

Lake Management Planning

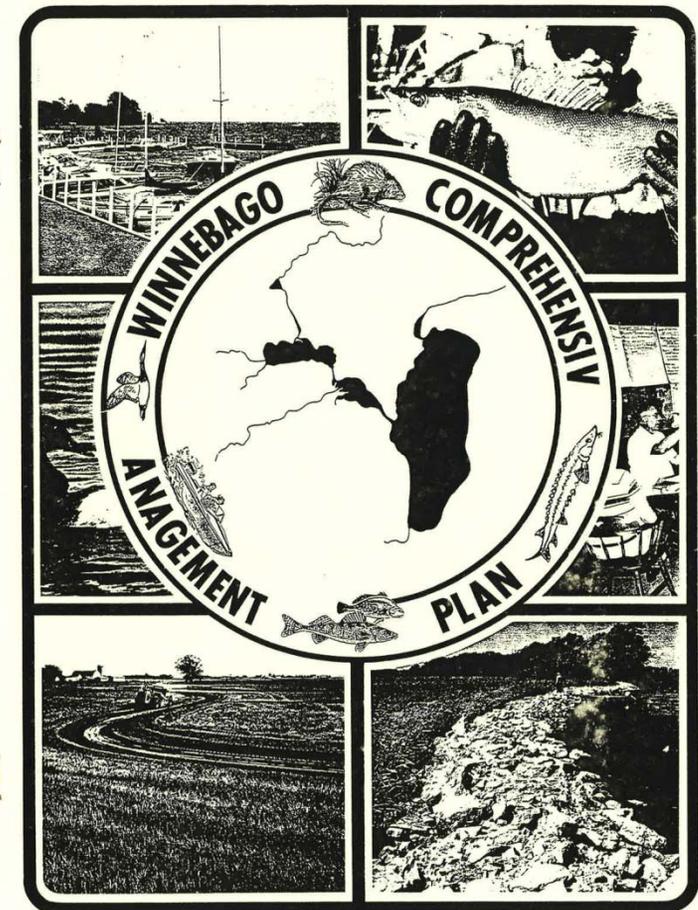
Shaping the Future of the Lake Winnebago System

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Why Now?

1989 Comprehensive Plan

- Plans updated every 5 years
- Objectives of 1989 have largely been met
 - Summarize lessons learned
- Times have changed
 - Land use, Funding avenues, invasive species, etc.
- New challenges
 - TMDL implementation
- Finish what we started
 - 20% completed



Common Misconceptions

- **THIS IS YOUR PLAN**

- Role of DNR and Federal Agencies:

- Technical advisory and financial support

- Goals and action items identified / set by local stakeholders (Board)

- Implementation is up to you

Lake Management Plan

- Unique & dynamic document which represents the interests of stakeholders
- Accurately, summarizes scientific and socio-economic information
- Sets realistic goals and action items to be accomplished over a determined period of time
- Action – Consistent efforts made to protect, maintain and/or restore desired lake conditions
- Provides framework for future efforts by documenting what management activities have been attempted and how successful they were

WHY PLAN?

- Lakes cannot protect themselves
 - Serious problems can & do exist
- Best to be Proactive vs. Reactive
 - Correct past problems, assess current conditions & provide for future improvements
- Reduces user conflicts
 - Tool for consensus building & education
- Results in actions being taken
 - Rational, systematic approach
 - Basis for additional funding / permits

Effective Planning

- Education
 - By-directional flow between Stakeholders and Resource professionals
- Communication
 - Public outreach must involve as many people as possible!
 - Methods: Public forums, newsletters, e-mail, websites, surveys.
- Transparent process
 - Plan developed in the open, no hidden agendas

Planned Public Participation (Early & Often)

- Kickoff Meeting
 - Identifies issues and weighs public opinion
 - Develop & Mail stakeholder survey questionnaire
- Public Participation / Issue Meetings (1-6)
 - Feedback / Comments
 - Present results of stakeholder survey
 - Experts present data on various topics: Water Quality, Fisheries, etc.
 - Sets draft objectives / goals
- Final Draft Meeting
 - Feedback / Comments
 - Summarizes results of previous meetings
 - Presents objectives and goals

Lake Management Planning Process (not always sequential)

- Form Citizen Steering Committee
 - Represents local, County & State Interests
 - Size varies
- Identify and reach out to stakeholders
 - Need to be thorough! Nobody left out.
 - Separate Advisory Group: to represent these interests?
- Define concerns
- Develop & distribute citizen survey
- Summarize existing information / plans
 - County Plans, existing resource information

Lake Management Planning Process

- Gather information, conduct studies
 - Watershed
 - Nutrient loading, modeling
 - Social and demographic trends
 - Economic activities related to lake
 - Sustainability?
 - Capacity analysis
 - Fisheries
 - Aquatic Plants
 - Recreation

Lake Management Planning Process

- Identify the problems
 - look at its impact & known contributing factors
- Prioritize the problems
 - All problems can't be tackled at once
 - Which problems align best with stakeholder issues
 - Cost benefit
- Determine specific goals, objectives and & actions to address prioritized issues
 - Goal – general: what to accomplish (e.g. Reduce AIS)
 - Objective – Specific & Measurable: (e.g. Reduce EWM by 90%)
 - Action – Steps taken to meet objectives (e.g. Spring herbicides, hand pulling)
- Develop monitoring strategies / plan

Lake Management Planning Process

- Estimate associated economic costs
 - Identify & secure funding sources
 - May need to adjust the timing of specific goals & actions
- Determine a timetable for specific goals & actions
 - Set short, mid and long term goals
- Identify project leadership
 - Divide responsibilities
 - Insure accountability
- Implement short range projects
- Report progress to stakeholders
 - Effective Communication is critical
- Frequently review and update LMP (goals etc.)

Typical Plan Chapter Topics

- Background Information
 - Demographics (Financial Capacity)
- Shoreline Management
- Fisheries
- Aquatic Plants
 - Aquatic Plant Management Plan
- Recreation
- Water Quality
- Watershed Management
- Implementation (Action Plan)
 - Protection, Enhancement, Restoration
- Monitoring Plan

Issues to Overcome to Create an Effective Management Plan

- Must work together & keep an open mind!
 - Preconceived ideas must be shed
 - Consider the entire lake not just back yard
- Limited stakeholder Involvement
 - Limited ownership / understanding
- Too much attention to squeaky wheel
 - Many issues and many opinions

Adoption and Approval

- Public input throughout
- Public comment on Draft Plan
- Consider comments
- Finalize
- Adopt locally
- DNR review

State Lake Grants

- State Funding (67% State Share)
 - Small Scale Planning Grants - \$3,000
 - Large Scale Planning Grants - \$25,000
- State Funding (75% State Share)
 - AIS Control - \$200,000
 - Lake Protection Grants - \$200,000
- Federal Funding
 - EPA, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, USGS

Thank You!

Questions?

