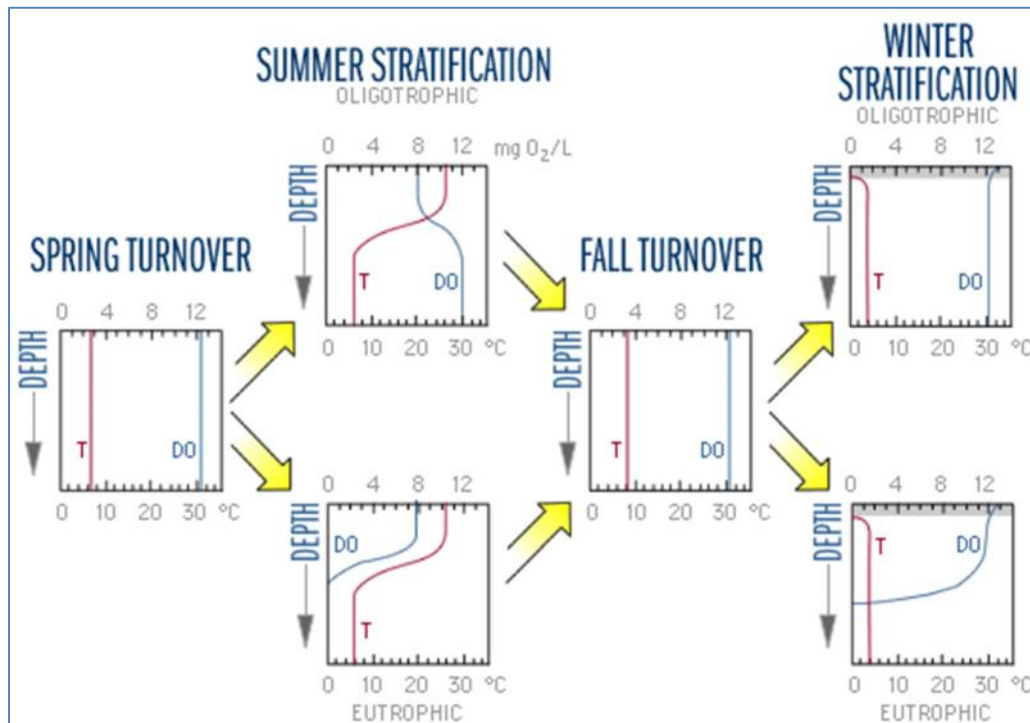


Vilas County Dissolved Oxygen Meter FINAL REPORT SPL-368-16



Prepared for
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, June 2017

*by Carolyn Scholl, County Conservationist
Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department*

Grantee

Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Committee

Project Title

Vilas County Dissolved Oxygen Meter

Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Committee

Kim Simac, Chairperson
Holly Tomlanovich, Vice-Chairperson
Carolyn Ritter
Marv Anderson
Dennis Nielsen
Ron Kressin

Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department

Carolyn Scholl, County Conservationist / Department Director
Mariquita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist
Cathy Higley, Lake Conservation Specialist

Project Activities

The scope of this small scale project included the following activities:

- (1) Purchase of a YSI Pro DO meter and probe
- (2) House the DO meter at the Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department and allow the public to utilize the instrument to collect DO/Temperature profiles on area lakes.

Project Deliverables

Pictured below is the instrument that was purchased in late April of 2016 through the Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department. Vilas County also purchased a hard-sided case for storage and easy travel purposes.

The hard sided case does provide nice protection for the meter.

Once the unit was shipped to our office, the County Conservationist prepared the probe and line for use in the field by placing accurate measures along each foot of cable. The unit was then calibrated for use and was tested at a nearby lake. Adjustments were made until the unit was ready for public use.



At that point, it was time to let the lake public and citizen volunteers know that the DO meter was available for their use. A news release was prepared (Appendix A) to let the public know that the meter was available and where they could go to pick it up, each Spring (2016 and 2017) we send the information out on our email list serv, and the information has also been placed on our website for viewing.

Summary Use

In 2016 and 2017, we have only had 2 area lake representatives using the meter regularly - Anvil Lake and Nelson Lake. Vilas County staff is also utilizing the meter monthly this summer on 3 lakes – Wabasso Lake, Little John Lake, and Mamie Lake for our current *Directed Lakes* monitoring grant project. We will continue to let the public know of the unit availability and as time goes on and it will likely gain popularity as more groups become aware of its existence here in Eagle River. The procedure to use the meter is very easy. Users need to call to reserve the unit, pick it up at the Land & Water office, sign out the unit on the form that we prepared (Appendix B) and return it on the date they indicate. To reduce the risk of cross contamination, we ask the users to rinse the probe and cable after each use with fresh water. That's all there is to it.

Appendix A

News Release



Vilas County Land & Water Conservation

330 Court Street • Eagle River, WI 5452

715-479-3747 • Fax: 715-479-1978 • www.vilaslandandwater.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 13, 2016

CONTACT: Carolyn Scholl, County Conservationist, 715.479.3747

New Meters Aid in Monitoring Lake Water Quality

Thanks to the Three Lakes Waterway Association and the Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department, there are two new meters available to the public to monitor dissolved oxygen and temperature on area lakes. These meters, along with several others that are already available to the public, can be found at various locations throughout Oneida and Vilas Counties.

Dissolved oxygen (DO), is the measure of gaseous oxygen in water and is necessary for good water quality and healthy fish populations. Oxygen in the water also influences many different biological and chemical processes within lakes and streams.

“Citizen volunteers throughout the state monitor the quality of water in lakes by measuring water clarity, the amount of phosphorus and algae, water temperature and dissolved oxygen as part of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network.” Said Scholl. “Using a meter to collect DO makes it a little easier for volunteers and interested citizens to collect this information.”

For interested individuals in the Three Lake areas, the meter can be checked out at the Three Lakes Library. For more information on the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network or to check out the meter for use in the Eagle River area, contact the *Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department* at 715-479-3747.

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Appendix B

Office Check Out / Check In Form

