

*Round Lake
Property Owners Association, Inc.*

P.O. Box 1070 • Hayward, Wisconsin 54843

March 30, 2010

To: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

The Round Lake Property Owner's Association (RLPOA) is strongly opposed to Placid Lake canal and dam abandonment, as proposed by Sawyer County. RLPOA believes that this proposal should be summarily denied by the WDNR. If abandonment is not denied, RLPOA requests a formal public hearing in the summer of 2011. This time frame is requested to allow RLPOA to have an independent analysis performed pertaining to the Sawyer County proposal. An environmental study and analysis is critical for complete evaluation of the impact on Round Lake and Little Round Lake.

The statements below support the position of the RLPOA in opposition to the proposal.

1. Abandonment violates WI s.31 Stats concerning 'minimum flow' as described in Chapter 130 *Waterway & Wetland Handbook*. Barr Engineering has performed an analysis, which concluded that several cubic feet of water per second pass thru the dam. This flow has been maintained even during the current, protracted drought and is the only permanent surface water source flowing into Round Lake.
2. The Placid canal and dam have been present for 70+ years and there was a pre-existing drainage between Round Lake and Placid Lake prior to creation of the canal and dam. Placid lake was historically connected thru sloughs to Round Lake and not Tiger Cat flowage, via the diversion channel to Burns Lake, like it is now.
3. Both Placid and Round lakes are in the same watershed, being adjacent headwaters of the Chippewa River. They are just several hundred feet apart and interconnected by a shared water table. During the last 70+ years of continuous water flow into Round Lake from Placid Lake, there is no documented negative environmental or biological impact on either water body.
4. Placid canal/dam abandonment represents a lack of historical perspective. The canal and dam were not built by accident but as a response to water level problems in the past. The Placid channel/dam augments the pre-existing, natural slough connection between the two lakes, which regulated the water level in Placid Lake.
5. WDNR/Sawyer County insists on maintaining a minimum flow out of Round Lake thru the artificial channel at Carlson road on Little Round Lake. The proposed

Placid Lake canal/dam abandonment represents arbitrary, inconsistent and punitive water management concerning Round Lake. This will have a negative effect on the public use of the lake.

6. Abandonment of Placid canal/dam represents a continuing pattern of disjointed Round Lake watershed management policy. RLPOA is in support of a comprehensive unified management solution. The main issue that needs to be addressed is modifying the 1941 Public Service Commission (PSC) to reflect historic water levels. Specifically the absolute high water level in this order needs to be modified/revised to minimize Sawyer County management liability. RLPOA would like to partner with the WDNR and Sawyer County to accomplish this goal as soon as possible. RLPOA would also like to work with The Tiger Cat Association to ensure sufficient water for everyone.
7. Placid canal/dam abandonment project represents a major, costly destructive excavating project and a large expense to Sawyer County taxpayers with no apparent, tangible benefit to the public. RLPOA has collected and will submit hundreds of names of individuals that have signed petition documents opposing Placid canal/dam abandonment.
8. The project will negatively alter the natural esthetics of the land. The Placid canal/diversion channel area is a very beautiful, natural area important to the public and wildlife. It is a unique area with flowing water, mature shade trees and aquatic habitat that does not exist anywhere else on the shores of Round Lake. RLPOA would be in support of public ownership of this land and preserving it as a historic public area.

This letter has the full support of the Board of Directors for the Round Lake Property Owners Association. If you have questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact me. Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Strachota". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" being more prominent than the last name "Strachota".

Bob Strachota
President RLPOA

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