Reflections on the Year of Clean Drinking Water and Speaker’s Water Quality Task Force

2020 Water Legislation Update

Presented by Michael Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes

Special Guest: Rep. Katrina Shankland
Special Guest: Todd Ambs, Asst Deputy Secretary, WDNR

Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention (online)
April 2, 2020
Agenda

- Quick review of legislative timeline
- Legislation impacting lake organization administration
- Water-related legislation
- Reflections on the Year of Clean Drinking Water and Speaker’s Water Quality Task Force
LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE


Budget (Feb-Jun?)

Jan-Feb        Feb-Jun        General Legislation    Nov-Mar

We’re here

Nov-Dec
Legislation impacting lake organizations

- Lake District Administrative Bills (Ch 33)
- Riparian Rights vs Lakebed Property Rights
- Hydrologic Restoration General Permit
Lake District Voting Procedure
Act 99 (AB360 /SB335 )

- Must be present to vote and get ballot before voting begins
- Ballots counted and totals reported at Annual Meeting
Lake District Voting Procedure
Act 99 (AB360 /SB335 )

• RECOUNT
  • May be requested by any candidate or elector
  • If <100 votes cast, recount is done when two successive recounts yield the same total
Lake District Voting Procedure
Act 99 (AB360 /SB335 )

• RECOUNT
  • If more than 100 votes cast
    • One recount at meeting
    • If runner-up requests…
      • Ballots placed in tamper proof container
      • Ballots delivered to clerk within two days
      • Clerk must announce results in two weeks, can charge costs to district
Lake District Voting Bid Limit
AB600 / SB559

• Increases bid threshold for lake districts to $10,000 from $2,500
• Passed in the Assembly
  • Late night amendment added PFAS-related legislation
• Fate unclear in Senate
Riparian Rights vs Lakebed Property Rights
AB551 / SB501

- Overturns Movrich v Lobermeier Sup Ct Decision
- Shoreland property owners have “riparian” right to place a pier even if lakebed is privately owned
Hydrologic Restoration General Permit
AB701 / SB631

- Creates Hydrologic Restoration and Management Advisory Committee at DNR
- Requires DNR to create general permit for hydrologic restoration activity
Flood Reduction Pilot Project
Act 157 (AB266 / SB252)

• Up to 3 natural flood reduction pilot projects in Ashland County
What We Haven’t Seen

- Reduction in protection of wetlands
- Changes to definition of navigability
- Loosening restrictions on high capacity wells
Focus on Water Quality

• Governor’s Year of Clean Drinking Water
• Speakers Task Force on Water Quality
Water Quality Task Force

- Bi-partisan, joint committee
- Statewide hearings through summer of 2019
- Report released
- 13 pieces of legislation covering:
  - Restorative agricultural practices
  - PFAS mitigation and regulation
  - Lead pipes
  - Nitrate and wells
  - University research funding
Water Quality Task Force

Bills Wisconsin Lakes Supported

• County Conservation Department funding (AB790/SB723)
• Restorative Ag Assistance Package (AB795/SB715)
• Wisconsin Fund for Septic Systems (AB791/SB710)
• Pilot Program to Address Nitrate Contamination (AB796/SB718)
• Prohibition on Sale or Use of Coal Tar-based & PAH Sealant Products (AB797/SB716)

Non-WQTF bill, but water quality related
• Water Quality Trading Clearinghouse (AB113/SB91)
Water Quality Task Force

Bills Wisconsin Lakes Opposed

- Biomanipulation project funding (AB798/SB725)
- Extra public comment period to influence groundwater standards (AB794/SB708)
- Changing the municipal flood control grant programs’ priorities (AB793/SB711)
PFAS – “The Forever Chemicals”

PFAS Legislation

- **WQTF Bill**: Adding PFAS to “Clean Sweep” program (AB792/SB717)
- Minimal PFAS standard language added to unrelated Lake District bill
- Regulation of firefighting foam (ACT 101/AB323/SB310)
- Setting of PFAS Standards (AB321/SB302)
- PFAS Research & Testing (AB842/SB773)
- PFAS Study (AB843/SB772)
- Establishing “PFAS Management Zones” (AB922/SB774)
- Funding for Testing in PFAS Management Zones (AB921/SB775)
- Non-PFAS Food Packaging Research (SB952)
Q&A

Joining us:

**Rep. Katrina Shankland** (D-Stevens Point), Vice Chair, Speaker’s Water Quality Task Force

**Todd Ambs**, Deputy Assistant Director, WI Dept of Natural Resources
How to keep informed and act

• Follow wisconsinlakes.org or sign up for our Lake Policy report
• Participate in WI Lakes’ “Lakes In Action” program
• Research bills, find your legislator and more on the WI Legislature’s website: http://legis.wisconsin.gov/
• Read newspaper articles, press releases, more at thewheelerreport.com
• Watch it all happen on Wisconsin Eye (wiseye.org)
• Talk to your legislators!