

December 20, 2010

To Kimble Lake Property Owners;

Crow Wing County has been working on updating the shore land development ordinances for CWC lakes. The shore land ordinances were last updated in the seventies. CWC initiated the review process after the Minnesota DNR failed to get approval for the revised standards they sent to the state legislature and governor for approval last year. There is a general consensus that the water quality of many Minnesota Lakes has declined in recent years and much of the decline can be attributed to the way we have developed the shore land of our lakes. The new ordinances being proposed are designed to protect and improve the water quality of our lakes for the future.

Crow Wing County has been seeking input from the public as the ordinances have been revised. The ordinances will establish new standards for development on parcels currently undeveloped. Additionally, there will be new standards on what can be done on parcels that have been previously developed. The ordinances will not impact previously developed properties until a property owner requires a building permit for changes the property owner hopes to make on their property. As part of the permit approval process a property owner will be required to include a shore land buffer plan to receive a building permit. There will still be a variance procedure, to provide relief for non conforming development requests.

The process of reviewing development ordinances is very complex and time consuming. Fortunately, WAPDA [Whitefish Area Property Owners Association] has been very involved in the review process. WAPDA has studied the proposed ordinances and has been meeting with the county staff to suggest changes and improvements to the ordinances. There have been open meetings with CWC staff, WAPDA and lake association representatives to review and discuss ordinance changes. The Greater Brainerd Lakes Area Realtors and lakes area home builders have also been meeting with CWC staff to share their concerns with the county.

The Kimble Lake Homeowners Association has had representatives attending the meetings on your behalf. There will be additional public hearings once the final draft of the ordinances is completed. The proposed ordinances will not become law until our county commissioners approve the changes. Although I know none of us will be completely in agreement with the proposed ordinances, I believe the best interest of our lakes will be served by the new standards. Information regarding the proposed ordinance is available on CWC's web site. Public hearing dates and locations will be announced in local papers.

Submitted by;
Steve Erickson