MARIA RUDESILL: Hi. I'm Maria  
9 Rudesill. My address is 2750 Bible Camp Road,  
10 and that is in Rhinelander.

11 COURT REPORTER KROENING: Can you  
12 spell your last name for me, Maria?

13 MS. MARIA RUDESILL: R-u-d, as in dog,  
14 e-s, as in Sam, i-l-l. You'll have to forgive  
15 me. I just came running from conference room  
16 2.

17 So all right. I am the executive  
18 director at Crescent Lake Bible Camp. And I  
19 also serve on the board of the Crescent Lake  
20 Association as the vice president.

21 We have been part of the Crescent Lake  
22 community since 1933 and are actively involved  
23 in the work being done to solve the AIS  
24 situation. Over the last few years I have seen  
25 and been a small part in the energy and thought

1 poured into the research, discussions,  
2 meetings, and know that the effort put into  
3 finding solutions by various members of our  
4 lake community have been incredible.

5 I have personally toured the lake and  
6 have seen the expansion of the Eurasian  
7 watermilfoil. I have seen the homes that have  
8 had their swim and boating areas clogged and  
9 destroyed.

10 I know firsthand the struggle to  
11 safely harvest this invasive species, as my  
12 staff and I have put in hours to remove it from  
13 our own waterfront. I have watched boats tear  
14 into areas that need protected and picked up  
15 the -- the floating pieces of the plant from  
16 the water to keep it from infesting other  
17 shorelines.

18 At Crescent Lake Bible Camp we  
19 intentionally control access to the water via  
20 our locked boat launch, ensuring that each boat  
21 is inspected and the owner shown areas to avoid  
22 before they are allowed on the water.

23 But all of the work done by all of the  
24 teams and the people you are going to hear  
25 from, it hasn't been enough. The lake district

1 will provide financial support to those working  
2 endless hours to protect our lake.

3 It will take the latest research and  
4 focus it on managing this problem through the  
5 best methods possible. I believe in the people  
6 who have been doing this work. I also believe  
7 that, without focused, funded effort we are  
8 going to lose the ability to enjoy Crescent  
9 Lake on a greater scale.

10 It breaks my heart to think about all  
11 of the families -- more than just our  
12 campers -- who have such a history on this  
13 lake, who were raised on its shores, and who  
14 are now raising the next generation on its  
15 shores that are going to lose the ability to do  
16 so.

17 I encourage you to support the  
18 formation of a lake district so that we can  
19 remain on the leading age of the AIS management  
20 and not become a story of what could have been.  
21 Thank you.

22 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you. Are there  
23 any other representatives of landowner groups  
24 who wish to speak? Seeing none, we'll go on to  
25 the next group.

1           Are there any representatives of  
2 government agencies who wish to speak? Again,  
3 any representatives of government agencies who  
4 wish to speak? Hearing none, we'll go on to  
5 the next group.

6           Are there any representatives of  
7 nongovernmental agencies who wish to speak?  
8 Again, any representatives of nongovernmental  
9 agencies who wish to speak?

10          All right. I'd like to go back to  
11 Michele, our County Conservationist. Michele,  
12 we'll call on individual landowners who wish to  
13 speak.

14          The order was determined by the order  
15 in which the request was received. Again,  
16 please limit your comments to three minutes.  
17 Please speak slowly and clearly. Please give  
18 your name and address for the court reporter  
19 and the record.

20          If you agree with the previous  
21 speaker, simply say, I agree with Jim Jones'  
22 comment, and that would be sufficient. If you  
23 want to go into more detail, you certainly can.

24          All right, Michele. Take it over,  
25 please.

1 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Sorry,  
2 everyone. I had -- I was muted.

3 Thank you, Bob. I do have a total of  
4 21 registration slips here, so I will take  
5 those in order. At the end of the slips, we'll  
6 make sure that, A, that we have all the  
7 registration slips and I haven't missed  
8 anybody.

9 I do have one that I will read for  
10 someone that did do a chat message. So I'll  
11 make sure that gets read into record. And I --  
12 up front here I will mention the name, their  
13 address. And if they want to repeat name,  
14 that's perfectly fine. But I'll try to get  
15 this in hand here so we have it on the record.

16 Okay. So these are, once again,  
17 three-minute testimonials. So speaker number  
18 1 -- and I realize there might be speakers in  
19 committee room 2. So we'll be a little patient  
20 here if our speaker is in committee room 2 and  
21 needs to take a little bit of a longer walk.

22 MR. BOB MOTT: And would you ask each  
23 speaker to make sure that we're aware if they  
24 are for or against formation of the district?

25 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Yes. Would

1 you -- would you like me to say that, Bob? Or  
2 would you like them? Because I've got that  
3 information right on the -- the slip.

4 MR. BOB MOTT: I think you could  
5 introduce them and say your understanding is  
6 that they are either for or against.

7 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. I'll  
8 take care of that.

9 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay.

10 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Let's  
11 see. So we'll do speaker number 1, which is  
12 Mark and Melissa Mergenthaler, 6716 North  
13 Melody Lane out of Rhineland. And we have  
14 them in favor of the Crescent Lake District  
15 petition. So I'll turn it over to them.

16 COURT REPORTER KROENING: Would you  
17 spell their name, please, Michele?

18 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Yep. I have  
19 M, as in Mary, e-r-g-e-n-t-h-a-l-e-r.

20 COURT REPORTER KROENING: Thank you.

21 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: You're  
22 welcome.

23 MR. MARK MERGENTHALER: This is Mark  
24 Mergenthaler. And I did send an e-mail with my  
25 voice of support for the lake district. And, I



1 guess, in the means of saving time, I don't  
2 need to re-read that at this time.

3 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: And I do have  
4 that here, Mark. We do have a copy of that.  
5 And that will be in the record. And we'll make  
6 sure that gets to our court reporter.

7 MR. MARK MERGENTHALER: Okay.

8 MR. BOB MOTT: As I understand, all  
9 those comments that we have received will be an  
10 addendum to the report; is that right?

11 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: This is Brian,  
12 Brian Desmond, yes. As part of the report, all  
13 the e-mails that we have received prior to  
14 today's public hearing will be made part of the  
15 record.

16 I should note that the public hearing  
17 is the only time for people to add information  
18 to that public record. There are periods of  
19 public comment at future UW-Extension  
20 Conservation meetings. However, those comments  
21 made at those meetings will not be made part of  
22 the public hearing record, just so that  
23 everyone's clear as to what's going to be  
24 submitted as part of the public hearing record.

25 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you, Brian.

1 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Thank  
2 you, Mark. We'll just put you on record here  
3 in favor.

4 Okay. Speaker number 2 is Cindy  
5 Hermel, H-e-r-m-e-l, 6710 Melody Lane out of  
6 Rhinelander. And they would like to testify in  
7 favor of the Crescent Lake District petition.

8 MS. CINDY HERMEL: Thank you. I serve  
9 on the Crescent Lake Association board as AIS  
10 coordinator and grant writer and am also a  
11 member of the response team. Thank you for the  
12 opportunity to express my support for the  
13 formation of a Crescent Lake District.

14 Since its discovery in 2015, Eurasian  
15 watermilfoil containment has been a challenge  
16 and a priority for Crescent Lake residents.  
17 Three \$20,000.00 DNR detection and response  
18 grants, along with Crescent Lake Association  
19 member donations, have funded a multifaceted  
20 EWM adaptive management plan, which includes  
21 hand pulling, DASH boat harvesting and spot  
22 herbicide treatment.

23 Unfortunately, over the five years,  
24 EWM has spread from one small sighting in the  
25 north bay to lake infestation around the entire

1 shoreline. The DNR requires recipients of  
2 certain surface water grants to conduct  
3 (inaudible) mapping and point intercept surveys  
4 by professional --

5 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. You cut  
6 out. To conduct annual --

7 MS. CINDY HERMEL: -- pre- and post-  
8 bed mapping and point intercept surveys by  
9 professional consultants.

10 The Crescent Lake Association is  
11 responsible for the \$1,600.00 cost per survey.  
12 Over two years consultant surveys and  
13 end-of-year reporting fees total a minimum of  
14 \$7,400.00 or 37 percent of the grant amount.

15 A two-year Crescent Lake management  
16 grant process beginning in 2019 has been  
17 completed. The plan reflects the input of over  
18 60 percent of Crescent Lake property owners.

19 While EWM management remains a  
20 priority, the resident survey responses  
21 identified additional areas of -- (inaudible).  
22 The plan's objectives also include --

23 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. I  
24 apologize. You cut out again. I don't want to  
25 miss it. Survey responses identified

1 additional areas of --

2 MS. CINDY HERMEL: Interest and  
3 concern. The plan's objectives also include  
4 habitat restoration and preservation that  
5 address resident concerns over shoreline  
6 erosion, water contamination through runoff and  
7 decreased canopy and understory in the littoral  
8 zone.

9 A partnership with the Oneida County  
10 Land and Water Conservation Department to  
11 educate and implement Healthy Lakes best  
12 practices will be the beginning steps to  
13 address habitat improvement. Residents also  
14 identified decreased fishing opportunities and  
15 boater safety issues as areas of concern.  
16 These recreational issues require education and  
17 implementation strategy development that will  
18 require financial and volunteer support.

19 The creation of a Crescent Lake  
20 District will provide increased capacity, not  
21 only for the continued fight against EWM, but  
22 would provide additional resources to tackle  
23 the broader scope of resident interest and  
24 desire for addressing other Crescent Lake  
25 improvements and enhancements.

1 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: Your time is up.  
2 This is Brian Desmond. Your time is up, if you  
3 could please wrap up your thoughts.

4 MS. CINDY HERMEL: Such efforts will  
5 preserve Crescent Lake as the natural resource  
6 we all appreciate and enjoy. Thank you.

7 MR. BOB MOTT: And, ma'am, would you  
8 submit your written statement, please? Could  
9 you leave what you've read?

10 MS. CINDY HERMEL: Yes.

11 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you.

12 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Speaker  
13 number 3, Terry Goldbach, G-o-l-d, as in David,  
14 b, as in boy, a-c-h. Address is 2704 Bible  
15 Camp Road, Rhinelander. And they would like to  
16 testify in favor of the Crescent Lake District  
17 petition. And I believe Terry is on Zoom.

18 MR. TERRY GOLDBACH: Okay. Hello. My  
19 name is Terry Goldbach. And I would like to  
20 thank you for taking the time to hold this  
21 meeting today.

22 As a longtime member of the Crescent  
23 Lake Association, a former Crescent Lake  
24 Association board member, the current chairman  
25 of the Crescent Lake Invasive Species Response

1 Team, I would like to speak in favor of the  
2 lake district for Crescent Lake.

3 In 2019 my wife Wendy and I received a  
4 Friend of the Lake Stewardship Award for the  
5 Oneida County Land and Water Conservation  
6 Committee for our efforts to protect the lake.  
7 I have worked with the DNR and attended DNR  
8 meetings to address invasive species and have  
9 been involved in activities to combat the  
10 spread of Eurasian watermilfoil on Crescent  
11 Lake for at least ten years. These activities  
12 demonstrate my interest and desire to be a good  
13 steward to Crescent Lake.

14 As a Crescent Lake property owner for  
15 almost 40 years and a full-time resident for 20  
16 years, I feel the Crescent Lake District will  
17 be an asset to maintaining and improving the  
18 ecology of the lake by providing a financial  
19 means to do so. The lake district offers the  
20 Crescent Lake property owners an opportunity to  
21 be actively involved in the ecology of the lake  
22 by broadening the ability to raise funds to  
23 address invasive species.

24 Over the last two years, we have spent  
25 over \$80,000.00 in our efforts to slow down the

1 spread of Eurasian milfoil in the lake. As it  
2 continues to spread, our expenses will quickly  
3 increase, compromising our ability to  
4 adequately manage the issue. It has been  
5 difficult over the last few years to raise  
6 funds, and the lake district would assist in  
7 funding lake-related EWM issues, which the  
8 Township and the County are unable to support  
9 financially.

10 In conclusion, I am in favor of  
11 forming the lake district, as does 65 percent  
12 of the lake property owners, and feel the  
13 Crescent Lake District will offer a financial  
14 means to maintain and improve the ecology of  
15 Crescent Lake. I encourage this committee to  
16 approve the formation of the Crescent Lake  
17 District. Thank you.

18 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Then we  
19 have speaker number 4, which I do have a  
20 printed document for, just to let everyone  
21 know. We have Tim -- I'm sorry, Tim Kilgore,  
22 K-i-l-g-o-r-e; address, 2940 Wausau Road in  
23 Rhinelander. And Tim would like to testify in  
24 favor of the Crescent Lake District petition.

25 MR. TIM KILGORE: Thank you, Michele.

1 Hello and good afternoon to the Oneida County  
2 Conservation Committee and my fellow neighbors  
3 of Crescent Lake. My name is Tim Kilgore.  
4 And, as Michele mentioned, these comments have  
5 been previously submitted in writing.

6 My wife Patty and I have been  
7 fortunate and blessed to be property owners on  
8 Crescent Lake since 1996. And, like everyone  
9 here today, we enjoy the lake and care about  
10 its health, now and for future generations.  
11 And my wife and I are also excited to become  
12 year-round residents in the next couple of  
13 years.

14 I volunteered to become a member of  
15 the Crescent Lake District Subcommittee because  
16 I feel its formation is crucial for maintaining  
17 the overhaul -- overall health of the lake. I  
18 respect and thank the work of many volunteers  
19 of the Crescent Lake Association and the DNR  
20 for their years of efforts to protect our lake  
21 and fight the onslaught of EWF.

22 But the challenge is growing, and the  
23 costs are rising. The formation of the  
24 Crescent Lake District is a needed step in the  
25 ongoing fight to protect our lake. Throughout



1 my years I've participated in numerous  
2 community and charitable activities. And I can  
3 say that soliciting funds is always  
4 challenging.

5 My fellow subcommittee members and I  
6 were committed to the mission of telling the  
7 story and collecting the needed number of  
8 petitions. We went door to door asking  
9 residents for some of their time to discuss the  
10 formation of a regulatory body and the  
11 likelihood of an additional tax increase.

12 The five of us divided the 240  
13 parcels, and we went to work. We spent many  
14 summer weekend afternoons presenting and  
15 discussing the need for a lake district to our  
16 neighbors. It was a nice boost to my daily  
17 step count.

18 Truth be told, I met a lot of really  
19 nice people who were equally concerned about  
20 EWF and some of the other lake issues. Our 65  
21 percent signature rate confirms the residents'  
22 support for the district.

23 And the few who refused to sign were  
24 polite, do care about the lake, but had their  
25 reasons not to sign my petition. Our talks

1 were always friendly. And, even if we were not  
2 successful in obtaining the signature, we  
3 exchanged information, gathered input on  
4 residents' concerns, and wished each other a  
5 good day.

6 In closing, this has been a positive  
7 experience. And I ask for your vote in support  
8 of the Crescent Lake District. I believe the  
9 health of our lake depends upon it. Thank you  
10 and have a good day.

11 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you, Mr. Kilgore.

12 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Our  
13 next speaker is Connie Anderson. And I'm going  
14 to spell the last name, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n;  
15 address, 3021 South Rifle Road, Rhinelander.  
16 And Connie would like to testify in favor of  
17 the Crescent Lake District petition.

18 MS. CONNIE ANDERSON: As previously  
19 stated, I have submitted my written comments  
20 prior to my appearing here. My name is Connie  
21 Anderson, as Michele has already told you.

22 I've been a property owner and  
23 resident on Crescent Lake for 31 years. I've  
24 been a member of Crescent Lake Association  
25 since 1998. I've served as secretary, vice

1 president and president of that association.

2 I've done boat inspections at the boat  
3 landing as part of the clean boat clean waters  
4 program. And it was most disappointing to  
5 learn that our beautiful lake was infested with  
6 the dreaded EUM in 2015.

7 The association has worked tirelessly  
8 to control the spread. But, alas, in spite of  
9 thousands of hours of volunteer labor and  
10 dollars, the density of the Eurasian milfoil  
11 has grown beyond our ability to control it.

12 This is the reason that the  
13 association decided to explore forming a  
14 district. I'm a member of the subcommittee  
15 that formed that district.

16 I distributed petitions to lake  
17 property owners in my neighborhood. By far,  
18 most people understood the need to do something  
19 to rescue our lake from degradation to the  
20 point that fishing and recreational use was no  
21 longer possible and our property values would  
22 decline.

23 The most common concern was that this  
24 was an additional tax. When I explained that  
25 once the district is formed, everyone living on

1 the lake pays a small portion to the cost of  
2 controlling EWM, rather than relying on  
3 donations from a very few people.

4 Everyone living on the lake benefits  
5 from a lake where invasive plants don't  
6 interfere with these activities. Taxing  
7 entities also benefit if our property values  
8 remain where they are or --

9 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, ma'am.  
10 Ma'am, could I have you start that sentence  
11 over and just slow down a little bit for me?

12 MS. CONNIE ANDERSON: Taxing entities  
13 also benefit if our property values remain  
14 where they are or increase. Another speaker  
15 will cover this topic in greater detail.

16 Another concern expressed was, who  
17 decides how the money is spent? It was  
18 explained that it was the property owners who  
19 decide at the annual meeting as to how the  
20 district spends the money and what projects  
21 will be undertaken.

22 Most people believe this is quite a  
23 democratic way to manage an organization.  
24 Thank you for your opportunity to speak on  
25 behalf of the subcommittee to form the

1 district. We very much appreciate your  
2 support.

3 I have some additional comments that I  
4 obtained last night from a long-time fisherman.  
5 I'm going to call it fishing for decades.

6 Fishing has changed dramatically over  
7 two, three years since Eurasian milfoil has  
8 become so dense that fish are unable to swim  
9 into the areas to find food. Fishermen are  
10 unable to pull a lure through the (inaudible)  
11 milfoil.

12 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, ma'am.  
13 Could you start with fishermen are unable to --

14 MS. CONNIE ANDERSON: Pull a lure  
15 through these dense beds. The whole pattern of  
16 location of fish -- fish has changed. Muskie  
17 are not in their usual locations. They won't  
18 go into dense Eurasian watermilfoil areas.  
19 Walleye spawning beds have become choked with  
20 EWM. The walleye population has drastically  
21 declined.

22 These are comments from a  
23 well-seasoned fisherman who has lived and  
24 fished on Crescent Lake for decades, fishes  
25 three times a day most of the days of summer,

1 has the first dock in and the last dock out in  
2 the winter -- or in the fall. Thank you.

3 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Next up  
4 is Dennis Southworth, S-o-u-t-h-w-o-r-t-h.  
5 Address is 3039 South Rifle Road, Rhinelander.  
6 And Dennis would like to testify in favor of  
7 the Crescent Lake District petition.

8 MR. DENNIS SOUTHWORTH: Thank you  
9 for -- for allowing me the time to -- to  
10 testify with this formation of the district. I  
11 would like to completely agree with the  
12 following comments of Jim Gehrke, Ryan  
13 Peterson, Maria Rudesill, Cindy Hermel, Terry  
14 Goldbach, Tim Kilgore, and Connie Anderson.

15 But with that, I would like to add  
16 one -- some additional comments. And that is,  
17 working with the DASH harvesting boat, which  
18 is -- DASH is Diver Assisted Suction  
19 Harvesting. The last -- working with that boat  
20 for the last years has given me a better  
21 insight into the ongoing spread of Eurasian  
22 milfoil in Crescent Lake.

23 And with that, working around the  
24 lake, every shoreline with approximately one to  
25 two feet in depth has milfoil in that area.

1 So, in essence, it has spread throughout the  
2 whole lake, as Cindy has mentioned.

3 Just another comment with regards to  
4 the Crescent Lake District and district  
5 residents. Through education and revenue we'll  
6 be greatly assisted in controlling the spread  
7 of the milfoil. And it will allow us to better  
8 enjoy our lakes.

9 I am a past president of the lake  
10 association and strongly encourage our  
11 residents to vote in favor of this, forming  
12 this lake district. Thank you.

13 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Next  
14 up, Donna Stone, last name spelled S-t-o-n-e;  
15 address of 2976 Wausau Road, Rhinelander. And  
16 Donna would like to testify in favor of the  
17 Crescent Lake District petition.

18 MS. DONNA STONE: Well, I was already  
19 up here once, so I -- I actually won't really  
20 be speaking very much more. I am the president  
21 of the Crescent Lake Association board. And I  
22 am definitely in favor of the -- and I  
23 appreciate your time and attention to this  
24 matter. Thank you.

25 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Next up

1 is Alan Janssen. And Alan's spelled A-l-l-a-n  
2 (sic), Janssen, J-a-n-s-s-e-n; address of 2821  
3 Green Bass out of Rhinelander. And Alan would  
4 like to testify in favor of the Crescent Lake  
5 District petition.

6 MR. ALAN JANSSEN: Hi. Just a  
7 correction. It is A-l-a-n.

8 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Sorry about  
9 that, Alan.

10 MR. ALAN JANSSEN: My name is Alan  
11 Janssen, as you know now. Thank you very much  
12 for your time. I reside at 2821 Green Bass  
13 Road, having owned lake property -- lakefront  
14 property since 1981 to present with the  
15 exception of three years while I was employed  
16 on the road.

17 I participated in the DNR's Wisconsin  
18 citizen lake monitoring program on the lake  
19 from 1986 through 1997 and again from 2007  
20 through the present. This involves testing and  
21 documenting for water clarity, oxygen,  
22 temperature, phosphorus and chlorophyll levels  
23 throughout the summer.

24 COURT REPORTER: Sir, I'm sorry to  
25 interrupt. If you could please bring the



1 microphone closer to your mouth. Sometimes the  
2 shuffling of papers is interfering with what  
3 you're saying. Start with the word  
4 phosphorous.

5 MR. ALAN JANSSEN: -- phosphorous and  
6 chlorophyll levels throughout the summer. Is  
7 that better?

8 COURT REPORTER: Yes. And please slow  
9 down.

10 MR. ALAN JANSSEN: Only three minutes,  
11 ma'am.

12 I am tracking the number of winter  
13 days the ice is present throughout the years.  
14 I have been active with the lake association,  
15 am currently on the board as well as being  
16 active with clean boats clean waters and also  
17 shore monitoring for EWM.

18 A lot of this collective data has been  
19 used for past and the recently-drafted lake  
20 management and planning documents. These are  
21 used for future successful management of the  
22 lake's health. I am also on the lake district  
23 subcommittee.

24 This experience of many hours on the  
25 lake has shown me the changes over the years,

1 some good, some bad. The greatest impact on me  
2 is the presence of invasive species, currently  
3 EWM. Through my shore monitoring of my  
4 assigned area, I've seen it grow in the last  
5 five years from absent to slowly, then rapidly,  
6 advancing toward my own personal property. I  
7 expect it to arrive this coming summer.

8 All the bays that I have used for  
9 fishing and pleasure boating have exploded with  
10 the milfoil. It's hard to believe it grows at  
11 such a rapid pace, having never seen it before  
12 2015.

13 During my door-to-door campaign to  
14 support the district by obtaining signatures, I  
15 found that all but three out of 24 owners were  
16 concerned about the milfoil. I heard many  
17 ideas that did explain to me -- but I did  
18 explain to each owner that it takes money to  
19 manage the milfoil.

20 It was often suggested that everyone  
21 just pitch in \$500.00 and get rid of it. I  
22 educated that, one, we can only expect to  
23 manage it, not eradicate it. And, two, if  
24 everyone would want to contribute a large sum,  
25 they would have done this by now, which has not

1 happened.

2 So with the approval and creation of  
3 the district, we would attain several goals.  
4 One is to generate a stable amount of funds to  
5 deal consistently with the invasives. Two,  
6 this would create an equitable way for all to  
7 contribute rather than counting on donations  
8 and DNR grants, as these are inconsistent and  
9 cannot always be relied on.

10 Other lakes are having the same  
11 challenge of financial needs. There is only so  
12 much grant money. With a lake district,  
13 everyone has a voice in the future of this  
14 lake. All -- number four, all actions of the  
15 district are approved by the majority, which is  
16 very democratic and keeps a brake on  
17 unnecessary taxing. Thank you.

18 COURT REPORTER: And, sir, if you  
19 could drop your comments off with the person at  
20 the door who's collecting those. Thank you.

21 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Next up  
22 we have Roger Shandley, S-h-a-n-d-l-e-y;  
23 address of 3035 South Rifle Road, Rhinelander.  
24 And Roger would like to testify in favor of the  
25 Crescent Lake District petition.

1                   MR. ROGER SHANDLEY: Good afternoon.  
2                   My name is Roger Shandley; 3035 South Rifle  
3                   Road, Crescent Lake. I and my family have been  
4                   Crescent Lake homeowners for 35 years. My wife  
5                   Mary and I have been lake association members  
6                   for 30 years and, upon my retirement, became a  
7                   member of the association board.

8                   I continued on the board for eight  
9                   years, then chairing or volunteering for  
10                  various committees to this date. Currently,  
11                  I'm a member of the first response team and  
12                  have been since the inception.

13                  Currently, I chair our volunteer lake  
14                  monitors, a group of 50 plus members, which our  
15                  duties are to monitor and -- at appointed areas  
16                  of Crescent Lake for EWM and then mark the  
17                  location. This is identified and then  
18                  available or marked for the harvesting by our  
19                  DASH boat.

20                  Activity records are kept and provided  
21                  to the State in support of current grants.  
22                  I've worked with the DNR and attended meetings  
23                  to address invasive species of Crescent Lake  
24                  along with combatting milfoil for at least  
25                  eight years.

1           As generations change on Crescent Lake  
2           and volunteers become more difficult to commit,  
3           the financial needs to maintain and improve the  
4           ecology of the lake must be met. I do favor  
5           the forming of a lake district for Crescent  
6           Lake. And I do encourage this committee to  
7           approve the formation of this district.

8           Thank you. And I have supplied notes  
9           for the record.

10           MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Our  
11           next speaker -- and I just probably need a  
12           direction on this one here. Maria Rudesill, I  
13           believe, spoke earlier for an organization. I  
14           did have her as number ten speaker here. I'm  
15           not sure if she's speaking individually as  
16           well. I'm not sure if Maria is still here or  
17           not. Sorry about that.

18           MS. MARIA RUDESILL: That's okay. And  
19           I did speak for Crescent Lake Bible Camp as  
20           that's how we're connected in with the district  
21           conversation. So thank you.

22           MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. You're  
23           welcome. Thank you. Okay. So we'll move on.  
24           Let's see.

25           Next up is John Dusenbery, D, as in

1 David, u-s-e-n-b-e-r-y; address of 3135  
2 Pleasure Point Road, Rhinelander. I believe  
3 John is on Zoom and wishes to testify in favor  
4 of the Crescent Lake District petition. Sorry.

5 MR. JOHN DUSENBERY: Thank you very  
6 much for offering me the -- how am I doing?

7 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: We hear you,  
8 John.

9 MR. JOHN DUSENBERY: Okay. Thank you  
10 again for offering me this opportunity to come  
11 before you and speak in favor of the formation  
12 of Crescent Lake District. I have had a  
13 history on Crescent Lake for approximately nine  
14 years.

15 Many of those years I have been a  
16 volunteer as a shore monitor, also at the boat  
17 landing as a -- monitoring boats coming in and  
18 out of our lake. I have been a hand puller, I  
19 guess you could call it, of Eurasian milfoil,  
20 personally as diving on my own and also diving  
21 with the DASH boat.

22 I have seen the infestation of  
23 Eurasian watermilfoil advance from one end of  
24 the lake to the other. And I, like many  
25 landowners on -- or property owners on Crescent

1 Lake, have become very concerned with its rapid  
2 growth and rapid takeover of Crescent Lake.

3 My comments are very much -- very much  
4 mimic those who've come before me who have  
5 testified in favor of the formation. And to  
6 save time, I will just say again that I'm here  
7 to testify in favor of the formation. And,  
8 again, thank you for this opportunity to come  
9 before you and do that. Thank you and have a  
10 good afternoon.

11 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Next  
12 up, speaker number 12, we have John Knutson,  
13 spelling K-n-u-t-s-o-n. The address is 2825  
14 Green Bass Road, Rhinelander.

15 We have the registration slip marked  
16 for information only. But we just want to  
17 verify that with John if -- which way you want  
18 to go.

19 MR. JOHN KNUTSON: I think I'd like to  
20 express some opposition --

21 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay.

22 MR. JOHN KNUTSON: -- to the petition.  
23 By way of introduction, I've been spending time  
24 on Crescent Lake since 1955. Our family has  
25 owned property since 1961, which was conferred

1 to me in 1980.

2 I have a long history of active  
3 participation in the Crescent Lake Association.  
4 And when my University of Iowa obligations  
5 permitted, I worked in terms of trying to abate  
6 invasive species at the boat landing.

7 It's somewhat ironic that I'm speaking  
8 in opposition to a lake district since I was an  
9 advocate for establishing a lake district years  
10 ago, and I met with nothing but opposition at  
11 the time.

12 The reason that I'm concerned about  
13 this current petition is actually in terms of  
14 its scope. I'm troubled by the fact that it  
15 focuses exclusively, or almost exclusively, on  
16 the Eurasian watermilfoil problem, which I  
17 think is a terrific problem that we have to  
18 address.

19 But it's not the only problem. And  
20 lake health reflects more than just one  
21 invasive species.

22 I'm troubled by the fact that the  
23 petition ignores the recently developed lake  
24 management plan with regard to lake health.

25 And I'm also somewhat concerned about the



1 boundaries of the lake district.

2           The health of the lake is determined,  
3 not just by the households and the properties  
4 that are in the riparian zone, but are also  
5 with -- the lake is also impacted by properties  
6 in the drainage district and how those  
7 properties are maintained. So I actually am  
8 more concerned about the scope of the lake  
9 district. And I think its limiting it to  
10 lakeshore properties is a problem.

11           And, finally, let me say that my  
12 opposition -- it's been suggested that  
13 opposition would arise from people who are  
14 opposed to taxes. But I'm on record as being  
15 an unabashed supporter of the payment of taxes.

16           I think taxes are essential for the  
17 common good. And I'm not in opposition because  
18 of the possibility of an increased levy. The  
19 question is how that levy is expended and how  
20 the decisions are made.

21           And, finally, I'm also not opposed to  
22 constraints on property owners to embrace  
23 environmentally-sound practices. So those two  
24 have been attributed to opposition. They don't  
25 apply to me.

1                   So I -- and I will send written  
2                   comments that are congruent with what I've said  
3                   so far. And I think that's pretty close to  
4                   three minutes.

5                   MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Next  
6                   up, I do have a note on this e-mail  
7                   registration is -- it is for Harvey Wolff,  
8                   W-o-l-f-f, the address of 2929 South Rifle  
9                   Road, Rhinelander, Wisconsin. And Harvey would  
10                  like to testify in favor of the Crescent Lake  
11                  District petition.

12                  And I just was wondering, my  
13                  understanding was he could not be here. But  
14                  there -- is there someone in the audience that  
15                  is prepared to read his testimony? If not, I  
16                  do have a copy here, and I will read that.

17                  MR. BRIAN DESMOND: Mr. Goldbach is  
18                  raising his hand, Michele.

19                  MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay.  
20                  Mr. Goldbach, go right ahead.

21                  Thank you, Brian.

22                  MR. BRIAN DESMOND: Mr. Goldbach, you  
23                  are on mute.

24                  MR. TERRY GOLDBACH: Thank you. I am  
25                  reading a note from Robin and Harvey Wolff,

1 address 2929 South Rifle Road on Crescent Lake.  
2 And I believe this has been sent in via e-mail.

3 From Robin and Harvey then, I have --  
4 we have been property owners on Crescent Lake  
5 for 42 years, my wife and family on the lake  
6 for 58 years, including her parents,  
7 grandmother, two uncles, two aunts, and a  
8 cousin. All own separate properties. We  
9 enjoyed fishing in the summer and ice fishing  
10 in the winter as well as swimming, skiing, and  
11 all water sports.

12 Being a property owner for 42 years,  
13 we've seen many changes to the lake. When we  
14 first bought our property off on South Rifle  
15 Road, our beach was weed free. But, for the  
16 past few years, we haven't been able to put our  
17 raft in because of the growth of Eurasian  
18 milfoil.

19 We can't swim on our beach. Our  
20 neighbors can't use their jet ski because the  
21 weeds plug it up. Ice fishing in front of our  
22 cottage used to be great but is now a waste of  
23 time.

24 Fishing in the summer is nothing like  
25 it used to be. Even driving our pontoon boat

1 around the lake, staying well out from shore,  
2 requires us to stop periodically to remove  
3 weeds from the prop, many of which are just  
4 floating from other boat traffic.

5 We need to be proactive. I personally  
6 spent time on a dive boat, attended meetings,  
7 helped with mapping GPS coordinates to  
8 determine where the EWM was spreading and  
9 worked with my wife at the boat landing to  
10 educate boaters about clean waters and clean  
11 boats in the hope of stopping the spread of  
12 EWM.

13 Even with all these resident volunteer  
14 efforts, we are losing ground. We are in favor  
15 of a lake district to stabilize funding to  
16 preserve the playground that Crescent Lake had  
17 been for Rhinelander and the north woods.

18 That's the end of Harvey and Robin's  
19 statement. Thank you for letting me present  
20 it.

21 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Thank you,  
22 Terry. I do have a written comment sheet here  
23 right in front of me, so we do have that logged  
24 in as well.

25 MR. TERRY GOLDBACH: Okay. Thank you.

1 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Up next  
2 is Sandra McKitrick. I'm hoping I'm saying  
3 that correctly. M-c, K-i-t-r-i-c-k, address of  
4 3155 Detienne Road. I will spell that.  
5 D-e-t-i-e-n-n-e. Out of Rhineland. And  
6 Sandra would like to testify in favor of the  
7 Crescent Lake District petition.

8 MS. SANDY MCKITRICK: Hi. I'm Sandy  
9 McKitrick. Can you hear me?

10 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: We can hear  
11 you fine.

12 MS. SANDY MCKITRICK: Okay. I am  
13 treasurer of the Crescent Lake Association at  
14 the present time. The amount of money we have  
15 been spending to control Eurasian milfoil on  
16 Crescent Lake has been increasing every year  
17 since it was first discovered.

18 I have a graph here that -- I don't  
19 know how well you can see it. But it -- it  
20 shows that the -- the amount since 2015, which  
21 is way at the bottom, and 2020, which is way up  
22 at the top -- I'll give you the numbers from  
23 2015 and 2020.

24 In 2015 we spent \$2,600.00 on -- on  
25 Eurasian milfoil. And last year, 2020, it was

1 \$53,100.00. In 2018, it included \$11,800.00  
2 for purchase and fabrication of the DASH boat.

3 The expenses tallied up in these  
4 totals include lake surveys and mapping, water  
5 tests, permits, boat inspections, GPS unit,  
6 special mailings, weed harvesting, diver  
7 supplies and labor, DASH boat expenses and  
8 ProcellaCOR application in highly-infested  
9 areas. My husband Larry and I are in favor of  
10 creating a Crescent Lake District for these  
11 reasons.

12 One of our volunteers who spoke  
13 earlier, Cindy Hermel, writes DNR grant  
14 applications. But receiving these grants is  
15 not guaranteed.

16 The expenses are now at this high  
17 level that I mentioned of \$53,100.00 last year.  
18 Volunteers inspect boats and trailers which  
19 launch into and leave the lake. Volunteers  
20 built and operate -- operate our DASH boat and  
21 mark areas of infestation. Divers dig out  
22 patches of Eurasian milfoil, but we no longer  
23 have volunteers for this. Paid divers cost  
24 \$20.00 per hour.

25 Volunteers are spending a lot of their

1 time and effort to prevent the lake from  
2 becoming clogged with invasive milfoil, which  
3 protects all property owners. It's fair that  
4 those who aren't volunteering should pay a  
5 share of the monetary costs.

6 We have received donations from some  
7 lakefront landowners. But we cannot  
8 effectively plan for keeping Crescent Lake  
9 viable for boating, fishing, and other  
10 recreational uses without a stable, definable  
11 amount of funding.

12 I appreciate the ability to speak  
13 here. Thank you.

14 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Up next  
15 we have Richard Lower, L-o-w-e-r; address of  
16 6978 Lair Drive. And Lair is L-a-i-r.  
17 Rhinelander. And Richard wants to testify in  
18 favor of the Crescent Lake District petition.

19 MR. BOB MOTT: Michele, one moment  
20 please. I've had a request from the court  
21 reporter that Mr. Goldbach submit his written,  
22 if he has something in writing he can send to  
23 you or e-mail to you somehow.

24 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: I do have  
25 that. That was when Terry spoke for Mr. Wolff,

1 I believe. Is that --

2 MR. BOB MOTT: No. Not when he spoke  
3 for Mr. Wolff, but rather when he spoke for  
4 himself.

5 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Oh, okay.

6 Terry, could you unmic there -- or  
7 unmute and just make reference. Do we have a  
8 hard copy of your testimony?

9 MR. TERRY GOLDBACH: Yes. I e-mailed  
10 it to Jonna on, oh, Friday, I believe, Thursday  
11 or Friday. So you should have it.

12 MR. BOB MOTT: Very good. We'll get  
13 that to the court reporter then. Thank you.

14 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Thank you.

15 Okay. Richard, I believe, is on Zoom.  
16 And, Richard, you have the floor.

17 MR. RICHARD LOWER: Thank you. I  
18 presume you can hear me?

19 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Yep.

20 MR. RICHARD LOWER: Okay. Very good.  
21 In 1987, my late wife Shirley and I purchased  
22 property on Lair Drive that fronts on Crescent  
23 Lake. Shirley was our teacher in aquatic plant  
24 identification and classification.

25 And I'm going to deviate now from my



1 remarks and add the following. It deals with  
2 plant classification. It's a very, very  
3 important part of what we do in Crescent Lake  
4 is to understand the various types of  
5 classification.

6 My background and training is in plant  
7 breeding, genetics, and plant pathology.

8 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, sir. Your  
9 background and training is in --

10 MR. RICHARD LOWER: Paragraph 2. Do  
11 you have my comments?

12 COURT REPORTER: Did you send your  
13 comments, your written comments, in?

14 MR. RICHARD LOWER: Yes, I did.

15 COURT REPORTER: Okay. Then Michele  
16 has those, and you can go ahead and keep  
17 reading. Thank you.

18 MR. RICHARD LOWER: All right. My  
19 research interests were improvement of plant  
20 disease resistance and fruit quality and were  
21 part of an integrated pest management program  
22 for vegetables while I spent 23 years on  
23 faculty at University of Wisconsin College of  
24 Agriculture and Life Science.

25 The research findings from integrated

1 pest management programs are very important  
2 because they lead to BMPs, or best management  
3 practices. That helps to bring home the  
4 technology that's needed to control and  
5 eliminate a target pest. And in this case it's  
6 Eurasian watermilfoil.

7 And the additions to my comments deal  
8 with classification of plants. It's something  
9 that has passed us by. But it's very, very  
10 important for us in our new steps as we try and  
11 find ways to control Eurasian watermilfoil.

12 We need to understand that  
13 classification includes plants that are  
14 annuals, biannuals and perennials. They all  
15 act differently. We need to understand that  
16 plants in our lake are both monocots and  
17 dicots. This is extremely important,  
18 particularly if we get into adding chemicals to  
19 the water to control -- as herbicides to  
20 control plant growth.

21 Another important factor is the kind  
22 of reproduction of the plants, whether it's  
23 asexual as with cuttings, which we get many of  
24 with props and motors and Ski-Doos, whether  
25 it's sexual or asexual. Sexual deals with

1 timing and flowering. Think of exchanges of  
2 pollen, if you would, between plants and within  
3 plants that lead to seeds.

4 Flowering plants do make seeds. The  
5 seeds are likely to be viable for decades. And  
6 we are now at a point in Crescent Lake which,  
7 for the very first time, we have had flowering  
8 of the northern milfoil population within our  
9 lake.

10 So why did Eurasian watermilfoil and  
11 northern milfoil both flower on Crescent Lake  
12 in 2020? We have absolutely no idea. But, in  
13 the ten previous years where we did track  
14 northern milfoil, it never flowered.

15 Hybrid seed is likely when both types  
16 of flowers cross --

17 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: Sir, you're at  
18 your three minutes, if you could please wrap up  
19 your thoughts.

20 MR. RICHARD LOWER: The flowers that  
21 do set seeds have seeds which are probably  
22 going to live for 40 years or more. And they  
23 will generate new plants from time to time.

24 So, unfortunately, there are numerous  
25 other invasives in neighboring lakes throughout

1 the state that will keep us busy that are also  
2 found, or will be found, in Crescent Lake.  
3 Fortunately, with the support of the proposed  
4 lake district, we will have the resources and  
5 technology necessary to protect Crescent Lake.  
6 Thank you.

7 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Up next  
8 is our number 16 speaker Michael Pazdernik.  
9 And I will spell the last name,  
10 P-a-z-d-e-r-n-i-k; address of 3087 South Rifle  
11 Road, Rhinelander. And, Michael, I have your  
12 registration slip at this time checked for  
13 information only. If you'd like to change that  
14 in favor or opposition, please state that.

15 MR. MICHAEL PAZDERNIK: Yes. After  
16 listening to the testimony so far -- well,  
17 first of all, my name is Mike Pazdernik, and  
18 I'm from 3087 South Rifle Road, town of  
19 Crescent.

20 And in my younger days, I was a town  
21 supervisor and alderman for the Town and City  
22 of Pewaukee. And I was a representative to the  
23 sanitary -- the Pewaukee Lake sanitary  
24 district.

25 And, in order to fight Eurasian

1 milfoil properly, you do need a lot of funds.  
2 And, with that, the formation of a lake  
3 district for the future is probably a good  
4 thing.

5 I just want to reassure some folks  
6 that the formation of a lake district does give  
7 these folks a lot of authority. They do create  
8 their own taxing district, and that line item  
9 will show up on your tax bill.

10 It's with just a word of caution that  
11 everybody that's for this monitors and attends  
12 the annual meeting so things do not get passed  
13 that you're not aware of. In the long run,  
14 this can be a great opportunity to protect our  
15 lake. But, with everybody's foresight and  
16 involvement, we can make it happen. Thank you.

17 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Up next  
18 is Joan Jensen, J-e-n-s-e-n; address of 3112  
19 Pleasure Point, Rhinelander. And Joan would  
20 like to testify in opposition of the Crescent  
21 Lake District petition.

22 MS. JOAN JENSEN: Yes. My name is  
23 Joan Jensen, 3112 Pleasure Point Road. My  
24 family's owned our property for 71 years, since  
25 1950. I'm very concerned about the invasive

1 species, and I'm not necessarily supportive of  
2 a government body, though when I think there  
3 might be other venues that could be explored.

4 If we were given a detailed -- you  
5 know, I spoke to several neighbors that said  
6 they would gladly donate more money to fight  
7 the invasive species if they were given a more  
8 detailed cost here.

9 COURT REPORTER: Hang on just a  
10 second. There's some feedback for some reason.

11 MS. JOAN JENSEN: The fight for the  
12 invasive species is extremely important. But  
13 one of my concerns is the way this process has  
14 been done. I feel that the landowners were not  
15 properly educated on the other far-reaching  
16 powers of a lake district.

17 There was no mass mailing notifying  
18 landowners that this was going to occur. And  
19 they were not given properly -- proper time and  
20 information about the lake district's full  
21 powers. Not everybody has computers, or they  
22 don't have the skills to do research on them.  
23 And no handouts were given.

24 So, therefore, are landowners aware  
25 their tax money will also go towards insurance

1 because lake districts can be sued? Do they --  
2 that they can regulate boating? And when I was  
3 doing more research last week, I learned they  
4 can also control winter activities on the lake.

5 They can add special assessments.  
6 They can buy and sell land. Were they informed  
7 that, if they don't attend the annual meetings  
8 or special meetings they have no vote, and they  
9 have no voice? They have to be at the meeting.  
10 It doesn't matter if you're not in town or you  
11 have a family emergency. If you're not there,  
12 you have no voice.

13 Some were told that the lake district  
14 can be dissolved. That's true. But were they  
15 told that it takes more votes to dissolve it  
16 than it was to form it? And that's very  
17 difficult.

18 Were circulators consistent with their  
19 information when they were going door to door?  
20 A circulator mentioned in a webinar that I --  
21 when I was watching it that people were asking  
22 questions that she didn't know how to answer.  
23 Well, you don't go out and ask for circulate --  
24 for petitions to be signed if you can't give  
25 the proper knowledge.

1 I spoke to one landowner who said  
2 that, when she declined to sign the petition,  
3 the circulator said, well, I guess you just  
4 don't care. How many people were pressured to  
5 sign a petition when they didn't have full  
6 knowledge of what they were signing?

7 I feel that more dialogue is needed  
8 before the formation of a lake district so  
9 every landowner has full knowledge of a lake  
10 district, both those in favor of it and in  
11 opposition.

12 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. Speaker  
13 number 18, Robb Jensen. And Robb is R-o-b-b,  
14 Jensen, J-e-n-s-e-n, 3112 Pleasure Point,  
15 Rhinelander. And Robb would like to speak in  
16 opposition of the Crescent Lake District  
17 petition.

18 MR. ROBB JENSEN: I'd like to thank  
19 the committee. I'd also like to thank the  
20 efforts of the lake district subcommittee  
21 formation for all their efforts. And I also  
22 want to thank all the owners that signed the  
23 petition and the thought that they put into  
24 that.

25 However, I also served on a lake



1 district for six years and observed in those  
2 six years some of the issues that are  
3 addressed. My concern is not with the need to  
4 control Eurasian milfoil, not at all. I agree  
5 we need to do that.

6 My concern is, if you look at the  
7 UW-Extension lakes district guide chapter 4,  
8 quote, making sure that people can make an  
9 informed decision is vital to the lake  
10 community and to the whole process of  
11 petitioning. If people agree that what you are  
12 proposing is best for the lake and the lake  
13 community, they will more than likely support  
14 your efforts.

15 The information shared here today, I  
16 think, needed to be ahead of time, not now.  
17 Lots of good reasons to control milfoil were  
18 explained. I agree with that.

19 However, early in the process I had a  
20 conversation with a subcommittee member. And I  
21 expressed my concern that we were not given  
22 enough information. He took those issues back  
23 to the subcommittee, didn't get back to me. I  
24 had to call that person again. He said, well,  
25 I gave it to subcommittee. And they're going

1 to do a mailout. We're still going door to  
2 door. Never got a mailing.

3 The subcommittee goal, I indicated, I  
4 said, what's the goal of this -- of the  
5 district? To control Eurasian milfoil. That's  
6 where we're going to start. We've heard a lot  
7 of reasons here today to control milfoil. Was  
8 the electorate, the owners, informed of what  
9 the other goals are? My wife indicated the  
10 statutory powers. Nobody heard those things.  
11 We didn't hear it.

12 I've heard that the land value is  
13 going to decrease. There were eight sales of  
14 land on Crescent Lake in 2020. The average  
15 increase was over 24 percent from an assessed  
16 tax value and/or from your estimated fair  
17 market taxes, value on your taxes.

18 COURT REPORTER: Sorry, sir. I just  
19 missed your last sentence there. You said the  
20 average increase was over 24 percent from  
21 assessed value. And then what did you say?

22 MR. ROBB JENSEN: Up 24 percent,  
23 either if you looked at the assessed fair  
24 market value on your tax bill for 2020 or if  
25 you looked at the -- the assessed value and the

1 fair market value. Didn't hurt the property.  
2 It will -- it could, though. I understand  
3 that. But we were told, it's going to happen.  
4 It didn't happen in 2020.

5 When you -- when you look at some of  
6 the other concerns here, the financial -- to be  
7 an informed electorate -- and you guys have  
8 heard me say this -- you need to have  
9 knowledgeable decision makers. I looked at the  
10 10-15 budget. Income, forty-seven six hundred  
11 and eighty-one thousand for -- controlled for  
12 AIS; expenses, 45 plus.

13 You want to have an increase -- they  
14 were saying six percent. That would bring  
15 44,000 in. Take away ten-five for donations.  
16 That's 33,000 additional money. All I want to  
17 know is where -- justify that.

18 You do a fall -- you do a fall survey.  
19 Identify the acreage, come back, and show us  
20 the financial need. I don't know if that was  
21 done. Again, I think -- the door-to-door, I  
22 wish they would have had information to give  
23 people so they could be an informed electorate.

24 The bigger concern for us here of  
25 what -- lake owners is, what is the State doing

1 to fund these issues? Are they providing funds  
2 to control this process? The answer is no.

3 County board, we as citizens have to  
4 get our legislatures to change the process,  
5 increase fees for licenses, increase whatever.  
6 We need more money. And I believe in that.

7 I just believe that the process is  
8 flawed. The intention was great. But owners  
9 really didn't have enough information to be  
10 knowledgeable decision makers to say yes or no.  
11 And what are those other issues that this lake  
12 district thinks they're going to deal with?  
13 I'd like to know before I vote.

14 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: Three minutes.  
15 Three minutes, Robb.

16 MR. ROBB JENSEN: Thank you. You were  
17 very generous, Brian. I had over four. Thank  
18 you.

19 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Robb, would  
20 you mind dropping off the written document  
21 there to Jonna outside if that would be okay?  
22 Okay. Thank you.

23 Okay. Up next we have Bret Weir. I'm  
24 hoping I'm pronouncing that right. W-e-i-r.  
25 And the address is 4738 Sheep Ranch Road. And

1 at this time, Bret, I have you checked as for  
2 information only. And if you could let me know  
3 if you want to keep that checked box or if you  
4 would change or would want to change the favor  
5 and opposition. Thank you.

6 MS. JONNA JEWELL: Michele?

7 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Yes, Jonna.

8 MS. JONNA JEWELL: Bret was in  
9 committee room 2. And he just voiced his  
10 opinion that he's good to go. He's okay.

11 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: He's good to  
12 go in what way?

13 MS. JONNA JEWELL: In the way that he  
14 is -- he's got the information that he needs.

15 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. So he's  
16 just -- we're good for testify, but for  
17 information only, so no actual speak?

18 MS. JONNA JEWELL: That's correct.

19 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. All  
20 right. Got it. Thank you, Jonna.

21 MS. JONNA JEWELL: Sure.

22 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. I've  
23 got speaker number 20 here, Bruce Hagan,  
24 H-a-g-a-n; 2718 Green Bass in Rhineland.  
25 Bruce is on Zoom. And he wants to testify in

1 favor of the Crescent Lake District petition.

2 Now, he did write something in the  
3 chat box. So I am going to read this into  
4 record for Bruce.

5 It appears the lake has a  
6 rapidly-growing biologic challenge with  
7 milfoil. The data suggests the problem is very  
8 unlikely to be ever eliminated in entirety,  
9 requiring constant monitoring and response.  
10 This requires oversight and financial support.

11 The annual nature of such response  
12 will necessitate uninterrupted financing, a  
13 tax. Addressing the milfoil will work to  
14 ensure continued recreational use and  
15 maintenance of property values, both important  
16 issues. Hence, Mary and I support the tax  
17 funding.

18 As I mentioned, we have him checked in  
19 favor of the Crescent Lake District petition.

20 And I have speaker number 21, which is  
21 Ryan Peterson, P-e-t-e-r-s-o-n; address of 2998  
22 Wausau Road in Rhinelander. And Ryan would  
23 like to testify in favor of the Crescent Lake  
24 District petition. And Ryan is testifying as  
25 an individual.

1                   MR. RYAN PETERSON: Thank you. I just  
2                   want to conclude my statements from earlier,  
3                   just to finish what I had started with. I want  
4                   to -- I want to bring up again, once again, the  
5                   UW-Madison study that was done in 2008 that  
6                   states that lake -- lakewood -- lakewood --  
7                   excuse me, lakefront properties lose an average  
8                   of 13 percent in value.

9                   This is a very alarming statistic. To  
10                  put that in context, a house valued at  
11                  \$250,000.00 would lose \$32,500.00 in property  
12                  value.

13                 If milfoil continues to spread --  
14                 spread at its current rate, property owners  
15                 will be left with a lake devoided (sic) of  
16                 recreational opportunities and -- and a  
17                 property rapidly losing value. Rather than  
18                 losing thousands in property value, the lake  
19                 district would only require relatively small  
20                 allotment in annual taxing contributions,  
21                 excuse me, for each property to help fund the  
22                 equipment, paying divers to harvest plants,  
23                 lake surveys, permits and other expenses  
24                 relating to stop the spread of an invasive  
25                 species.

1                   Those familiar with the situation  
2                   facing our lake estimate that at least  
3                   \$42,000.00 is needed to adequately stop the  
4                   spread of these invasive species. Currently,  
5                   the lake association does not generate anywhere  
6                   near that figure in voluntary donations.

7                   In fact, since 2016 the association  
8                   has only generated \$35,000.00 in voluntary  
9                   donations. The efforts by the leaders of this  
10                  association to gather these donations or grants  
11                  have been nothing short of heroic. But more  
12                  help is necessary at this time. Our lake can  
13                  no longer rely entirely on donations from a  
14                  select group of homeowners to ensure the  
15                  wellness and health of a lake that everyone  
16                  enjoys.

17                  Our subcommittee fully understands the  
18                  hesitancy of some property owners to permit  
19                  another governmental body to operate on the  
20                  lake. But the -- but the unique quality of a  
21                  lake district is that it's a governmental body  
22                  operated by your neighbors, which means that  
23                  the decisions and actions taken by the district  
24                  commission will be far more personable than  
25                  almost any other political body.



1                   We also acknowledge that the lake's --  
2                   excuse me, the state statute allows for a lake  
3                   district to undertake a wide variety of  
4                   activities. However, our district and those  
5                   who wish to lead it are narrowly focused on the  
6                   abatement and eradication of milfoil before it  
7                   ruins our lake forever. Voicing your support  
8                   for a lake district today means voicing your  
9                   support for a brighter future for our lake.  
10                  Thank you so much.

11                  MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay. That is  
12                  the last registration slip that I have. But I  
13                  do want to check with both Baerbel on Zoom and  
14                  also with Jonna if there are any registration  
15                  slips that are in hand that I have not called  
16                  on.

17                  MS. BAERBEL EHRIG: Hi, Michele and  
18                  everyone. I do not have any additional slips.

19                  MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Thank you,  
20                  Baerbel.

21                  MS. JONNA JEWELL: Michele, this is  
22                  Jonna. I do not have any additional slips  
23                  either.

24                  MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Okay.  
25                  Mr. Chairman, looks like that is all the slips

1 that we have, unless by chance we missed  
2 someone. So I will let you call for a last  
3 comment and do my best in getting names on  
4 slips if there's additional comment.

5 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. Thank you,  
6 Michele. I'm going to say this three times, as  
7 I guess that's what's required. Are there any  
8 others who have not spoken today and wish to?  
9 Are there any others who have not spoken and  
10 wish to?

11 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: Bob.

12 MR. BOB MOTT: Yes.

13 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: I just had  
14 Wendy Goldbach text chat here, and she wanted  
15 to speak in favor of the lake district.

16 Wendy, are you on that you can -- that  
17 you can hear me? And do you want me to read  
18 this, or would you like to testify in person?

19 MS. WENDY GOLDBACH: Yes, I'm here. I  
20 just want to speak in favor of it. And I would  
21 like to say that there have been property  
22 owners who have purchased property here on the  
23 lake and did not know about the Eurasian  
24 watermilfoil. And I believe that it's a  
25 disservice to the recreation of this lake that

1 properties are being sold without the owners  
2 knowing that there is such a problem on this  
3 lake.

4 And, in opposition to the person who  
5 spoke earlier about, you know, property selling  
6 on the lake, I don't think that property owners  
7 who know that there is Eurasian watermilfoil  
8 and know about it and the extent to which it  
9 can kind of hog-tie the lake use would purchase  
10 property in that way. And so I am in favor of  
11 the lake district for that very reason. That's  
12 all I have to say.

13 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. The last shot  
14 here. Are there any others who have not spoken  
15 and wish to?

16 Hearing none, I will close the public  
17 hearing. And I'll ask the committee or staff  
18 for any comments they have at this time.

19 Okay. Hearing no comments, I'm going  
20 to read the preliminary and -- timeline for  
21 what comes next. And also keep in mind that  
22 this is preliminary and subject to change.

23 A draft report of this hearing will go  
24 to the UW-Extension Conservation Committee on  
25 February 8th. That meeting will take place in

1 this room, the county board room. A final  
2 report will go to the conservation UW-Extension  
3 committee on March 8th. And it will probably  
4 still be in the county board room. That will  
5 be determined at the February 8th meeting.

6 On March 16, 2021 a report to the  
7 Oneida County Board will be made. And a vote  
8 on the proposed lake district will take place  
9 at the Oneida County Board on April 20, 2021,  
10 all happening in this county board room.  
11 Again, that's preliminary timeline and subject  
12 to change.

13 Keep in mind what was stated earlier,  
14 I think by Brian, is that comments made at  
15 those meetings, you certainly can make comments  
16 about what's going on here. But the only that  
17 will go into record for this public hearing is  
18 what we've heard today, both in-person  
19 comments, on Zoom, and anything that was  
20 written and delivered.

21 Jonna, do you have something? Yes.  
22 Go ahead.

23 MS. JONNA JEWELL: The comments that  
24 you just read, the timeline, I have copies of  
25 those in the back of the county board room

1 here. If anyone would like to take a copy with  
2 them, they're welcome to just pick one up. I  
3 just set them on the back table.

4 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you very much.  
5 Again, I want to thank everyone for your  
6 comments today. It certainly is an exercise in  
7 democracy that we've just -- just been a part  
8 of.

9 I want to thank Michele and Brian and  
10 Baerbel. I want to thank Mike Romportl of the  
11 land information office, our UW-Extension  
12 Conservation Committee members.

13 Our standby, we had a guy standby so  
14 we -- if we had something happen, we could have  
15 him fill in. That was supervisor Steven  
16 Schreier. Thank you, Steven. Our IT  
17 department for being on standby as well. It  
18 seems like it's worked quite well today, which  
19 was great.

20 The buildings and grounds for opening  
21 the courthouse today. Meredith Kroening, our  
22 court reporter, and Karen Grossbier, of  
23 Grossbier & Associates, for helping our  
24 reporter today and asking all the questions to  
25 make sure that this is recorded properly.

1                   And the citizens for proposing the  
2                   district and those that offered comments today.  
3                   Thank you so much. We certainly appreciate it.

4                   I'll entertain a motion to adjourn  
5                   from the committee.

6                   MR. JIM WINKLER: Jim Winkler, motion  
7                   to adjourn.

8                   MR. MITCH IVES: Mitch Ives, second.

9                   MR. BOB MOTT: All those in favor  
10                  signify by saying aye.

11                  COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

12                  MR. BOB MOTT: Anyone opposed to  
13                  adjourning? We are adjourned. Thank you so  
14                  much.

15                  (Proceedings adjourned.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF WOOD        )

I, Meredith A. Kroening, do hereby  
certify the foregoing transcript is a true and  
correct transcription of my stenographic notes  
taken in this proceeding.

*Meredith A. Kroening*

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MEREDITH A. KROENING