

Formation of a Lake District Q&A



What is the Long & Tittle Lake District?

A: A specialized unit of government (like a school district) formed by petition of the lake property owners to identify and address weed control, water quality, and recreational uses. It would be guided and operated by those that own property in the district.

Who would be a member of the Lake District and how is it governed and financed?

A: The Lake District would be comprised of all property owners on Long Lake and included properties per the attachment. These members elect a board of commissioners and approve the annual budget at the yearly meeting. The budget, after approval by the property owners, is divided among the lake property owners and this Lake District Fee is then added to the annual property tax bill.

What would the cost be per property owner?

A: The fee depends on the budget approved by the property owners. But according to UW-Extension survey most lake district fees are around \$100 per property per year. See the proposed budget on the reverse side.

Do other lakes have a Lake District?

A: There are over 200 Lake Districts in Wisconsin.

What is the difference between a Lake District and a Sanitary District?

A: A Lake District has influence over weed control, water quality, and recreational uses. Sanitary Districts are established to provide water and sewer services. (There are absolutely no plans to create a Sanitary District)

How would a Lake District Solve Problems we're Currently Facing

Problems:

- Excessive weed growth
 - Limited \$ for harvesting w/ LLPA donations
 - Reduction of gov grants for weed control
- No say over boat patrol regulation and hours
- Nonresidents have no vote
- Inadequate volunteering to make the LLPA sustainable

Solutions:

- Weed control
 - Adequate \$ for weed harvesting of lake
 - Better opportunity to obtain gov grants
- More influence over boat patrol regulation and hours
- All Lake District members vote
- Appointed board by District Members
- All share equally, no fund raising necessary

Benefits:

- Better recreational activities
- Safer recreational activities
- Sustainable Lake Management
- Increased lake property values
- 100% participation in lake district voting & participation

Proposed Budget and Cost Per Property

The proposed budget below is for illustrative purposes as the Long & Tittle Lake District Budget would be approved by the Lake District Commissioners, this could be increased or decreased by the district members at the annual meeting.

Office expenses	\$ 1,810
Insurance.....	\$ 450
Licenses and permits.....	\$ 300
Professional fees (Legal & Accounting).....	\$ 1,000
Weed Harvesting (loan payment & operation).	\$ 22,840
Dump Truck (loan payment & operation).....	\$ 7,150
Newsletters.....	\$ 900
Website.....	\$ 200
Mileage to Lawyers office	\$ 200
Meeting rent.....	\$ 150
Clerk payroll & SS.....	\$ 2,150
Contingency.....	\$ 2,550
Total.....	\$ 39,700

Once the Lake District general operating budget is approved by the property owners, it is divided among all property owners in the district. What is being proposed is the property tax on each lake property would be \$100. This tax would appear on your annual property tax bill. There are 397 properties within the district providing a yearly revenue of \$39,700. This amounts to less than 28 cents per day.

Lake District and Grants

Lake districts have a greater chance of obtaining grants than Lake Associations. Lake Districts are recognized as a governmental body with the ability to raise funds and the stability of elected commissioners, as opposed Lake Associations which are operated by volunteers who raise money through donations and events.

Goal

Buy a weed harvester & support equipment to harvest weeds as often as necessary.

Assumptions

Osceola Township continues to own and patrol Long Lake and Kettle Moraine Lake.

What Happens If the District Does Not Pass

If the petition to create the Lake District does not pass, we will have to determine if volunteer support can be found to continue the LLPA. If it cannot the association will be dissolved and so will the lake weed harvesting for Long Lake.