

REQUESTING LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO LAKE DISTRICT FORMATION STATUTE

WHEREAS, in 1974 Wisconsin passed legislation allowing the formation of Lake Districts, and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. Chapter 33 – Subchapter IV (Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Districts) establishes the parameters of Lake Districts including the formation process through petition to a Town or County Board and their operation after formation, and

WHEREAS, through legislation Lake Districts have been given legal standing with the ability to tax and eligibility for cost sharing funds and state assistance, and

WHEREAS, the process for formation includes submitting a petition to the Town or County Board showing the proposed name of the district, statements about the necessity and benefit of the proposed district, proposed boundaries, and petitions from 51% or more of property owners within the district, and

WHEREAS, the petition needs to set forth that the proposed district is necessary, that the public health, comfort, convenience, necessity or public welfare will be promoted by the establishment of the district, and that the lands to be included will be benefited by such establishment, and

WHEREAS, after filing of the petition the receiving entity must hold a public hearing within 30 days, compile and submit a report on the hearing to the full legislative body within 3 months, and take action on the petition within 6 months, and

WHEREAS, if the district is approved a preliminary board of commissioners is appointed until the district can elect their own board of commissioners as outlined in statute, and

WHEREAS, once the District is approved by the Town or County Board and an initial Lake District Board of Commissioners is approved there is no future local oversight and the Lake District operates independently and can continue in perpetuity, and

WHEREAS, the ability to create a Lake District is beneficial and is often done to address a specific project with the ability to levy for expenses, however the District can continue to operate and levy once the specific project is completed, and

WHEREAS, Statute currently does not allow the approving body any discretion to put limits on how long the district can exist, the ability to reauthorize the district, ability to monitor the District and determine if the original intent is being meant, to verify that the described necessity for public health, comfort, convenience and public health are being promoted, and

WHEREAS, the inability of the approving body to address these potential concerns and exercise discretion in the creation of new municipal entity with the ability to levy creates reluctance in approval of new Districts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors does request that the Legislature amend Chapter 33 of Wis. Stat. to allow Town and County Board's the ability to add conditions to their approval of Lake Districts that would address the length of time a

District can exist, the ability to reauthorize a District, and monitor the work and performance of the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval this Resolution is distributed to surrounding Counties, the legislators representing Sawyer County and surrounding Counties, and the Wisconsin County Association.

Information contained in this Resolution was recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on February 20, 2025, by the Sawyer County Administration on February 13, 2025.

Administration Committee




Ron Kinsley, Chair



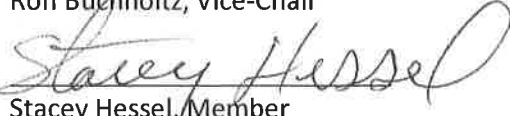
Tom Duffy, Member



Ron Buchholtz, Vice-Chair



John Righeimer, Member




Stacey Hessel, Member

This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this 20th day of February, 2025



Ron Kinsley
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Chair



Liz Klein
Sawyer County Clerk