

Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee Meeting
March 10, 2016

Present: Jerry Flottemesch, Larry Knutson, Mandy Erickson, Donna Dustin, Dave Knopf, Harry Johnston, Scott Walz, Peter Mead, Rodger Hemphill, Ray Vlasak and Debi Moltzan.

Minutes: Johnston made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2016 meeting. Vlasak second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mead explained what the subcommittee has been looking at, working on and where they are at on the issue. Mead referred to a study done by Donna Dustin regarding land disturbance and how it relates to water quality, coming up with three zones or tiers for lake classifications. Tier 1 is already disturbed and more disturbance really won't have too much of an effect on the lakes; Tier 2 has more protection in place but still needs to be protected; and Tier 3 are lakes that can be most impacted and needs the most protection. The proposed list would have 62 lakes in Tier 1; 95 lakes in Tier 2 and 105 lakes in Tier 3.

Walz added that the group started analyzing lakes by NELA and found that more data was needed. The map already has the science behind it and may be easier to understand. Mead stated that Roy Smith's factors have already been entered to the disturbance map. Walz further stated that he and Smith had chosen 7 lakes and used the NELA scoring system to see how those lakes compared to the disturbance map and found that they generally matched the map.

Dustin explained the study on shoreline development and the impact on fish habitat. The two key components are water quality and physical structure which are affected by disturbances, primarily human disturbances.

The colored graph shows the combination of watershed disturbance and shoreline disturbance. The green area shows lakes that are natural; orange is where there is development but not disturbance; yellow is not developed but highly developed watershed; and red is developed and disturbed. The green area is easier to protect because the lake is in good shape. The yellow area may be able to be restored, but restoration would be costly. The red area would be harder to restore. With the study, it was found that when the number of docks exceeded 10 per kilometer (16 per mile or 1 per 330 feet of shoreline), the fish population started declining.

Walz questioned if this study would be used to change the State minimum lot size requirements. Dustin didn't know if it would be or not, but at the present time, there is nothing moving forward with State shoreland ordinance changes. Hemphill stated that the County is very fortunate to have someone like Dustin in our County; Dustin is one of the leading researchers.

Flottemesch felt that the disturbance map is something that the general public could more easily understand than the NELA. Knutson stated that one of his jobs is to weigh the property owner rights with protecting the resources and appreciates the work that Dustin has done. Knutson further stated that the proposed revision of the lot sizes is not far off from Dustin's study.

Further discussion was held on potential lot sizes, increasing setbacks on NE lakes, decreasing impervious lot coverage on NE lakes, developing NE lakeshore, and what needs to be worked on before a final draft can be submitted.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 9:00 am. The subcommittee will meet March 18th at 1:00 p.m.

Flottemesch adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Moltzan