

7-13-12

YOUR VIEWS

DNR ignores concerns of Turtle Lake group

I read with great interest your article on Lake Koshkonong.

While I applaud the DNR for trying to save a wetland, I find this contradictory to past practices. They're spending countless hours, resources and dollars taking this to the Supreme Court and yet one county away, a wetland is draining and the DNR doesn't seem concerned. Of interest is that the DNR owns one-third of the shoreline.

Our lake association has spent more than a decade trying to solve the issue with our lake level, which includes at least one breach in the creek bed, a questionable culvert and its affect on the wetlands/lake itself.

In August 2004, our association met with the DNR at the site of the breach. After spending \$7,000 to have an aquatics engineer draw up a plan to fix things, we were turned down for a permit to do so. I have documentation from the DNR (dated Sept. 18, 2006) that states the wetland was showing signs of suffering. That was 8 years ago, and things haven't gotten better.

We met with the DNR twice in 2011, once in a closed meeting and once at an open meeting. Unfortunately, our situation hasn't changed.

It's ironic that the DNR can pick and choose which lakes and wetlands it wants to protect and those it doesn't.

Again, we've been working on this for more than a decade. Our question is, where do we go for help?

CHERYL MITACEK

On behalf of Turtle Lake Association,
Town of Richmond