

E-MAILS REGARDING CLEAR CUTTING – AGENDA ITEM #6

(1)

Michelle,

I am writing to support a change in the Shoreline Ordinance for Oneida County. Please include a restriction for clear cutting in the access and viewing corridors. Clear cutting is a threat to aquatic ecosystems and has the propensity to erode property values and the beauty of our Northwoods shorelines. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Tom Johansen, Squash Lake District Chair

(2)

Michele, I write to support removing the clearcutting option from the SPO. Study after study shows the need for extensive buffers to protect shoreline habitat, water quality, scenic beauty, and property values. Oneida County has allowed the clearcutting mistake often in the past. The state law on view corridors is much too lenient and it is up to the county to protect the shorelines which are the base of our economy in Oneida County. This shortsighted mismanagement of our shared natural resource reduces the habitat and economic value of every citizen's aquatic assets under the Public Trust Doctrine. Vilas County's SPO has a prohibition on clear-cutting and Oneida County has the legal authority to enact such a prohibition.

Thank you. Gordon Patriarca

(3)

Hi Michele,

I am writing to express my support for a change to the Oneida County Shoreland Protection Ordinance (SPO). Specifically, I would like the SPO to be amended to prohibit the clear cutting of trees and natural foliage within the access and viewing corridor on developed Oneida County shorelands. Undisturbed and natural shorelands enhance the Northwoods aesthetic, support diverse and healthy eco-systems, and improve shoreland property values.

Please consider this email as my declaration of support for this change to the SPO.

Thank you for all that you do to conserve the shorelands of Oneida County,

Rick Foral, OCLRA Board Member, 8980 Mid Lake Road, Woodruff, WI 54568

(4)

Hello, Michelle.

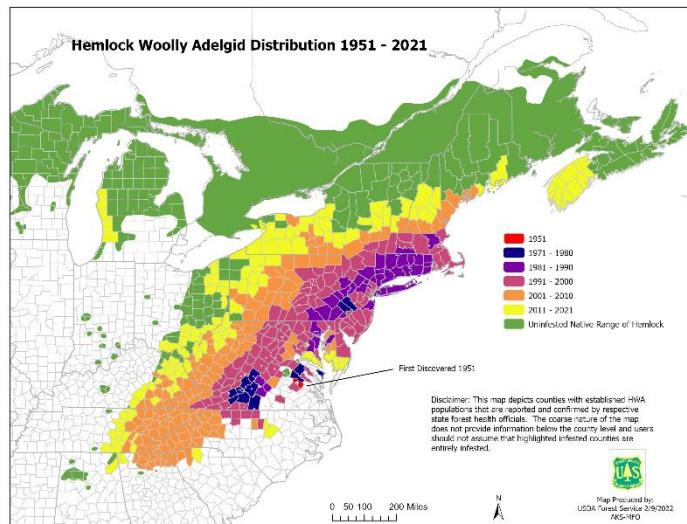
I am a lakeshore property owner on Lake Katherine in Oneida County and the current vice-president for the Lake Katherine Association, Inc. I am including the current Board members in this email. They may choose to write to you as well. We have not had an opportunity to meet as a Board and discuss this nor to interact with our members so we cannot speak to represent the lake property owners as a group. I am in favor of an amendment to the Oneida County Shoreland Protection Ordinance that would ban the removal of all woody and herbaceous vegetation in the allowable viewing corridors because of undesirable ecological and aesthetic effects. I am avoiding the term "clearcutting" as I am sure you are

well schooled in and aware of, the devil is in the details of what "clearcutting" is and isn't. In my mind, clearcutting is a term of art in forest management that involves timber harvesting and only gets confusing when applied to selective removal of trees (and perhaps shrubs and forbs) in areas like AVC's. Additionally, we need something that landowners and shoreland protection administrators can understand and work with, but also can be enforced when the threshold of being outside the provision occurs. It is not easy to line up all of the holes in the Swiss cheese for situations like this.

I have several decades of work in public land management and attempts to establish standards (must do) and guidelines (recommended to do) that can be understood, evaluated, and enforced when needed - no easy task and often not satisfying to all in the end. Without knowing the history of this issue or the ways other counties have dealt with it, my recommendation would be to turn this over to resource management professionals, such as UW Extension, to develop draft language that attempts to line up the holes. My preference would be to stay away from terms like "clearcutting" and rather to focus on what is desired and what is not from an outcomes based perspective. For example, clearcutting could be considered only removal of all or most trees larger than a certain diameter that retains all smaller trees and shrubs and forbs and perhaps some standing dead trees, but it might not be universally understood that way. There could be times when this is actually a reasonable thing to do to deal with a tree health issue if the intent is to restore tree growth in the area.

I know there is a great deal of emotion around this issue and that there are examples of land clearing and development on lakeshore lots in the county that many would find aesthetically displeasing and less that environmentally sound if not worse, some of it even well-intentioned, such as overly extensive rip-rap to ostensibly limit effects of wave action undercutting banks. We'd do well to steer away from hyperbole and loaded words when describing what we hope for and what we'd like to avoid as we attempt to navigate this issue.

One last thought - while this issue of vegetation retention in viewing strips is being hashed out, larger issues loom on the horizon that will test our ability to make well-informed, understandable, and supportable decisions related to lakes and the forests that surround them. For example, when hemlock woolly adelgid finally makes landfall in northern Wisconsin (and that may not be too many years down the road), we will be faced with the rapid and mass mortality of one of the most important shoreline trees in the north. That will be a problem that likely has far more serious consequences than what lakeshore landowners are allowed to do in areas allowed for clearing for a view. We need to spend time on all important issues, and not neglect some advance work on ones of a large magnitude.



Respectfully, Paul Strong

(5 & 5a)

Michele: RE: Oneida County Shoreland Protection Ordinance—REQUEST BAN FOR CLEAR CUTTING

As of today, I am shocked that the Oneida Shoreland Protection Ordinance (SPO) does NOT include prohibiting clear-cutting in the access and viewing corridor (AVC). This lack of foresight poses a significant threat to our pristine water resources (with runoff damage), loss of nesting shore sites for cherished wildlife and maintaining high demand of desirable Northwoods REAL ESTATE land values for their natural look. Let's get this AMENDED quickly!

If everyone was allowed to clear cut lake property, we would lose what our Wisconsin Northern Lakeland Region is well-known for—it's natural heavily wooded beauty, it's ability to attract abundant fowl/wildlife to live and foster good reproductive growth, it's excellent fishing quality affording conducive reproductive sites (water clarity) with clean, clear waters.

I request we change this as soon as possible before it's too late! Michele, please ask the Conservation and UW Extension Education Committee to consider proposing an amendment to the Oneida Planning and Development Committee that would BAN clear-cutting in the AVC. Let's prioritize this immediately and take charge like other smart-minded Wisconsin/American Counties fostering protection and preservation! We need to plan for preserving a future not cut it down!

Thank you! Nancy Ver Kuilen

RE: Oneida County Shoreland Protection Ordinance—REQUEST BAN AMENDMENT FOR CLEAR CUTTING
Michele,

Earlier I wrote to you separately supporting a need for a CLEAR CUTTING BAN AMENDMENT on SPO. Another point can be made by using a great analogy that demonstrates what can happen and DID happen on a MUCH LARGER scale —that being heavily populated Lake Erie on the freshwater Great Lakes! **Our Lakeland ecology is no different just smaller and the ecological and economical damages recognized sooner for ruin if this clear cut abusive practice is allowed to continue at will.**

Water quality quickly and severely degraded to crisis stage after urbanization and industrialization was allowed for a century on The Great Lakes until passage of a 1972 US Clean Water Act & Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with Canada. Drinking water was ordered for 3 days “Do Not Drink/Do Not Boil!” An industry cleanup (or shutdowns) plus improvements on manmade threats of sewage, agricultural and suburban runoff occurred resulting in a dramatic cut in nutrient (nitrogen/phosphorus) pollution runoff that caused harmful toxic, carcinogenic microcystin algal bloom.

Perhaps you can use this near disastrous analogy to demonstrate what can happen to our Oneida County freshwater lakes if urbanization of our shorelines (valuable buffer zones clear cut) with **nutrient pollution runoff left to ruin our vulnerable freshwater resources** and destroy water quality that humans, fish/fowl and wildlife rely on for living healthy lives. “This event showed that even in regions with resources as vast as the Great Lakes, water supplies are vulnerable to these kinds of manmade

threats.” The article “Freshwater Fragility....” was originally posted 10/21/2021 by The Conversation, authors Gabriel Filippelli, Professor of Earth Sciences & Director of the Center for Urban Health, IUPUI and Joseph D. Ortiz, Professor & Asst Chair of Geology, Kent State University.

Granted water treatment systems were involved as well to flush and clear but it demonstrates how fragile our ecosystems are and can be lost. Can Oneida County learn from this and take steps to prevent and protect? Or will Oneida allow abuse of the land to continue and ignore what we ALL have ownership Public Trust Doctrine rights to protect first and foremost for future generations and the environment?

The County can and should earnestly take common sense steps now to preserve. AMEND! Stop the clear cut abuse, preserve natural filters to curb the nutrient runoff. Climate change will bring warmer temps and wetter conditions that we can't stop; land buffers will be key. We need action at local levels now.

Thank you for your efforts Michelle! **Nancy Ver Kuilen**

(6)

-Michele,

I write to support removing the clearcutting option from the SPO. Study after study shows the need for extensive buffers to protect shoreline habitat, water quality, scenic beauty, and property values. Oneida County has allowed the clearcutting mistake often in the past. The state law on view corridors is much too lenient and it is up to the county to protect the shorelines which are the base of our economy in Oneida County. As president of the Green Bass Lake Association I have seen a 200 foot clearcut mar our otherwise almost entirely natural shoreline because the county permitted the maximum cut state law now allows. This shortsighted mismanagement of our shared natural resource reduces the habitat and economic value every citizen's aquatic assets under the Public Trust Doctrine.

Bob Martini

(7)

Michelle,

Speaking for myself and also on behalf of Oneida County Clean Waters Action we support OCLRA's position on clear-cutting in the Access and Viewing Corridor. Protecting our lakes makes for a healthier ecosystem and aligns with our Northwoods way of life. Healthier lakes also support our tourism industry which is one of our largest economic drivers. In these challenging times of PFAS contamination, Wave Boat destruction, invasive species, and increasingly uncommon weather patterns we must do all we can to protect our lake habitat.

OCCWA has complete confidence in your department as well as the judgement of the current Conservation and UW Extension Committee to construct a reasonable clear-cutting amendment to the SPO that the County Board could get behind.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eric Rempala, occwa.org, Property Owner, 4212 Lakewood Rd, Harshaw

(8)

Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County Conservationist

This short note is intended to report observations of disturbing "landscaping" practices being executed on the Three Lakes Chain of Lakes. Clear cutting of lakefront parcels in the watershed of our chain has become somewhat common and disturbing to many of our association members. Large earth-moving equipment has been used at some of the locations.

Oneida County's SPO does not have any specific ordinances dealing with clear cutting as such. Other nearby counties' SPO's do contain language about prohibiting clear cutting practices. Our SPO has some language about viewing corridors but no language about clear cutting entire properties and bull dozing hills flat to the lake shore. This activity greatly affects the watershed and filtering rates to the water.

I would like to suggest that the Land & Water Conservation Committee study this shortcoming and develop possible language to strengthen our current SPO. Such language when studied and developed could be presented to the P & D Committee for their consideration and possible adoption.

Thanks in advance for reading this note and considering presenting this task to the Land and Water Conservation Committee.

Norris Ross, Board Member TLWA

(9)

Ted,

Thank you for this thought provoking request.

I just read Vilas County SPO and found that even though Vilas County does not allow "clear cutting" in what we used to call the Viewing Corridor which, I believe, includes 30 feet for every 100 feet which may be contiguous, there is "selective" cutting of trees and shrubs allowed.

The picture of Two Sisters lake which has been called from memory for its blatant violation of esthetics if not the letter of the law. I say that because I don't recall how many total frontage feet were owned. In theory, if they owned 400 feet, they could have 120 feet of contiguous viewing corridor. (Please correct me if I am wrong.)

I support the "selective cut" that I read in Vilas County. It allows some cutting of trees and shrubs. I am not sure of the process of managing that process.

I recall that the Conservation Committee tried to gain rules that showed that there could be an open walkway to the lake and an area that allowed a "View" of the lake. I think that is reasonable. That area would be required to have groundcover and/or shrubs to counter erosion which is a key element in approval of the Viewing Corridor as well as what is permitted regarding cutting.

Please send the pertinent DNR rules regarding Viewing Corridor.

As always, I would like to see the "why" involved in this decision. In my eye, all shoreline should allow some view of the lake yet still have a natural view by having natural vegetation. Not all people believe

that so I think OCLRA should have a clear reason to deny total cutting and to have clear reason/s to take that stance.

As always, thank you for your leadership in OCLRA.

Bob Mott

PS Michele, please comment on these ideas.

Also comment on Vilas County 8.3 A ."objectives of the ordinance" What are they? 8.3 E how is it determined on what cutting of trees and shrubs is allowed.

Thank you.

(10)

Michele,

I will add my voice to the chorus. As a property owner on Squash Lake, and having been involved with the shoreland issues for over 4 years now, I agree that some type of language should be adopted in Chapter 9 Shoreland Protection Ordinance to prevent clearcutting. I agree that clearcutting an Access and Viewing Corridor (AVC) has a negative impact on shoreland habitat as well as lake habitat. I will not repeat what others have already said or will say...just know that I echo them.

I would ask that at the very least, Oneida County consider the Vilas County regs on clearcutting and vegetation removal in the buffer area to create an AVC. It would be a "plug and play" or "cut and paste" so minimal effort by the Conservation Committee and Planning and Development Committee would be required.

As a refresher of what was once discussed back on August 25th 2021, I am attaching the transcript I made of that meeting where the SPO was extensively discussed, and Scott Holewinski made some astoundingly progressive suggestions. This was also the meeting where the Conservation Committee, under Bob Mott, made recommendations to P&D, but the recommendations fell on deaf ears. I would hope that some of this could be resurrected, especially the maintaining of vegetative cover in the AVC. Conservation Committee and you, Michele, worked very hard on this.

We have patience, a long memory, and the transcripts to prove it, lol.

Good luck on this endeavor! **Dan Butkus**

(11)

Good afternoon Michelle. I fully support action to eliminate clearcutting in the access-viewing corridor. Science clearly shows the damage to aquatic ecosystems which ultimately support everything good that lake property owner's value, as well as the public uses on the water itself. I also realize there are elected members of our local government who value property rights above all else. The reality is that there must be a balance between the rights of property owners and public use and well-being. Clearcutting in the ACV is clearly an item that takes property rights too far. Please assist in enacting a prohibition in clear-cutting in the access and viewing corridor!

My name is Jeff Verdoorn, and I am currently the Executive Director of Oneida County Economic Development Corporation. I am also a board member of OLCRA, as well as a board member of my local lake association (Big Bearskin Lake).

Thank you Michelle,

Jeff Verdoorn

(12)

Hi Michelle,

Ted Rulseh has asked us to comment on the fact that the current SRO does not preclude clear-cutting within the shoreland view corridor.

One of Wisconsin's greatest assets is its lakes. It is every citizen's responsibility to preserve and protect this valuable resource. The current Oneida County Shoreland Protection Ordinance provides for preserving a lake's natural scenic beauty, a vegetated shoreland, near-shore wildlife habitat, and enhanced water quality by treating and reducing runoff. It also allows a shoreland homeowner to have a beautiful view of the lake from their property, which may not preserve and protect the lake environment.

I request that Oneida County consider providing shoreland property owners a beautiful view of the lake from their property while requiring a shoreland vegetated buffer zone be maintained or created.

Jim Kavemeier, 7378 Dolhun Road, Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539, 262-542-0212,

jimkavemeier@mac.com

(13)

Michele,

I am writing to ask you to seriously consider requesting the Conservation and UW Extension Education Committee to propose an amendment to the Planning and Development Committee that would ban clear-cutting in the AVC.

I live on Hasbrook Lake in Oneida County, and I have seen the effects of having a home constructed on the shoreline of the lake. Unfortunately, this THREE story home was allowed to be constructed on the site of an old ONE story building structure that had been in place for many, many years. This home is 25 feet from the water's edge. The construction process, accompanied by a newly established asphalt driveway and parking lot running down the hill to the house alone, has caused changes in the aquatic growth along that shoreline.

This construction was only allowed because there was an existing structure that they removed. But if clearcutting is allowed and is legal, then we will have a similar situation on every lake in the County...and we will be encouraging MORE harm to our lake ecosystems and thus harming the property values themselves! It's really a Catch-22!!!

Michele, the people of Oneida County have a right to request that this sort of clearcutting and degradation be prohibited! And Oneida County has a legal authority to enact such a prohibition! Please do everything in your power to support this concept!

As OCLRA has so wisely points out:

- Clear-cutting in the AVC is a threat to aquatic ecosystems.
- Clear-cutting in the AVC harms natural scenery and threatens to erode property values.
- Neighboring Vilas County's SPO has a prohibition on clear-cutting.
- Oneida County has the legal authority to enact such a prohibition.

As a member of our Hasbrook Lake Association, Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association, Clean Boats Clean Waters, and Oneida County Clean Waters Association, I truly appreciate the position of power that you have, and am begging you to utilize it in everyone's best interest. EVERYONE...and that includes non-humans as well!

Thanks so very much for your help!

Eileen Lonsdorf

(14)

Hello Michele,

I'm emailing you out of concern for our small lake shoreline. I have been working with Scott Van Egren from the DNR on a Directed Lake Study on Great Bass Lake. Recent alterations to property on the western shoreline have many citizens concerned that habitat and lake water quality will be adversely affected.

The first photo (1) is a piece of data from the Directed Lake Study last summer showing an area of concern on the western shore of the lake. This area contains several aquatic plant species that have high coefficients of conservatism values, has been shown to have numerous bat species, and is surrounded by swamp and wetlands. The area has been disturbed by the development and enhancement of UTV and motocross trails. The owner of the property further altered the area this past winter when he had the trees, understory, and shoreline vegetation cut in preparation for a pavilion (please see photos 2 and 3). This area will never be the same.

If shoreline protections are allowed to be weakened by the Oneida County Board, there may be no stop to the kind of habitat degradation we are just beginning to see on our small lake and many others.

Any help you can provide would be most appreciated. See below for photos:

Kind Regards, Cheryl Schultz

PHOTOS:

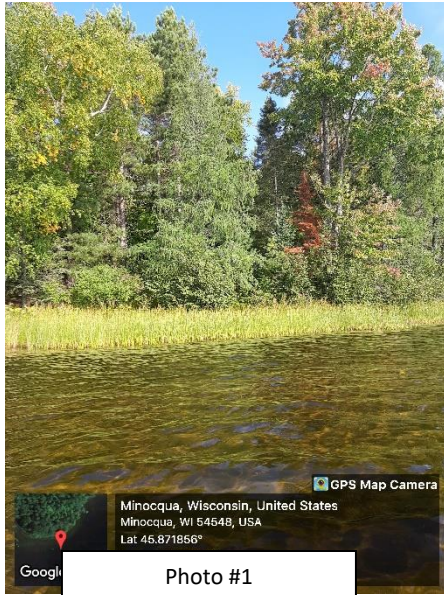


Photo #1



Photos #2 &3

(15)

Dear Ms. Sadauskas,

As an Oneida County lakefront property owner, I strongly encourage the county to create an ordinance or take other action necessary to prohibit clear cutting of trees along the shoreline of any body of water and within the Access and Viewing Zone of lake and river front properties. Clear cutting increases the risk of erosion and harms the plants and wildlife that inhabit shoreline areas, ultimately harming, public waterways. Clear cutting also disturbs the natural lake environment and beauty that people enjoy and what brings them to Oneida County. Having seen examples of clear cut frontage, I have no doubt that allowing this practice to continue will in the long run harm both the tourist industry and real estate values as more and more lakefront properties are cut to serve the whims or financial interests of different parties. To see a forested lakefront clear cut is like watching a thing of beauty destroyed before one's eyes and it is a painful experience for those who see that despoiled lakefront every time they look across a lake.

Please take whatever actions are available to you and work to support the environment and north woods beauty by advocating for a ban on clear cutting within the AVZ of Oneida County Lakes and Rivers.

Sincerely, John Scott, 5333 Lathrop Ave., Mt. Pleasant WI

(16)

Very well said. (Referring to #15 from John Scott)

This statement would be reinforced by a phone call to Ms. Sadauskas and asking for recommendations regarding how to bring it into reality.

Thanks John. Jim Bruno

(17)

Dear Michele et al,

Ted Rulseh has clearly and astutely explained the urgent call for alarm regarding clearcutting.

For me, such appalling rape of shoreland property began in 2019 with the clearcutting of a newly developed property on Two Sisters Lake (TSL). I can provide photos of this devastated condition that were taken from the water before building construction.

- My first exposure to the P&D Committee and being inside the County Board Room occurred on 9-20-2019 when four of us TSL Board members attended that P&D meeting. We objected and showed photo prints of the devastating condition. It fell on deaf ears.
- Subsequently, we learned that 43 other TSL property owners filed similar complaints. That also fell on deaf ears.
- Consequently, I and a few others (not the same persons that attended the 9-20-2019 P&D meeting), working long and hard, putting together a PPT presentation addressing this condition and offering other recommendations to correct ambiguities and inconsistencies in the current version of the SPO. numerous times. Once again, that fell on deaf ears and was turned away.
- Numerous times thereafter, both in writing and public commentary in county meetings, I brought to the attention of Karl Jennrich and the entire P&D Committee the following: Regarding clearcutting, "**Right now, with the current wording in Chapter 9 of the SPO, you have the freedom and authority to prohibit clearcutting.**" Again, and to date, this has all fallen on deaf ears.
- My friends and I also had key persons of WDNR present in Zoom meetings. They blessed the freedom and authority that P&Z/P&D could exercise to regulate vegetation removal (trees, shrubs, ground cover) in the AVC.
- The terms "natural scenic beauty, water quality and wildlife habitat" are mentioned numerous times in the SPO and in countless other documents. Apparently, these terms have no meaning, validity or respect by many in our local county government.
- I am willing to attend meetings of the CUW/LWC Committee to explain our experiences in greater detail and offer support for the immediate halt to clearcutting of shoreland properties.
- NONE of the above has anything to do with nor is in conflict with our growing Northwoods population or "hunger" for economic development.
- Read the Vilas County (and a few other counties) SPO. Clearcutting has been prudently prohibited for a long time.
- Instead of focusing on silly arguments about "stairs alongside a boat house" and the definition of "retaining" wall," let's fix something much more crucial, which is straightforward and need not be argued.

Respectfully and with hope, Joe Steinhage, OCLRA Board Member, Mobile: 715-360-4340

(18)

Hi Michele, I am contacting you to advocate for preserving our natural lakeshores. Our lakes are natural resources that belong to all of us. Keeping our lakeshores naturally vegetated keeps our lakes looking like natural resources, but is also vital for the protection of water quality and the health of the lake's ecosystem that our fisheries ultimately depend upon.

Thank you for your time Michele, and have a nice day.

Sincerely, Karl A. Fate, Spur Lake, Town of Crescent.

(19)

Hi Michelle,

I strongly support rules against clear cutting around lakes, rivers and streams in Oneida County. I recently had some work done around my property on Lake Katherine and found a man who would do the work without cutting down any trees. It was more challenging to do it that way but it's possible!

I am now working on coming up with a plan to protect my shore line from the waves produced by the large wave motors. The erosion is getting worse every year.

Thank you for working on this.

Lynn Buhmann

(20)

Hi Michelle,

I'm a property owner and taxpayer in the Town of Cassian in Oneida County and have been involved in natural resource/recreational advocacy as President of the Friends of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and a writer for Silent Sports Magazine and other magazines/websites.

Development continues across our beautiful county at a brisk pace which is positive in many ways. However, we need to maintain a reasonable balance on how this occurs. We have owned our land since 1992 and witnessed significant clear-cutting in lake and river corridors. This practice has negative impacts on aquatic systems, harms vegetation and will ultimately affect our property values. Many counties and towns have enacted controls over these practices.

I understand the County's Conservation Committee can take action to limit clear-cutting in lake and river viewing areas. We highly recommend the Committee and Country Board review these practices and develop rules/laws to limit this practice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael and Karen McFadzen, 8646 Sand Lake Road, Cassian WI

(21)

Michelle

You need to look no further than Sherwood Lake in Rome, WI to see the negative effect clear cutting has on an aquatic environment. Check it out.

Peggy Jensen

(22)

Hello Michele,

I enthusiastically support muscular rules against clear cutting anywhere near OC lakes, streams and rivers. (You may also be aware that the P&D Committee may soon be proposing "permits" for landscapers?)

I hope to have some photos to send you of remarkable recent clear cutting on the shores of Lake Katherine. My personal reasons for dreading more tree cutting are centered around protecting water quality and wildlife habitat.

Thank you for your work on this important issue. Stumps don't lie!

Stephanie Burrell

(23)

Ms. Sadauskas –

As a property owner on Birch Lake and as president of the Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association, I thank you for your willingness to consult with the Conservation Committee about a possible ban on clear-cutting in the access and viewing corridor, as an amendment to the Shoreland Protection Ordinance.

Clear-cutting on our shorelines is a detriment to our aquatic ecosystems and is destructive to the scenic values that are a large component of the area's appeal, and of lakefront property values. Anything you and you committee can do to help eliminate clear-cutting in the AVC will be greatly appreciated. Please keep me informed on this issue. You can be certain of OCLRA's support in this endeavor.

Best wishes,

Ted J. Rulseh, 920-242-8671

(24)

Michele,

Please consider proposing an amendment to the Oneida County Shoreland Protection Ordinance. This amendment should be for a clear-cutting prohibition in the access and viewing corridor. Clear-cutting threatens aquatic ecosystems, harms natural beauty, and should be prohibited on riparian properties.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Tom LaDue, 2974 Camp Bryn Afon Rd., Rhinelander

(25)

Hi Michele,

I hope all is well with you. I'm writing to say that I would support an ordinance change that would prohibit clearcutting on lakes and rivers.

I live on the Pelican River. In recent years, the river becomes brown with sediment after rainstorms - much more so than it used to. I suspect that damage to the bank, possibly including clearcutting has occurred somewhere upstream. I've seen this happen on other streams and rivers in the northwoods.

I've also seen damaging clearcutting on lake shores. I grew up in Southern Wisconsin, and saw the overdeveloped lakes down there with dirty green water. It was refreshing to move north and get to fish and swim in clean, tree-lined lakes.

I've snorkeled some area lakes and found that the shorelines with natural vegetation have more fish.

In addition to changing the look of shorelines, clearcutting on lakes increases sedimentation. A study was just released showing that loon populations are declining due to lake clarity going down.

It seems to me that it's fair to ask owners of river and lake property to be reasonable when making viewing corridors.

Thanks Michele.

Tom Wiensch

(26)

Michele,

Please submit a request to amend the county SPO to include a clean-cut ban in the viewing corridor. As a Pelican Lake homeowner and lake activist I have seen firsthand the results of allowing this clear cutting in the viewing corridor. It is a threat to Pelican Lake's aquatic ecosystem by allowing too much run off which feeds the algae blooms that are becoming an annual scourge. As recently as 20 years ago an algae bloom was a rare occurrence and now it happens frequently each summer. Homeowners and tourists have had to stay off the lake for days at a time due to these blooms.

I have noted that our neighbor, Vilas Co, has a clear cutting prohibition so it is clearly allowed by the State's SPO guidelines. Vilas County understands that protecting lakes is good for their economic bottom line. Tourism is a major player in the economy of both counties. They have adopted this smart proactive policy to make sure lakes are protected and will attract fisherman, boaters, kayakers, bird-watchers, wildlife lovers, etc. Oneida County should do the same.

Clear-cutting is not only bad for the ecosystem of lakes, but it is also a visual blight. We live and recreate on lakes because of the natural beauty. Cutting down the native trees and shrubs is bringing the city to the lakeshore; the long term harm will be felt in lower property values and fewer tourists.

Thank you for your valuable leadership in protecting all our natural resources. It's important work.

Jean Roach, Pelican Lake
