

Freedom Matters

A Weekly Newsletter

Dane County, Wisconsin

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We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. Yet, when a legislature is in session, no one's life, liberty or property is safe. It's the curse of a democracy. That's why we have a republic instead. *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore our republic. Most of the press and courts fail to do so. They've forgotten that freedom matters.

Fences Make Good Neighbors. So the poet, Robert Frost, said. He really meant that fences turn bad neighbors into good neighbors. Is that the case in Perry? Town citizens have cast covetous eyes on David Gehl's field, and plan to take its use from him by enacting regulations. Gehl's response is that of the poet -- or of the lawyer in this case. Against those who covet, fences make good neighbors.

"Rural Cleansing" on Fish Lake by Michael Byrne

As editor of *Freedom Matters*, I publish the adjacent letter in its entirety, with permission of the author, because it speaks volumes, not only about the frustration of one of our friends and neighbors, but also about the dangerous mind set of our local government officials. So often I've heard in casual conversations comments such as "I don't know why I try to voice my opinion, they do what they want to anyway..." or "So and so is bent on accomplishing their agenda whether we like it or not..." Read on and you'll soon see why these utterances are proliferating in our county.

Fish Lake is a shallow, small lake in the northern part of Dane county where a small group of property owners have enjoyed nice, productive lives (read that to imply taxpaying members of our community.) Due to a variety of climactic conditions the level of the lake of late has fluctuated, and it is getting a bit too close to the houses built along its shores. A problem also exists with siltation and water temperature that may be influencing the ecological balance in the lake.

The problem of environmental balance has immediate effects on the aquatic life, and it is significant that this problem seems to be shared by another lake just up the road a few miles, a lake near and dear to the conservation community, Devil's Lake.

But the solutions proposed and supported by various officials are quite different. At Devil's Lake they are getting ready to install a system to pump water from the deeper part of the lake to remove water heavily laden with pollutants that are deemed dangerous to the fish. It is not exactly a cheap solution, but all agree it will probably be very effective.

The same solution has been rejected by state and county officials at Fish Lake, in spite of the fact that it would be equally effective. The

money was in the state budget, but the governor vetoed it out.

Why? Because some officials have decided that nobody should live around Fish Lake. And people say rural cleansing is not happening... Particularly ironic is that Kathleen Falk proposed stakeholder meetings to get everyone to become involved in finding a solution to this problem. Read the letter and you realize that this supposed "community voice" evidently did not mean anything to some who were planning a "solution (a final solution)" to the problem at Fish Lake.

Dear County Supervisor:

It is with great consternation that I write this letter regarding the inappropriate action of certain employee Coordinators of Dane County Committees. I am particularly concerned with the recent action of the Coordinator of the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Committee.

The Coordinator of the Lakes and Watershed Committee, along with several other Committee Coordinators, without consulting with home owners, elected Township officials or County District Supervisor, prepared a pre-application grant proposal for \$1,200,000 (tax money), to specifically purchase homes and relocate home owners that are being adversely affected by high water in Fish Lake in NW Dane County. This being done three months after a 22-member Stakeholders group (of which the Coordinator was a member) had voted not to move homes and had voted (17-5) to save the homes and other environments by lowering the water level of Fish Lake by pumping—at a fraction of the cost of relocating the homes. (By the way, this 22-member Stakeholders group was suggested by the Dane County Executive.) In addition to saving homes, lowering the water level would save the tax payers money regarding: road repair near Fish, Crystal, and Mud Lakes, help restore water quality and the lake ecosystem and wildlife habitat—which are all in the public interest—which is important, particularly in view of the fact that Dane County now operates a public park on Fish Lake that was purchased for more than \$3,000,000 tax dollars.

I do not understand how Committee Coordinators who are public employees, can be allowed to initiate proposals that adversely affect citizens, without consulting with local taxpayers, Township officials, and County Supervisors. This is simply not the American way of doing things. Making plans to relocate homes without consulting those involved is totally unacceptable.

Even though it appears the efforts of citizens to rectify a situation that has caused a great deal of taxpayer and private citizen expense, and has destroyed environments that were in the public interest to protect is for naught, I urge you to take some type of action to prevent committee coordinators, in the future, from initiating any actions that affect citizens without first consulting the people that are involved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

God bless America!

Sincerely,
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Readers' Bulletin Board. e-mail us your comments. Include your name, for publication by *Freedom Matters*

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