



Department of Planning & Development
& Office of Lakes and Watersheds

Myths and Facts about the Dane County Waterbody Classification System and
the draft Shoreland and Riparian Management Report: A Summary

December 23, 2009

Myth: "Dane County is proposing a new rule..."

FACT:

- No shoreland zoning ordinances or rules have been drafted.
- No proposal is pending before the Dane County Board of Supervisors.
- Any change in rules is at least 2-3 years away.
- No changes will be proposed until local demonstration projects are conducted and evaluated.
- The Lakes and Watershed Commission is reviewing a report written as required by a DNR grant.

Myth: "...homeowners completely out of sight of the shoreline could face significant burdens to obtain permits..."

FACT:

- Most landowners not immediately adjacent to the shore would not be affected.
- No required or prohibited house colors!

Myth: "... (rules would) apply to both new construction and lots with existing homes..."

FACT:

- Only big expansions, teardowns, or new buildings might be affected.

Myth: "Local property rights may be eliminated and replaced with a new bureaucratic process."

FACT:

- For many, proposed ideas would reduce red tape.
- Property rights are protected under the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- Local permits would continue in the same process they do now.

Myth: "The end result could be declining home values..."

FACT:

- Under similar Wisconsin and Minnesota programs, shoreland property values went up.
- Cleaner water, better fishing, more wildlife;
- Less runoff and erosion.

Myth: "Will turn artificial stormwater basins into public, navigable waters subject to regulations."

FACT:

- Navigability is determined by state law, not county policy.
- Vast majority of artificial stormwater basins are not navigable under state law.
- "Publicly owned" does not mean "navigable."

For more information:

http://www.danewaters.com/management/water_body_classification.aspx

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