

May 10, 2001

Dear Big Chip Lake Association member:

At our last board meeting, which was held on April 21, we discussed the progress of the sanitary sewer project. Terry Scott was present and reported on the discussion of the sewer project at the last Brandon township meeting. He said that there has been a shift in how sewer projects are funded. In the past they were typically funded by grants and loans. Now there is a push for smaller projects. Townships are encouraging 10 to 30 homeowners to band together and build one large mound system. Then the township wants to back away and have the homeowners run their own "sanitary district". These systems cost approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000 per homeowner. There are grants and funds available for these smaller systems. There is a possible \$200,000 grant available for starting the smaller system. The Brandon Township Board is planning on meeting with their attorney to see what their responsibilities and liabilities would be with such a system. These systems can be viewed as an incremental step, with the possibility of eventually tying into a larger system. Under such a system, people would have a very hands-on ownership. The Township board wants to wait and see where the larger project is going before they decide to pursue the possibility of these smaller projects. They will continue to push the MPCA to get funding for the larger project. There is a township meeting next week.

There was a general discussion after Terry's report. We decided that we have three courses of action: investigate the possibility of building smaller sewer systems around the lake, pay for the larger system without loans or grants (approximately \$20,000 per homeowner), or stay the course in trying to obtain public grants and loans to build the original septic system as planned. We agreed that we would continue to try to obtain the grants and loans, even though the outlook is somewhat dimmer than what we originally expected. Some ways in which we might help the process along is to write or e-mail our congressmen to inform them of the need in our area for a public sanitary sewer. The Brandon Township Chair, Gaylin Croonquist, and the presidents of Chippewa, Whiskey, and Devils Lake Associations have sent such a letter to Representative Cassell, Senator Larson and Representative Ozment. The more attention we can draw to this cause, the better our chances of obtaining funds. Our first priority is to keep the lake clean and protect the public's health. We would truly appreciate any help we can get from you. If anyone knows someone in government that may be able to help us, please let someone on the board know.

Our annual meeting will be held on June 16, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at the Brandon Lion's Park located in Brandon. Representatives from Widseth, Smith & Nolting will again be present to answer any questions about the progress of the proposed sanitary sewer project. Following the meeting, we will again have a picnic. Brats, hotdogs, beans, chips, bars, plates and forks will be provided. Please bring your own beverage and lawn chairs. Any donations for the picnic are appreciated.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR LAKESHORE ASSOCIATION THAT WE HAVE AS MANY PAID MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE. Membership is only \$10 per year. Attached to this letter is the membership form. Please fill it out and return it with your \$10.00 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We need to know how many will be attending the picnic so we can order the food. We also rely on your membership dues to fund mailings, projects, etc.

Hope to see you at the meeting/picnic.

Sincerely,

Big Chip Lakeshore-owners Association Board.

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