

SPOONER LAKE SEPTIC SUMMARY REPORT

During the summer and fall of 1992 a septic survey was performed by Norton Engineering on 120 septic systems of lake shore properties. This included all the septic systems on the lake with the exception of the one on Kotch's Island which will be surveyed later. The results of the survey were turned over to the County Zoning Office for enforcement. The Lake District has no power of enforcement. Because of the unusual load of work for that office, including a lot of building permits and variances requested this spring, the notification process for the survey has been delayed. On June 15th thirty letters were sent out to the owners of properties that clearly had failing septic systems. They are encouraged to repair or replace the system within a year's time, as per county code. Thirty other properties were identified as "indeterminate". These are systems that are suspicious but not clearly failing. These reports will be kept on file and if a building permit is requested for one of these properties, a formal septic survey will be required. It is possible that if they change hands, that a formal septic survey will be undertaken as well as part of the sale transaction. In this way over the next few years these questionable systems will be upgraded or at least more clearly elucidated. No letters of notification have yet been sent out to these landowners but they will be in the next few weeks, I am told. The County Zoning Office also intends to notify the rest of the property owners to let them know that their properties have been surveyed and their septic systems are acceptable at this time.

The cost of each survey was \$65.00 and 120 sites brings the total cost to \$7,800. This money was issued in two checks dated January 13, 1992 and September 21, 1992 from Spooner Lake Rehabilitation District to Norton Survey. Copies of these checks are included with this report. The Lake District received a check from the DNR for \$5,625 on April 28, 1992 in partial payment of the grant. The grant was a 3:1 match not to exceed \$7,500. Also enclosed with this report is a copy of our usual spring newsletter. Each spring we have a board of directors meeting and issue a newsletter about the off-season business of the Lake District and an invitation and reminder to attend te annual meeting, which is always the Sunday night of Labor Day Weekend. Our meeting and the newsletter was a little delayed this year in anticipation of the zoning office's action. Consequently, the spring newsletter was not sent out until mid summer. All landowners will receive this information and a letter from the County in time explaining the septic survey.

According to our calculation, 75% of \$7,800 is \$5,850. Consequently, the grant owes the Lake District \$5,850 minus \$5,625, or \$225. The original estimate of \$10,000 for a septic survey was not realized, resulting in a savings of \$3,200 overall and a savings to the DNR of \$1,700 over the projected outlay of \$7,500.

Generally, the response of the landowners has been favorable. The quality of the water on Spooner Lake has always been excellent in spite of these failing systems probably because of the large flow through the system. The landowners are anxious to preserve water quality, both to maintain property values and to maintain the resource for their children and grandchildren. The Board of Directors feels it can speak for the property owners in expressing its gratitude to the DNR for the financial help it provided for this septic survey.



The Spooner Lake Rehabilitation
District, Board of Directors

29 June 1993

Dear Spooner Lake District Members:

This is your "spring" newsletter, typically sent out after the "spring" Board of Directors meeting. We are late this year because we decided to wait until copies of the letters for failing septic systems were sent out. You may remember that last fall a septic survey was done on Spooner Lake by Norton Engineering. This work was paid for by a grant from the Department of Natural Resources and matching funds from the Lake District. The DNR paid 75% of the cost and we paid 25% of the cost. The total cost of the project was approximately \$8500 dollars and came to roughly \$65.00 per property, there being 130+ properties on Spooner Lake. The information was turned over to the County Zoning Office because the Lake District does not have the authority to enforce these laws. The County, however, is responsible for enforcement. The Zoning Office has had a large backlog of building permits and requests for variances from around the County this spring. It has consequently not had time to send out the letters as early as both we and they had hoped. It is their intention to contact everyone whose property was surveyed. The first group of letters, numbering about 30, was sent to those whose septic surveys clearly are failing. These letters went out in mid-June. The next group of letters, numbering also 30+, will be sent to landowners whose septic systems are questionable or at risk of failing. No formal action will be taken by the County at this time but the information is left on file such that if the property is to be sold there may be a more thorough inspection of the septic system and if there is a building permit applied for, there definitely will be a more thorough inspection of the septic system at that time. The last group of letters will be sent to all those with satisfactory septic systems explaining their situation in the process of the septic survey.

The Board of Directors met on June 28, 1993 and discussed this and several other topics of interest. Our finances are a bit cloudy at this time as we have not completed the paper work for the grant and we don't know exactly where we stand. It looks like we will have several hundred dollars in the treasury at the time of the annual meeting. We will discuss at that time whether or not there is a need to have our second assessment, or tax, since our inception eight years ago (our opponents were sure that we would have a tax every year and we are very happy to prove them wrong!).

Water levels have been a little hard to follow this year with all of the rain. We get the impression that the City anticipated the extra water and opened up the dam somewhat. At the peak of the flooding the water level was exactly right. It could be that they were overly aggressive with this opening because at the time of the board meeting the lake was a little low. We don't think that this will be a problem because at the time of this writing there is more rain on the way. Spooner Lake always seems to be a little out of the ordinary and we must be the only lake in the upper midwest to report low levels at this time!

The weeds seem to be a little bit ahead of last year. It is the general feeling of the Board, and others, that the weed problem seems to get a little bit worse each year. Certainly at the annual meeting again this year we will be discussing the possibility of a draw-down and that will accompany the usual discussion on the quality of fishing.

The Board discussed the new presence on the lake this summer of personal water craft/jet skis. There seem to be more in number than usual. Opinions on the Board, and those collected from others, ranged from "that looks like fun, I would like to try it" to "there nothing but a damn nuisance". It was unanimously decided, however, by the Board to recommend or suggest that personal water craft operators, or their parents, see that the "high energy antics" take place well away from the ends of docks, other boaters and fisherman. It was noted that the jet skiers seemed to thrive on big waves and the suggestion was made that these waves would more consistently be found in the middle of the lake and not near the edge. Once again, the Board notes that it has no authority to enforce jet ski rules which have recently been changed and are now are very similar to the rules for other water craft.

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We want to invite you all to the annual meeting where these topics and other ones will be discussed. The United States Forestry Service will be providing us with a presentation on Zebra Mussels and how to keep them out of our lake. The annual meeting, as always, is the Sunday night of the Labor Day weekend. This year it is on September the 5th. The meeting is at 7:30 at the Civic Center. Please plan to come and participate in this meeting so that your voice can be heard. I hope you all have a great summer on beautiful Spooner Lake.

P.S. There will be a presentation also from the Spooner Town Board on an upcoming reassessment mandated by the State. This information will be of interest to all of us.

Lake District Board of Directors