**Week 9- LCD Update**

**Conservation Corner**

***Conservation Corner is a weekly article produced by the Forest County Land &Water Conservation Department. For more information contact Al Murray, Land&Water Resources Technician at 715-478-1387 or by e-mail at*** ***lcc@co.forest.wi.us******.***

**Hello again, I would like to apologize to the readers for my lack of articles in the past month.** As many of you may already know, our office here has seen the retirement of long time Land and Water Administrator- Pam Labine as well as many changes in the County Board and Committees. Changes in board members and staffing along with the busy building season for zoning with land use permits and sanitary permits has put our office behind. As a result I did not have the time to complete my weekly article. With that said, I am back, and hope to pick back up with the articles. I have had a lot of positive feedback about these articles from people all around the county and feel that these articles are making a great impact.

The Land Conservation Department (LCD) has been working on a good number of potential cost share projects with landowners on Lake Metonga, Roberts Lake, Revolver Lake, and Pine Lake. Most of the potential projects on Lake Metonga, Roberts Lake and Pine Lake are shoreline erosion related to ice shoves and erosion created by open soil from these shoves. The potential project on Revolver Lake is related to erosion from an access road that has potential to degrade water quality. LCD is working with the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to bring cost share programs to landowners who are willing and able to have the work completed to department specifications and plans. Cost share programs are available for many projects, however the landowners need to be aware that cost are paid by them up-front and then reimbursed by the government programs. Please e-mail the department if you think you have a potential project related to soil erosion or water quality and we will schedule a time to look at your property.

The LCD is working on assisting the Pine Lake District with their potential sample dredging project for this summer. The new DNR regulations now allow riparian landowners to complete some dredging in their lake if they meet the requirements of the general permit, if they apply for the general permit and are approved, and if they pay the fee which is around $300. If these requirements are met, the riparian landowner may dredge up to 25 cubic yards of sediment from specific areas near their lakeshore. New regulations require the DNR to issue such permits within 30 days. The Pine Lake District hopes to carry out a project this summer to demonstrate how to complete a dredging project and to demonstrate the good things that can result.

LCD is also working with the Forest County Health Department on a project called “The Quiet Waters of Forest County” which will promote the paddling sports such as canoeing and kayaking. So far 42 quiet water accesses have been mapped across the county including lakes and streams with limited development. When complete the project will provide mapping, directions, and photos from the sites. Mapping will be available for use on google maps so people can utilize their devices to locate and utilize our wonderful “quiet waters” for their enjoyment.

Thank you for reading our articles and please look forward to future installments!