

CRANES

Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability

On behalf of its member organizations and individuals, advocating collaboratively for the environment of the South Central Wisconsin region (eight counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock and Sauk) toward a high quality of life; an ecologically sustainable and just culture; and, the celebration of the beauty of this place, both natural and built.

VISION The Capital area's environment, including water, land, and air resources, will be conserved or restored to ensure the region's quality of life and the beauty of this special place, for all who live or visit here, now and in the future.

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CRANES Testimony on November 17, 2009 Before the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission Verona Public Hearing on Shoreland and Riparian Management Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Caryl Terrell, Interim Secretary of CRANES, Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability.

We applaud the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission's outstanding Plan and we endorse the Plan's recommendations. Dane County residents support Clean Water. The Commission should act in the public's interest even if NR 115 is not yet revised.

Science documents the need to restrict impervious surfaces. The Shoreland and Riparian Management Plan incorporates this science but is not rigid.

We appreciate the organization of the report including tables that show the different performance standards organized by water body classification as well as by critical need, significant need and less needed. In addition, there are alternatives to achieve standards.

We support bringing these performance standards, often used in towns, to villages and cities, so that our lakes and streams will be uniformly protected and there will be equity across all property owners near water bodies.

We appreciate the effort to associate recommendations with key decision-making bodies that can implement the Plan's management strategies.

CRANES will submit additional comments, given tonight's time limitations. Let me conclude with a few points.

We all love the opportunity for boating, fishing, relaxing or living on a scenic lake or river. Natural shoreline features enhance our experience, protect water quality and increase shoreline property values.

Natural shorelines need natural vegetation and wetlands to prevent flooding and serve as nurseries for many fish and wildlife species. Natural vegetation filters out polluted stormwater runoff and excess fertilizer that causes smelly algae blooms and detract from recreational uses.

Earlier a speaker asked what research has been done on lakes in this part of Wisconsin. One example is T. Bernthal, 1997. *Effectiveness of Shoreland Zoning Standards to Meet Statutory Objectives: A Literature Review with Policy Implications*. WI DNR PUBL-WI-505-97. These studies of 47 streams in Southeastern Wisconsin find a strong threshold of environmental damage to streams at or near 10 percent of imperviousness across a watershed. (Interrupted by end of time) Local studies have also found that the proximity of impervious surface to a waterway is critical. One acre of impervious surface within 330 feet of a stream has the same negative impacts on fish populations as 10 acres of impervious surface greater than 330 feet from the stream.

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