

**BAYFIELD COUNTY
IMPLEMENTATION GRANT
for
LAKES CLASSIFICATION
NARRATIVE**

When Bayfield County adopted a Lakes Class system in December, 2001, to regulate development along the County's lakeshores the main task was to educate the lakeshore property owners and the general public as to the specifics, the impact, and the purpose of the new ordinance. While the Ad hoc Shoreland Committee had been meeting for two years and its activities had been covered extensively in the local newspapers the majority of the people were not fully and accurately informed as to what the classification system entailed. The main task was to provide the public with accurate information to counter the misinformation being disseminated by the opponents of the new regulations.

The opposition to the revised ordinance was led by a group calling themselves Northern Coalition for Fair Zoning. This groups principle objections centered on regulations for non-conforming structures. Their arguments centered on individual property and taxpayer rights to do what they wanted with their lakeshore property and that these new restrictions on development of non-conforming structures would decrease the value of their lakeshore properties.

The first step was to hire a staff person whose principle duties would be to work with educating the public and answering their questions. David Kedrowski was hired to fill this position that was designated a Shoreland Technician. He had served on the Ad hoc Shoreland Committee as an alternated and was elected by the membership to serve as chairperson when Chairperson Thomas Lindsey resigned from the committee.

The Shoreland Technician would be responsible for developing a public information strategy and would be the principle staff person to deal directly with the educational program on lakeshore issues. The first step was to develop, print, and distribute a Property Owner's Guide for Protecting and Managing Shorelands in Bayfield County. Point North Mapping of Hayward was contracted to develop this guide based on the Burnett and Langlade County booklets.

In the meantime, a Waterfront Living Information was developed by the department and made available to the public. It contained information on the new ordinance and the importance of protecting the county's shorelines. It included pamphlets dealing with shoreland restoration, shoreland lighting, contacts for assistance, mitigation requirements, and the importance of living in harmony with our lakes and their shorelands. This information packet was provided to anyone who requested information and lakeshore property owners who were looking to develop or improve their lakeshore properties. It was also distributed to realtors in quantities so that they would be able to give them to their customers who were looking to purchase lakeshore property.

After some delays and missteps the booklet 'A Property Owner's Guide for Protecting & Managing Shorelands in Bayfield County' was completed and printed for distribution to the public. This booklet is important in that it was specific to Bayfield County. As was the information packet this booklet was provided to the general public, lakeshore owners that were developing their properties, realtors in bulk quantities, the Nature Conservancy office in Ashland, and the public libraries serving Bayfield County.

In cooperation with the Ashland-Bayfield-Douglas-Iron Counties Land Conservation Department a Shoreland Restoration Guide was developed and printed for

public distribution. This guide provides information to lakeshore owners who are voluntarily restoring their shoreland buffer zones and also to any property owner who is required to do mitigation in conjunction with a land use permit issued by the department.

A Zoning Department WEB site was also developed and is maintained to provide information to the public not only about Shoreland issues, but zoning in Bayfield County in general. The public can also obtain a wealth of information about the characteristics of their property on the Land Records Department's Map Viewer.

Numerous meetings were held throughout the county to explain the Lakes Classification system and the impact of the non-conforming structure regulations. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of shoreland buffer zones in the ecosystem and how they should be maintained and restored. Groups met which included the Namakagon, Eau Claire, and Pike Lake Chain Lakes Associations and the Bayfield County Lakes Association. The Chequamegon Builders Association, Kiwanis, and the Alliance for Sustainability were some of the groups that were given presentations. Workshops were also held for realtors and surveyors in the county. Several opening meetings for the general public were held in Iron River, the area where the greatest opposition to the new shoreland regulations existed. Unfortunately, the only group that did not meet with members of the department was the Northern Coalition for Fair Zoning.

A Survey Requirements list and ordinance were developed with the cooperation of the County Surveyor Robert Mick, and Land Records Administrator David Lee. This was particularly needed at this time as all lot divisions in a shoreland area of 19 acres or less must be done by a Certified Survey Map.