

LAKE MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP

Interim Report

June 2008

P.L. 35-2006 established the 26-member Lake Management Work Group, whose activities are to be directed to problems and issues associated with public freshwater lakes. Similar work groups had existed in various forms previously, either as the result of statutory creation or on an *ad hoc* basis under the auspices of the Department of Natural Resources. The current act directs the work group to issue a report before July 1, 2008; this is that report.

The work group members are listed on the attached spreadsheet.

The work group has met five times since being established – on November 13, 2006, March 16, 2007, June 22, 2007, October 3, 2007 and April 4, 2008.

A wide variety of lake-related topics have been discussed at the meetings and the work group is working toward developing recommendations that would help resolve concerns related to several of the topics.

Since the interim report was submitted in June 2007, topics that have been and/or are still being discussed include (but are not limited to):

- Determining what is a statutory “public freshwater lake” subject to IDNR jurisdiction
- Lake Wawasee Conklin Bay ecozone effects and concerns
- Larger, more powerful boats’ impacts on lake ecology
- “Creeping normalcy” of over-utilization of nearshore areas of lakes
- IDNR role in applying public trust doctrine
- Need for IDNR permit review guidance for lake dredging projects
- Economic value of lakes
- Disagreement over impacts of early season largemouth bass fishing
- Phosphorus ban for dishwashing detergent and lawn fertilizers
- Addressing the proliferation of piers and other temporary nearshore structures
- Considering establishment of pier and shore station configuration standards, as well as a process to resolve disputes between adjacent riparians
- Promoting shared use of shoreline improvements by adjacent landowners
- Identifying means to control aquatic nuisance species, including plants, fish and other animals
- Establishing processes to control toxic blue-green algae

The work group developed formal recommendations for a number of topics, some of which resulted in legislation that was enacted.