

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.

What's Fishy About Fish Lake? Your Politicians at Work. An Update

By Vern Wendt and Bob Bowman

Fish Lake is rising. And Crystal Lake and Devil's Lake. And County debt, State debt and Federal debt.

How did we get in debt? Democrat Franklin Roosevelt changed the U. S. into a welfare state, entitling us to have "government" pay for whatever ill befalls us. As in *Animal Farm*, some are more entitled than others. Well, it's easier to bail us out of water than bail us out of debt.

DNR has dawdled for two years on Fish Lake, after the determination that the problems could be solved by removing the rising water. When the same problem hit Devil's Lake, the DNR did not dawdle; it is removing the rising water. It seems there are politics at play, and a decision was made to try to squeeze the home owners off the shores of Fish Lake. Why else apply for a grant to buy them out, rather than apply for a much cheaper grant to bail them out? Will politics squeeze out home owners on Crystal Lake and Devil's Lake next?

These problems prompted the following recent letter.

Dear Executive Falk and Director Krusiec:

I am writing to request immediate emergency action in the form of funding assistance for a proposed pumping project that will address the high water crisis on Fish, Crystal, and Mud Lakes in NW Dane County.

This is an issue that has been overlooked for far too long. Area residents are fighting a losing battle to spare homes and property from further flooding damage. Portions of many homes are under water, with many approaching uninhabitable status. Access to several homes is being severely restricted and Town roads are continuing to sustain major damage, with portions now completely underwater. Additionally, the health and quality of the lakes, in the past referred to as among the

natural "jewels of Dane County" continue a steady decline.

I am fully aware that an application for nearly \$1.8M was submitted last year by Dane County to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for funding to allow the purchase of affected properties on Fish Lake. However, this proposed solution would have provided for only a fraction of the potential value of these properties, and would have addressed only a portion of the problems associated with the high water. It would not have addressed the continuing damage to Town roads, and it would not have provided any assistance to affected individuals and properties on neighboring Crystal Lake.

The cost estimates for the proposed pumping solution are in the \$300- 400,000 range – a far cry from the proposed \$1.8M expenditure – and this solution would address all of the problems associated with the high water. U. S. Geological Service reports clearly indicate a direct relationship between the affected lakes. A pumping solution initiated on Fish Lake would have a direct effect on water levels on Crystal Lake and provide immediate relief for all property owners in the affected areas.

This crisis reached emergency status last year and still there is no help or assistance in sight. Powerless residents will soon be forced to abandon their property because units of government at all levels have failed to take action. Dane County has an opportunity here to demonstrate its leadership capabilities by helping to provide a financial lifeline for our residents. We cannot sit back and allow the water to simply wash them away.

Time is of the essence in this matter. The area residents and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,
Vern Wendt
Dane County Supervisor – District 28

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