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PUBLIC HEARING
on the
SQUASH LAKE PROTECTION
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

PLACE: Crescent Town Hall
3231 Golf Course Road
Rhinelander, WI 54501

DATE: Saturday, December 3, 2016

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

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APPEARANCES

MR. BOB MOTT

MR. JIM WINKLER

MR. ROBB JENSEN

MR. ALAN VanRAALTE

MR. MITCHELL IVES

MS. KIM SIMAC

MR. KARL JENNRICH

ATTORNEY BRIAN DESMOND, Oneida County

Corporation Counsel

MR. MICHAEL ROMPORTL

MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS

1 MR. BOB MOTT: All right. It's 10:30.
2 I would like to call the meeting of the
3 Conservation and UW-Extension Education
4 Committee to order. And we're meeting at the
5 Crescent Town Hall, which is handicap
6 accessible. The meeting has been properly
7 posted.

8 Who will entertain a motion to approve
9 the agenda?

10 (Complied)

11 MR. BOB MOTT: Been moved and seconded
12 to approve.

13 All in favor, say aye.

14 (Responded)

15 MR. BOB MOTT: All opposed?

16 Hearing none, motion carries.

17 We are the UW-Extension Conservation
18 Committee and it's our venue to conduct this
19 particular hearing. And I would like the
20 committee to introduce themselves.

21 I'm Bob Mott, chair of the committee.

22 MR. ROBB JENSEN: Robb Jensen.

23 MR. ALAN VanRAALTE: Alan VanRaalte,
24 County Board Supervisor.

25 MR. MITCHELL IVES: Mitch Ives, County

1 Supervisor.

2 MR. JIM WINKLER: Jim Winkler,
3 Supervisor.

4 MS. KIM SIMAC: Kim Simac. I
5 represent the farm agency for Oneida and Vilas
6 County.

7 MR. BOB MOTT: First of all, I would
8 like --

9 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: Brian Desmond,
10 corporation counsel.

11 MR. KARL JENNRICH: Karl Jennrich,
12 planning and zoning.

13 MR. MIKE ROMPORTL: Mike Romportl,
14 land information director.

15 MR. BOB MOTT: I would like to welcome
16 you to the proposed Squash Lake protection and
17 rehabilitation district meeting. There is an
18 announcement concerning an incorrect e-mail
19 address for the county clerk. And the proposed
20 solution for the public who had an incorrect
21 e-mail address error was caught after the
22 announcement was posted, and Mr. Desmond
23 proposed the following solution.

24 We have been made aware that the
25 e-mail address listed in the public notice sent

1 to the property owners within the district
2 boundaries was erroneous. This error could have
3 hampered an individual's ability to provide the
4 county clerk with notice of withdrawal of their
5 signature from the petition to form a lake
6 district or to provide comments to the
7 committee.

8 My proposed solution would be to send
9 a letter to all individuals in the district
10 which indicates that this error was made and
11 that anyone who tried to withdraw from the
12 petition via e-mail, or submit comments via
13 e-mail to the county clerk, can submit to the
14 county proof of their attempt to send these
15 e-mails prior to the cutoff date and time for
16 withdrawal or comment, and that the withdrawal
17 or comment will be accepted upon review and
18 affirmation by the county that the attempt was
19 made prior to said cutoff time.

20 Any such submission shall be received
21 by 4:00 o'clock on December 30, 2016.

22 So that gives a remedy to people that
23 did send to the wrong e-mail. They have until
24 December 30 to either withdraw or make a
25 comment.

1 So I would entertain a motion by the
2 committee to accept that proposed solution.

3 MR. ROBB JENSEN: I'll make the
4 motion.

5 MR. MITCHELL IVES: Second.

6 MR. BOB MOTT: Moved and seconded.
7 Opposed? Hearing none, motion carries.

8 So that will be the solution for
9 anyone that has that particular problem.

10 Brian Desmond, our corporation
11 counsel, will comment and talk a little bit
12 about the procedure today.

13 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: I want to make
14 everyone aware that we do have a court reporter
15 here today. She is writing down all the
16 comments that are being made by both the
17 committee and by members of the public that are
18 here today.

19 In that regard, I would ask everyone
20 please speak slowly, speak clearly, and we will
21 make sure that she gets your name for the
22 record. It's imperative for us to have a
23 complete full record here today of what went on.
24 If you can assist us with that, it would be
25 greatly appreciated.

1 I will be monitoring your comments
2 with her. If she needs you to slow down or stop
3 for any reason, we will ask you to do that so
4 that we can make sure that the record is clear
5 here today.

6 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. What I would
7 like to do is read an overview of the lake
8 district formation process for those who are not
9 aware of it.

10 A lake district can be formed by
11 landowners' petition to the county board.

12 When the proposed lake district lies
13 in more than one county, the law gives
14 jurisdiction for receiving the petition to the
15 county with the highest equalized valuation
16 within the proposed district.

17 Oneida County received a petition from
18 the Squash Lake protection and rehabilitation
19 district on November 7, 2016. The county board
20 appointed the conservation and UW-Extension
21 education committee, that is this committee
22 sitting here today, to conduct the public
23 hearing. By law, we must hold a public hearing
24 on the proposed lake district within 30 days of
25 receipt of the petition.

1 A notice of the public hearing was
2 published in the Northwoods River News on
3 November 17, 2016.

4 This public hearing is to accept
5 public comments on the proposed lake district.

6 No decisions will be made today.

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

10 Within six months of the hearing, the
11 county board is required to issue an order
12 granting or denying the petition to form a lake
13 district.

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

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

22 The county board is required to issue
23 a decision based on these four findings:

24 No. 1, that the petition is signed by
25 the requisite number of owners.

1 No. 2, that the district is necessary.

2 No. 3, that the public health,
3 comfort, convenience, necessity of public
4 welfare will be promoted by the establishment of
5 the district.

6 And, No. 4, that the property included
7 in the district will be benefited by the
8 district's establishment.

9 As Brian stated earlier, there will be
10 no decision made today regarding the proposed
11 lake district. Today is for listening to the
12 public's comments.

13 For your information, the towns of
14 Crescent and Woodboro signed a petition for
15 parcels of the Town's own and for no other
16 parcels.

17 We have registration slips available
18 in the back. If you haven't signed one, please
19 do so. With those, you can either elect to
20 speak for or against the district or just give a
21 comment about lake districts, or you can simply
22 write your comment on that sheet and the comment
23 will be accepted by the committee.

24 What we're going to do is that the
25 individual landowners and members of the general

1 public will be called in the order that they
2 registered. But, before that, we're going to
3 have representatives of the landowner group and
4 there will be a time period that they can speak.

5 So the petitioners will have a time to
6 speak and any other person representing a
7 landowner group will have five minutes to speak.

8 Any governmental agency that's here,
9 such as a Town, will have five minutes to speak.

10 Any nongovernmental agency will have
11 five minutes to speak.

12 Individual landowners will have three
13 minutes to speak and members of the general
14 public.

15 So if you're not a landowner within
16 the proposed district, you also will have three
17 minutes to speak.

18 And our corporation counsel will be
19 manning the clock on that. The rules are:
20 Please speak clearly and slowly for the benefit
21 of the hearing reporter. Observe the time
22 limit. And be respectful and listen to other
23 people's comments either for or against this.

24 Karl Jennrich, Oneida County planning
25 and zoning department, director and department

1 head, will read into public record the public
2 hearing notice.

3 Karl.

4 MR. KARL JENNRICH: Yes. Please bear
5 with me. I have a cold, but this is just the
6 preliminary technical stuff for a public
7 hearing.

8 Notice is hereby given, in accordance
9 with the provisions of Section 33.26, Wisconsin
10 Statutes, that the Oneida County conservation
11 and UW-Extension education committee will hold a
12 public hearing on the matter of the proposed
13 Squash Lake protection and rehabilitation
14 district petition, filed on November 7, 2016,
15 which was submitted by order of the court to the
16 Oneida County clerk, requesting the
17 establishment of a lake protection and
18 rehabilitation district pursuant to Chapter 33,
19 Wisconsin Statutes.

20 The public hearing is to be convened
21 December 3, 2016, at the Crescent Town
22 Hall, 3231 Golf Course Road, Rhinelander,
23 Wisconsin 54501, starting at 10:30 a.m.

24 A person who has signed a petition may
25 withdraw from the petition by filing a written

1 notice of withdrawal with the county clerk at
2 least ten days before the hearing on the
3 petition.

4 At the hearing, all interested parties
5 may offer support, objections, criticisms, or
6 suggestions as to the necessity of the proposed
7 district as outlined and to the question of
8 whether the establishment of such district will
9 benefit their property.

10 Letters of support or objection must
11 be filed with the county clerk, Mary Bartelt, in
12 care of Squash Lake protection and
13 rehabilitation district petition comments, P.O.
14 Box 400, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501-0400, or
15 e-mail to coclerk@co.oneida.wi.us no later
16 than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30, 2016.
17 Be sure to put Squash Lake in the subject line
18 of your e-mail.

19 Also, we, as part of the notice of
20 public hearing, we did put in where to look for
21 general information on lake districts.

22 And the boundaries of the proposed
23 district are listed as follows:

24 This is just a general description.

25 The boundary described herein for the

1 Squash Lake protection and rehabilitation
2 district lies wholly within Township 36 North,
3 Range 7 East, Sections 13 and 24, in the Town of
4 Woodboro, and Township 36 North, Range 8 East,
5 Sections 18 and 19, Town of Crescent, both towns
6 being in Oneida County, Wisconsin.

7 Generally described as part of
8 government lot one, part of government lot two,
9 part of government lot three, and part of the
10 Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 Section in
11 Township 36 North, Range 7 East, Section 13;
12 part of government lot two, part of government
13 lot three, part of the Southwest 1/4 quarter of
14 the Northwest 1/4 Section, all of government lot
15 four, all of the Northeast 1/4 of the
16 Southwest 1/4 Section, all of government lot
17 five, and part of government lot six in
18 Township 36 North, Range 7 East, Section 24;
19 part of the South 1/2 of the fractional
20 Northwest Section, part of government lot two,
21 all of government lot three, part of government
22 lot four of Township 36 North, Range 8 East,
23 Section 18; part of the Northeast 1/4 of the
24 Northeast 1/4 Section, all of government lot
25 one, all of government lot two, all of

1 government lot three, all of government lot
2 four, part of government lot five, part of
3 government lot six, all of government lot seven,
4 all of government lot eight, part of government
5 lot nine, and part of government lot ten of
6 Township 36 North, Range 8 East, Section 19.

7 We put in there a map. We also put an
8 instruction on preparing for the public hearing.

9 This was published in the Northwoods
10 River News November 17, 2016, and I do have a
11 copy of the proof of publication in the file,
12 posted on the Oneida County courthouse bulletin
13 board on November 20, 2016, also posted to our
14 court website on November 4, 2016.

15 We sent it out first class mail to 210
16 individuals, to all Squash Lake district
17 landowners on November 10, 2016.

18 Two letters were returned.

19 One, return to sender, no such number.

20 The new address was obtained from the land
21 information office and a new letter was sent on
22 November 17, 2016.

23 The other was returned for time
24 expired, return to sender; received notification
25 on November 29. We attempted to re-send the

1 letter on November 29, 2016.

2 We sent e-mail copies to individuals
3 who are on this public notice list, which was a
4 lot of individuals, mostly news media, county
5 board supervisors. We also mailed copy -- or,
6 sent copies to Mike Romportl, Brian Desmond, and
7 Dan Butkus, and also provided notification to
8 the court reporter.

9 The public correspondence in the file,
10 I do not have a -- oh, it was sent November --
11 we received it November 30, 2016, from Julie and
12 Perry Zilsch, 2927 Crestwood Drive, Rhinelander,
13 Wisconsin. To whom it may concern, I was unable
14 to send you the e-mail provided. Please do not
15 include us in the establishing of the
16 rehabilitation district. And it was signed.

17 Also, a letter from Stuart Nicholas
18 Boismenu, M.D.

19 DR. STUART BOISMENUE: I'm here.

20 MR. KARL JENNRICH: Which he is here
21 and can testify to, but there is a letter in the
22 file that was written by him.

23 DR. STUART BOISMENUE: I'm on call
24 today so that's why I didn't know if I could
25 make it. The letter is in favor.

1 MR. KARL JENNRICH: Yes, it is in
2 favor; two page letter.

3 Also a letter from Craig Zarley.

4 MR. CRAIG ZARLEY: I'm here.

5 MR. KARL JENNRICH: So Craig is here.
6 And that is in support of the formation of the
7 lake district.

8 And one e-mail from M.D. Leitermann,
9 subject Squash Lake, sent November 14: Dear
10 County Clerk Bartelt: The long time family
11 owners of the property at 2667 Oak Lane Drive on
12 Squash Lake strongly support the formation of
13 the Squash Lake protection and rehabilitation
14 district.

15 Squash Lake is a precious resource
16 that is being degraded by overdevelopment and
17 invasive species. It is our sincere hope that
18 the formation of a lake district will preserve
19 this jewel of a resource for many generations to
20 come. Regards, Mark D. Leitermann.

21 And that's the correspondence in the
22 file, Chairman Mott?

23 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. Thank you very
24 much, Karl.

25 And if you could repeat verbatim that

1 description, I would appreciate it.

2 (Laughter)

3 MR. KARL JENNRICH: That was the
4 abbreviated description.

5 MR. BOB MOTT: Okay. Thank you.

6 What we would like to do first is call
7 representatives of the landowner district to
8 give the petitioner's statement.

9 MR. DAN BUTKUS: Karl, anything I need
10 to do with this? Or do you think my voice will
11 carry backwards?

12 MR. KARL JENNRICH: You can also
13 stand, too, but this lady --

14 MR. DAN BUTKUS: Thank you.

15 Okay. Hopefully this works. Can
16 everybody in the back hear me? Yes? Okay.

17 Thank you very much. Good morning.
18 I'm Dan Butkus, a nonresident owner within the
19 proposed Squash Lake Protection & Rehabilitation
20 District and co-lead petitioner.

21 I would like to thank the conservation
22 committee for holding this meeting. I would
23 also like to go on record and thank the land
24 information office, zoning and land water
25 conservation departments with their help in

1 putting together the petitions.

2 It is tempting to use my time for
3 rebuttals to the arguments against a district.
4 The time for that is over. The petitions have
5 been signed and submitted.

6 I admit we, as the petitioners,
7 originally were skeptical of a lake district. I
8 am here today to tell Oneida County that we are
9 absolutely convinced of three things.

10 First, a lake district is the best
11 means available to protect the six year
12 investment owners have made to control invasive
13 species on our lake and maintain our lake's
14 quality.

15 Second, a lake district is the most
16 democratic way to manage the ongoing needs of
17 lake stewardship, to protect and preserve lake
18 quality, and to continue the efforts of managing
19 Eurasian Water Milfoil and other invasive
20 species, keeping them from being a nuisance on
21 and around our lake.

22 Third, a lake district is the most
23 equitable and stable way to fund this work.

24 Use, enjoyment, property values, and
25 tax revenue protection are not the only things

1 to consider.

2 Squash Lake has successfully
3 controlled Eurasian Water Milfoil over the last
4 six years, investing nearly \$200,000.00 of DNR
5 grant moneys, nearly \$40,000.00 in donations
6 from property owners, and nearly \$50,000.00
7 worth of volunteer hours over the course of six
8 years.

9 Our lake is held as one of the prime
10 examples of successful participative control
11 efforts within the state.

12 Squash Lake boasts one of the highest
13 aquatic plant diversity indices in the state.
14 Several species in our lake are plants of
15 concern for the DNR. This diversity is
16 threatened by uncontrolled Milfoil.

17 I believe that protecting the
18 investment and the habitat are equally important
19 to the other considerations.

20 Recently, Oneida County conservation
21 committee, the same committee holding this
22 public hearing, completed an analysis of the
23 impact of property values, lake property values
24 on tax revenue. Approximately 75% of county and
25 town tax revenue is generated by lake properties

1 within our county.

2 In an excerpt from the Northwoods
3 River News, Supervisor Mott, who is here today,
4 was quoted. And I quote: I ask each of you
5 supervisors to carefully look at your town.
6 What is the dollar impact if there was a
7 diminishing of 10% of your Town's value? Could
8 you afford that? Would you want that? And, if
9 not, then every time we have an opportunity to
10 protect the lakes, we should do it because it's
11 a long term deal.

12 I agree with Supervisor Mott.

13 Every time we have the opportunity to
14 protect lakes for enjoyment, quality, and
15 preservation of lake property value, we should
16 do it. We must do it.

17 It is easier to say no than to say
18 yes. I was one of those people. But we are
19 problem solvers. We currently see a problem
20 with our ability to fund what we strove so hard
21 to accomplish, simply because we were good at
22 doing our job. We also see a long term solution
23 that can help us maintain what we sweated over
24 to achieve. So now that it comes to it, we find
25 it effortless to say yes and impossible to say

1 no to a lake district.

2 As one of the lead petitioners, I ask
3 Oneida County to affirm its commitment to
4 preserving and protecting lakes, by siding with
5 the 54% of the people who signed the petitions
6 to form a lake district. And, breaking that
7 down, that's 63% of lakeshore property owners
8 who signed the petitioners to say yes to a lake
9 district. Thank you.

10 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you, Mr. Butkus.

11 Any other representatives of
12 landowners' groups that would like to speak?

13 Any representatives of the government
14 agency that would like to speak?

15 Any representatives of nongovernmental
16 agencies that would like to speak?

17 MR. ROBB JENSEN: This is record time
18 for you on an agenda.

19 MR. BOB MOTT: I'm loving it.

20 All right. UW-Extension conservation
21 meetings typically go three and a half hours, so
22 this is quite nice so far.

23 All right. Now we'll get to the
24 individual landowners and they will be asked to
25 speak in the order that they presented their

1 paperwork, correct? Is there --

2 MS. MICHELE SADAUSKAS: So we'll --
3 what I did was, we just numbered when they came
4 in, so I'm taking them as ordered. I won't say
5 opposed to you nor in favor. I think we'll get
6 that, you know, idea when we get the person to
7 speak.

8 So our first speaker, oh, and just a
9 note, too, for the court reporter, if you do
10 have a written piece of paper that you're
11 reading from, if you want to hand that over to
12 the court reporter, she will enter that in and
13 then have that sent back to you as well, so if
14 that's something you wouldn't mind doing.

15 So we have a full name of Mark and
16 Ruth Mortensen. And actually Dan Butkus is
17 going to be speaking on their behalf.

18 MR. BOB MOTT: And recall that for
19 individual landowners and members of general
20 public, it would be a three minute time limit.

21 MR. DAN BUTKUS: Thank you.

22 Officially, this letter should be
23 marked as opposed. It comes from Mark and Ruth
24 Mortensen. They submitted this to me along with
25 an unsigned petition. To formulate a district,

1 we ask that people sign a petition, unsigned if
2 they were not in favor.

3 Dan, sorry it took so long to return
4 this to you, but I want to make sure to send it
5 back for your records. We were having trouble
6 making a final decision whether to sign this or
7 not. But I ultimately decided not to sign the
8 petition.

9 I want to thank you for the time you
10 spent answering my questions a couple of months
11 ago as well as for the time you have given
12 Squash Lake association.

13 From your letter, it sounds like you
14 have received enough signed petitions to move
15 the lake district forward, which is probably a
16 good thing. Hopefully everything works out and
17 we have a way to generate funds for protecting
18 the lake for years to come.

19 Thanks again for all you've done.

20 Sincerely, Mark Mortensen.

21 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you very much.

22 Who is next?

23 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: Daniel Butkus.

24 MR. DAN BUTKUS: I already spoke.

25 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: So you don't

1 want to speak as an individual as well?

2 MR. DAN BUTKUS: No.

3 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: Just making
4 sure because you do have that opportunity.

5 Okay. So we'll go to the next
6 individual, Dale Smith.

7 Do I have to do something with this?

8 MR. DAN BUTKUS: Push the button in
9 the middle.

10 MR. DALE SMITH: My name is Dale
11 Smith. I live at 2126 Oak Lane Drive. I'm also
12 a member of the Squash Lake board. And,
13 initially, I was opposed to the idea, just
14 another level of bureaucracy I thought. But, as
15 I went through this logically, is there a
16 problem? And there's definitely a problem. And
17 some of it came about from personal experience.
18 I saw a lake down in southern Wisconsin that has
19 a tremendous problem. I can see what it can do.

20 And if you look up, research, you'll
21 find that there is over 400 lakes in Wisconsin
22 that has some Milfoil problem. It's different
23 on every lake. We don't know exactly what would
24 happen if we left it unchecked. We really
25 don't. So I can't sit here and say it's going

1 to be terrible. However, do we want to take the
2 chance of that happening? My answer is
3 obviously no. We know a couple things from
4 experience. Squash Lake is one, Milfoil spreads
5 quickly, and it can spread, and it can grow in a
6 hurry. So, left unchecked, it probably will be
7 a major problem. Okay?

8 The next thing is if you're going to
9 do this, then you have to select a method of how
10 you're going to take care of that. And, being
11 on the board, I can tell you that we talked
12 about every method that is out there, and there
13 is, without going into all of that, we arrived
14 at the fact that we thought the best answer was,
15 since we caught it early and not -- was to keep
16 it in check by using divers and hand pulling the
17 Milfoil, and that has seemed to work pretty
18 well.

19 Now, it has spread, but we keep it in
20 check. And it hasn't become a major problem
21 like that southern lake I was talking about is
22 so bad that you couldn't even get a body through
23 that from what I saw, so it can be a major
24 problem. So then it comes down to: How are you
25 going to fund that cost? We've been doing it,

1 the board, through grants. And I've been
2 involved with fundraisers. And we've tried to
3 elicit funds from the property owner and so on,
4 and it's worked out.

5 Now our funding source is kind of
6 drying up a little bit. The grants are very
7 unsure. Our fundraising does not take care of
8 the money we need to make the diving work on a
9 regular basis. So I came around to the fact and
10 said, if I'm the board, what do I need to do to
11 conserve to make sure Squash Lake is best in the
12 future? What do we have to do? And I arrived
13 at the fact that the only way we could be
14 absolutely 100% sure of this was to form a lake
15 district.

16 So my method came all the way, 180
17 degrees, and I'm now 100 percent for it because
18 I know that's the only way right now that I know
19 of that we can be assured that Squash Lake,
20 being pristine, the way we want it to be in the
21 future. Thank you.

22 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

23 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: Craig Zarley.

24 MR. CRAIG ZARLEY: I am a Squash Lake
25 front property owner and have lived at my

1 current address since 1999. And I fully support
2 the formation of the Squash Lake protection and
3 rehabilitation district. I have served on the
4 Squash Lake association, board of directors for
5 the past ten years. The aquatic invasive
6 species, Eurasian Water Milfoil, was discovered
7 in Squash Lake in 2009.

8 Since that time, the Squash Lake
9 board, at the behest of the Squash Lake
10 association members, has sought to control the
11 spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil by manually
12 harvesting the weed, using scuba divers, the
13 cost of which exceeds \$20,000.00 annually.
14 Approximately 75 percent of those costs have
15 been covered by Wisconsin DNR grants.

16 During that time, divers have
17 controlled the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil
18 to the point that the DNR no longer considers
19 the lake as being in critical need of State
20 funding to control aquatic invasive species. As
21 a result, further DNR grants to control Eurasian
22 Water Milfoil will either be eliminated or
23 greatly reduced beginning in 2017.
24 Unfortunately, Eurasian Water Milfoil can be
25 controlled in a lake but not eliminated. If

1 left without ongoing control measures, Eurasian
2 Water Milfoil could spread to levels that affect
3 the recreational value and water quality of the
4 lake, seriously impacting property values.

5 As a result, Squash lake, the majority
6 of Squash Lake riparian owners as well as many
7 off water stake holders have stepped forward
8 and signed the petition to form a lake district
9 to protect water quality and property values by
10 securing a steady and predictable source of
11 funding for Eurasian Water Milfoil control.

12 The lake district petition results
13 reflect opinions expressed in our 2014 lake
14 management plan in which the vast majority of
15 riparian property owners responding to a stake
16 holder survey listed Eurasian Water Milfoil as
17 the major threat to the overall quality of
18 Squash Lake.

19 While Squash Lake is owned by all the
20 people of Wisconsin, I feel it is my personal
21 responsibility as a riparian owner to protect
22 the lake I am privileged to live on. I strongly
23 urge the Oneida County board support the
24 petitioner in their efforts to protect Squash
25 Lake from aquatic invasive species by allowing

1 the Squash Lake protection and rehabilitation
2 district.

3 I also might add, this is a great
4 resource, which I wish more people would read.
5 It's on our Squash Lake comprehensive management
6 plan. It is available on our website. There's
7 a copy of it at the Rhinelander district
8 library.

9 MR. BOB MOTT: That's --

10 MR. BRIAN DESMOND: Time. Okay.
11 Check that out.

12 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you, Mr. Zarley.

13 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: Debra
14 Durchslag.

15 MS. DEBRA DURCHSLAG: Good morning.
16 My name is Debra Durchslag. And I also am a
17 lake owner on Squash Lake. And I want to thank
18 you all for coming out and holding this public
19 hearing. I know it's required, but I do
20 appreciate it.

21 I try in my life very much to be
22 involved as a citizen of Oneida County and the
23 state of Wisconsin. I was on the school board.
24 I oversee a breastfeeding coalition; all this
25 volunteer work; League of Women Voters of the

1 Northwoods.

2 What I have seen over the past six
3 years with the Squash Lake district has really
4 been amazing. I mean, I think I'm a pretty good
5 volunteer, but I look at this board and the
6 amount of work they have put into this through
7 their dedication to the preservation, one, of
8 their property, but, two, to the preservation of
9 the land we own. So it's a dual kind of
10 protection, and I believe that's your job to
11 understand and to support.

12 So we have had this lake district and
13 we've had very limited support by the lakefront
14 owners financially to maintain the eradication
15 of Eurasian Water Milfoil. And so the burden
16 has fallen lopsided. And that's okay because,
17 as I tell you, these are people who care for the
18 land, and who care for what their investment is
19 and their property values.

20 But now, with the loss of State
21 funding because they have done such an
22 incredibly good job, it falls then to a very
23 democratic process that has been laid out and
24 has been made available. And I don't think we
25 should shy away from government.

1 And, in another level of government,
2 we are a democratic society. We follow the
3 laws. We try and divide responsibility. And I
4 think it's necessary for the health of the lake,
5 and it benefits the properties. And it squarely
6 divides the burden of the taxes across the board
7 on everyone. And not only do the landowners
8 benefit, but the County of Oneida and the
9 property values, the taxes that will come in.
10 And if we want to preserve our land for seven
11 generations, this is how we do it.

12 So, thank you for the opportunity to
13 participate in this hearing. Thank you.

14 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you,
15 Ms. Durchslag.

16 Next.

17 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: Stuart Nicholas
18 Boismenuue.

19 DR. STUART BOISMENUE: I was just
20 going to read my letter. And you already have
21 the letter with you. I just realized that my
22 address is not on there. Ask I give you my
23 address. 6981 Long Lake Road, Rhinelander,
24 Wisconsin. Thank you.

25 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: Susan

1 Gruetzmacher.

2 MS. SUSAN GRUETZMACHER: I just want
3 to state: I agree with everything that's being
4 said today. We are totally in favor of this
5 lake district. I have nothing else to add
6 except that we were very grateful for this to be
7 the solution that we hope it will be. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you very much.

10 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: Tom Johansen.

11 MR. TOM JOHANSEN: Morning. Okay.
12 I'm Tom Johansen. And I'm a nonresident owner
13 of a home on Squash Lake. I'm also a current
14 member of the Squash Lake Association. I have
15 responsibilities in that association for
16 fundraising and overseeing the diving budget and
17 Milfoil removal process.

18 And why that's important is because I
19 have a very clear picture about the costs and
20 the work involved to get that accomplished.

21 I'm here today to express my support
22 for the establishment of a lake district.

23 Our association has monitored and
24 removed Milfoil for over six years on the lake,
25 doing so with the assistance of grant funding,

1 fundraising, and volunteer work to reimburse the
2 cost of the grants.

3 We know our opportunities for grants
4 are ending along with our ability to maintain a
5 consistent funding source for the removal of
6 Milfoil in the lake.

7 We also know that we cannot fund the
8 Milfoil removal process solely with fundraising
9 activities. Without the funding source of a
10 lake district, the diving and removal of Milfoil
11 will stop.

12 Our sole mission has been, from the
13 very beginning, to initiate this lake district.
14 And it still remains today to form the lake
15 district as a means to continue our efforts to
16 control the invasive species in the lake.

17 The invasive species control methods
18 and efforts used on Squash Lake are effective
19 and have been recognized in the state as a model
20 process. Many lake owners do not know what
21 Eurasian Milfoil looks like or how widespread it
22 is in the lake.

23 It's easy to look out on the lake
24 today and question the need for continued
25 monitoring and control practices. The lake

1 looks pristine and it looks beautiful.

2 What the lake association members know
3 and the divers know is that to end this process
4 for any time period would be devastating to the
5 lake, making it both physically and financially
6 difficult to recover.

7 All lake property owners on the lake
8 have a stake in the health and well-being of the
9 lake. Our property values have a direct
10 connection to the health of the lake as well as
11 our abilities to use the lake for relaxation,
12 recreation, and sport.

13 This is equally true for the off lake
14 properties in the proposed lake district. My
15 communications with many of these property
16 owners while collecting the petitions included
17 delightful conversations with people who use the
18 lake regularly and support the efforts to keep
19 the lake clean and healthy.

20 Yes, there are people on the lake and
21 off the lake who seldom use it. These
22 individuals still have the advantage of
23 increased property values and sell ability of
24 those properties by controlling invasive species
25 and having a healthy lake.

1 A lake district is an equitable and
2 fair way to share the financial support needed
3 to maintain a healthy lake among all lake
4 residents.

5 Do I need to stop? I have a paragraph
6 left.

7 MR. BOB MOTT: Finish your comment.

8 MR. TOM JOHANSEN: It makes sense that
9 all residents with access to the lake have an
10 obligation to support the efforts needed to
11 maintain a healthy lake.

12 In addition, the lake district allows
13 all to have a voice in how the lake is managed
14 and how the funding is used. It is as pure of a
15 democratic process as there is.

16 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you, Mr. Johansen.

17 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: Last speaker in
18 a moment. Marge Mehring.

19 MS. MARGE MEHRING: I'm Marge Mehring.
20 I've owned the place on Squash Lake since '89.
21 I also have been involved with the lake
22 association since the Eurasian Water Milfoil was
23 discovered. And I think the only way to
24 continually fund the effort to keep the lake
25 beautiful is to form a lake district so that

1 everybody equally shares in the expenses and
2 that way we can keep the lake clean. All right.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you.

5 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: That's all I've
6 got.

7 MR. BOB MOTT: That's it?

8 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: At least
9 registered.

10 MR. BOB MOTT: All right. I'm to give
11 a last call for speakers and do this three
12 times.

13 Are there any additional speakers?

14 Ma'am?

15 State your name, please. You can stay
16 right there.

17 MS. APPLING: My name is Janet
18 Appling. I have been on the lake for 67 years.
19 I watched the lake change over those 67 years
20 from being a very sparsely populated lake but
21 also a very, very clean and pristine lake.

22 I don't know if anybody is aware of
23 the fact that Squash Lake is one of the one
24 percent of the lakes in the state of Wisconsin
25 listed as pristine.

1 When the Milfoil was discovered, it
2 was almost heartbreaking because we seen in
3 other lakes what happens to a lake if it's not
4 taken care of.

5 I've been on the association board for
6 six years. I'm no longer on the board, but I'm
7 still a member of the association. I am in
8 favor of the lake district, although at first I
9 wasn't.

10 I live on Social Security and any
11 money that comes out of my budget is very hard
12 to account for. But if we have a tax district,
13 it comes out of my money that goes into escrow
14 for my property and it's much easier for me to
15 handle that way.

16 When they ask me for money throughout
17 the year, it's very difficult because I have to
18 watch my budget. I'm sure there are other
19 elderly people on the lake who have the same
20 situation. So, really, a lake district is a
21 much fairer and easier way for us to support the
22 lake and to keep it from being destroyed by the
23 Milfoil.

24 I've watched my property value
25 grow 300% in 67 years. I would sure hate to see

1 it devalued because Eurasian Water Milfoil
2 spoils the lake. So I'm very definitely in
3 favor of this. Thank you.

4 MR. BOB MOTT: Thank you, Ms. Appling.

5 Are there any additional speakers?

6 And, finally, are there any additional
7 speakers?

8 Okay. Does the committee have any
9 comments or discussion --

10 Okay. We'll close the public comment
11 portion of the hearing.

12 Does the committee have any comments
13 or discussion regarding the hearing?

14 Mr. Jensen.

15 MR. ROBB JENSEN: My parents purchased
16 property at Squash Lake back in 1963, and I
17 resided there until I went on to college. Since
18 the passing of my mom and dad, my brother and
19 sister have taken over ownership of that
20 property, and we're right next to the Harkins
21 and Olson access lot.

22 And, obviously, being the county board
23 supervisor, that represents a significant
24 portion of the district.

25 I have had some questions come my way

1 and want to summarize those. And I think, in
2 general, the questions are more concerned about
3 what could happen. And I think very clearly
4 from the onset when I talked to Dan about this,
5 the purpose of the lake district is to control
6 the Milfoil.

7 However, I had to explain that when
8 you form a lake district, you are given all
9 powers that the statute has for that lake
10 district. And the most important thing, should
11 this continue to be approved, is the landowners
12 must attend the annual meeting and be involved
13 and on the board.

14 I also serve as a rep on the Bear Lake
15 district. And I don't know how that was all
16 formed. And I'm in my third year on that. And
17 things seem to be going well.

18 The questions I probably see the most
19 is: What is a fair way to assess given the fact
20 that, you know, we're next to the back lot
21 owners. Let's say there's 20 back lot owners.
22 The process might be they contribute \$100 for 20
23 lots. They're contributing \$2,000 for Harkins
24 and Olson was 155. I'm not sure it's 150. It's
25 more like a hundred feet because it goes around

1 into a little bay versus my brother and sister,
2 one had the lot, they pay 200.

3 That's what you need to decide at the
4 annual meeting. The people that are okay with
5 the provision provided a possible way to fund
6 it. That's up to the annual meeting. And
7 that's where your power is. So I certainly
8 encourage those individuals to do that.

9 And then there was some question
10 about, are they going to outlaw boats and motors
11 and all of that. The statutory powers are there
12 at the annual meeting to do many, many things.
13 Be involved in the annual meeting to ensure
14 that -- if the original intention was to control
15 invasive species and voice your opinion -- and
16 the power of the annual meeting is there.

17 And I also explained that as a county
18 board supervisor, when I go to the Bear Lake
19 annual meeting, I do not vote. There's two
20 elected officials on Bear Lake. One is a Town
21 representative, I believe, and a county board.
22 We sit overseeing the budget they established at
23 our quarterly meetings, but we do not establish
24 and vote on that. So it's really the powers
25 with the people that are in the district.

1 MR. BOB MOTT: I didn't hear the timer
2 go off, so --

3 MR. ROBB JENSEN: Oh, a time limit?

4 MR. BOB MOTT: We're going to try that
5 at our meetings.

6 Thank you, Mr. Jensen.

7 Any other comment from the committee?

8 Thank you to the county and committee
9 personnel and Mike Romportl, Michele, Karl, and
10 also our hearing reporter, Mary Hader, for
11 coming today.

12 The next step in the process of the
13 county will be to verify the signatures on the
14 petition. A draft report will be presented to
15 the UW-Extension conservation committee on
16 January 9. That committee meets at 1:00 o'clock
17 in the lower level of Oneida County airport.

18 The final report will be presented at
19 the February 13 meeting of that same committee;
20 again, 1:00 o'clock, lower level of the airport.

21 At that time, the committee will
22 forward a resolution to the entire Oneida County
23 board for the February 21 Oneida County board
24 meetings. That's held at the second floor of
25 Oneida County courthouse. And the meeting

1 begins at 9:30.

2 The final vote for the approval or
3 denial of the proposed Squash Lake protection
4 and rehabilitation district will be at the
5 March 17 Oneida County board meeting. That
6 meeting held, again, second floor, Oneida County
7 courthouse, beginning at 9:30.

8 These dates for action are all
9 tentative at this time, but this is what we're
10 projecting.

11 Also, I would like to comment on the
12 idea of reviewing the grant process. The DNR
13 right now has a two or three year process
14 regarding the grant process in the state.
15 They're looking at how grants are administered,
16 how they're awarded, and so on. Shelly Thompson
17 is the lead person at the DNR and -- I believe
18 Michele is on that committee. Is that right?

19 MS. MICHELE SADAUKAS: Uh-huh.

20 MR. BOB MOTT: So one of the things I
21 have to comment to her is that it doesn't make a
22 lot of sense to me for the DNR to spend 200,000
23 bucks helping a lake eradicate or get under
24 control AIS problems and then say, now we're
25 going to give you 300 bucks for the application

1 for treatment, and the lake districts or
2 associations don't have the money to do that.

3 So what we've been proposing and would
4 like -- I'm asking you to do the same thing --
5 to contact either Michele with the comments or
6 Shelly Thompson to say it doesn't make sense to
7 us not to have at least some money coming for
8 continued support of the control of AIS. That
9 is something that you can do and I would
10 encourage you to do it.

11 So, with that, I would entertain a
12 motion to adjourn the UW-Extension conservation
13 committee meeting.

14 MR. JIM WINKLER: So moved.

15 MR. ALAN VanRAALTE: Moved and second.

16 MR. BOB MOTT: All in favor, say aye.

17 (Responded)

18 MR. BOB MOTT: Opposed? (No response)

19 Thank you very much for coming today
20 and have a great holiday.

21 (Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.)

22 * * *

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