

4/5/20 Response to Dan Doyle, Irogami District Ross:

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding your proposal, however there are some points that need be clarified, and please keep in mind as we move forward on this subject I and the entire board of Lake Irogami are equally as passionate about our lake as am sure you and Mark are about yours. Dan, please see my responses (Mark Magnusson)

That said and for the record;

- 1.) There was no Group ,only a meeting in which the SLMD outlined a proposal that would at that time raise the OHWM of Irogami, to which we vehemently opposed. Dan, there was/is a High Water/Storm Water management impromptu committee of which Ross volunteered to chair and I am the secretary. Meetings were held on 9/14/19, 10/8/19, and the 11/26/19 conference call/meeting you are referring to here. Lake officer board members from Alpine, Bughes, Deer, Little Hills, Irogami, Silver and the Hwy 73 trailer park were invited. Minutes for the three (3) meetings were also distributed via email to the invitee list. Any project being evaluated was not proposing to raise the OHWM of any lake within the Sanitary district.
- 2.) The "new " proposal is one that was crafted with NO input from Irogami, therefore not a joint proposal but one that accomplishes he needs of Silver Lake residents at a significant a cost saving for SLMD. This is not a new proposal, but a modification of one of the proposals by Stantec engineering which was reviewed at the widely attended 10/8/2019 meeting. The October meeting was attended by all lake districts, with the exception of Alpine. All the Stantec options were reviewed and input was gathered during the meeting for this modified proposal. Jim Blaszczyk (Irogami) was in attendance and provided feedback. Attached are the October meeting minutes (which were also distributed via email to the invitees) for your review.
- 3.) Since this is your proposal it should state so. Refer to item 2). The impromptu High Water, Storm management committee reviewed options presented by Stantec Engineering. The committee engaged Stantec Engineering in August and provided Waushara County storm water management plans developed in 1974, 1985, and 1989. The 1985 study had an engineering and complete build plan to direct Silver Lake/Booth marsh water to the white river. The 1985 study was resurrected and modified in 1997 to divert Highway 21 storm water runoff to the White River. Vic Bartel (SLSD chairman) could not fund both the Sanitary plant/sewer and storm water runoff project, hence the County storm water project was cancelled.
- 4.) Before we would even consider this most recent proposal, the Irogami board would need a detailed report from a DNR expert on invasive species regarding the short and long term effects that additional water from Silver Lake with Invasive species would have on Irogami Lake. The Wisconsin DNR lists Lake Irogami as having both Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra mussels. Lake Irogami does not have the milfoil spread like Silver due to the reduced trailer boat and boat traffic on Irogami. Zebra mussels are more present in Silver due to the gravel bottom structure on the northeast side of Silver Lake.
- 5.) As the rain is continuing to fall this is a mute point. Hence the need for our passionate lake districts to resurrect and implement a storm water management plan.
- 6.) The land owner of the wetlands north of Irogami does not want any additional water than what has already inundated his property. The proposal is not transferring incremental water. Operation could only commence when the current weir has stopped flowing since the Sanitary District cannot exceed 10 CFS of flow into Bruce/Thorstead creek watershed.
- 7.) We also have done some further homework on this subject prior to your most recent proposal:

Example: Assume they put in a large 8" pump with a rate of 1150 GPM--- Silver is 328 acres and let's say they wish to draw it down only 1 foot. That would be 328 acres x12"x 27,150 gal per acre inch = 106,862,400 gallons. IF the pump is 1150 GPM this is 69,000 gallons per hour. Thus to pump 106,862,400 gallons this would take 1548.73 hours OR 64.5 days. In truth—this will not be even close to the right amount of time because once they start pumping they will begin drawing from groundwater (which is a huge land area compared to just lake surface) and my guess is that once they draw it down 2-4 inches they will cease to make headway because the lake will resupply thru seepage yet with pressure from landowners they will just keep pumping hopelessly for political reasons. They could go 5X the pump rate to no avail (and at that rate will raise our water level due to weir flow).

This is the same fallacy of thinking irrigation has any real effect on our county's seepage lakes—the levels changes are due to rainfall alone and Silver Lake cannot fight nature effectively. All they will do is push their milfoil and other issues into Irogami Agree. I've calculated the same volumes in my high-water presentation to our lake district in August. We are not proposing to move an acre foot of water. We could only manage water when the weir stops flowing naturally. The proposal also states we would transfer 2-3" of water. The times of transfer and the agreed upon volume would need to be mutually acceptable to both Irogami and Silver lake districts. Since the lake level reflects the groundwater table, seepage back into the lake would leave some cushion within the groundwater table.

Here's the link to my high water (Mark's) presentation which outlines some of the prior investigation which has been done.
https://townshipofmarion.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/HighWater_Recap.pdf

Farm irrigation has a real impact on the groundwater. The Central Sands Water Coalition has been fighting this front for numerous years. Please see the Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council (WCWLC) February 8th, 2020 minutes. Long Lake (referred to as the cheap Long Lake, Plainfield), was dry 2 years ago. As of now they have 15' average water depth, with a deep spot of 20 feet. Lake Huron has risen 10+ feet in the last year. Two Lakes, Almond has been dry for 55 years I've eaten at the restaurant there, those lake are full. All of the lakes which fluctuate greatly are in the western half of Waushara county which has heavy agricultural use and irrigation. Pleasant Lake (Marquette County) has numerous lawsuits against Corporate Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) which draw huge amounts of groundwater and impact their lake.

Dan

Dan, I hope you and your family are well and safe in times of COVID-19. Ross and I look forward to working with Irogami and developing a mutually agreed upon proposal. If interested I have all the prior Waushara County storm water plans and studies along with the Stantec proposals (from reviewing prior year efforts) first evaluated at our Sept 2019 impromptu committee meeting.

I am offering to setup a ZOOM video meeting to discuss further and look forward to the Irogami's board input

Mark Magnusson
Silver Lake Management District, Waushara County
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