

VERBAL TESTIMONY SUBMITTED AT
3/11/19 PUBLIC HEARING

**Public Hearing to Solicit Comments on the Chippewa County Land & Water Resource
Management Plan Revision
March 11, 2019**

Patricia Popple, 561 Summit Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI 5429
See the written comments section.

Harold (Buck) Steele, 27260 269th Avenue, Holcombe, WI 54745

First of all, the last time I spoke about....at the meeting, I questioned or talked about I didn't see the deliverables and stuff, and I sure appreciate that attachment with this last one I got in the mail or email last week...I guess, you just had it up there. But on page 6 of that, I know you had said that you highlighted in a.....everything about the..... what you figured was priority...or is it page 6 or

I read in there where it wasn't a priority to take a look at the Chippewa Valley system...Chippewa River system. It was the only one on the whole page and I thought that, you know, that should be moved up to make it a priority.

I can't find it right now. I'm looking. Do you know where it's at?

D. Masterpole (LCFM)– Yes.

H. Steele - Where?

D. Masterpole – I'm not sure but I know it's in there and it's not a priority, but I understand the comment....but I can't comment.

H. Steele - Well, I could read it if you tell me where it is. I'll read it out loud. I know I read it.....I didn't get a chance.....I didn't get a hardcopy of it until I checked my mailbox on the way down here today. So....Ok.....

P. Popple – On page 52 there's reference, on the hardcopy, there's reference to Objective 4.... evaluating a phased hydrologic study of the Holcombe flowage.....page 52.

H. Steele - It really wasn't a priority on that and I feel that that should be a priority.

So.....and the other thing I feel compelled to talk about is I heard today that we only got 7 days for public comments for a five year plan. This is a five year plan we're talking about. I can remember being down here and we had three public hearings on opening up the Tealey Creek Trail over a two month period but we're holding this to seven days? That's up to you guys.

Thank you.

D. Gullickson (LCFM Committee Chair) – Thank you and I’ll be checking with Corporation Counsel to check on that timeline Mr. Steele.

D. Masterpole – Mr. Chair, in answer to Buck’s question, it was Goal 4, Objective 4, and that reads “with interested lake associations & DNR, determine interest and feasibility of advancing a basin-wide management approach to managed water quality on impounded flowages on the Chippewa River”.

H. Steele – Right, that was the one. The one that referenced there was a different one.

D. Masterpole – Correct. This one is under water pollution control.

H. Steele – Right, water pollution control. Thank you Dan.

D. Masterpole – Thank you.

Terry Bowe, 16930 County Hwy O, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

My name is Terry Bowe. I live at 16930 County Hwy O, and I’ve spent a considerable amount of time on Lake Holcombe and the Chippewa River.

I’ve been on this advisory committee over the past years and worked with some wonderful people with different points of interest but collectively, everyone has the same concern we should have, and that’s our water quality.

The obvious, surface water, I came into the committee with concerns about and then realized how important our groundwater and the degradation its gone through, and the wonderful documentation that Chippewa County has sponsored over the years and the fact that we can continue monitoring it, which is actually a model for the state.

The reason that I would like to say a few words is I too would like to see a priority. It’s one of the objectives here in regards to the lake associations and having the County set the benchmark and streamline information that collectively, these associations can use without rewriting the book.

I think with the input from the people on this advisory committee, getting that information to the lake associations and starting on the education, again with the County sponsoring, and I say sponsoring.....that means leadership. It’s not a big financial endeavor. This public/private relationship that the Lake Wissota Stewardship Program has been exemplifying, I think, can be imported to Lake Holcombe, even though it is a little further north.

Being that said, in the documents, we talk about doing some of the studies on a couple of the tributaries that are still within Chippewa County, be it the Jump River and others. Realizing as it is a two part program here with the Chippewa River basin being a large endeavor and taking much longer, and the other one, the reality of what’s tangible for our lakes and the river immediately....realistic.

I think it's time to include some monitoring in the Lake Holcombe area. It does affect everything downstream obviously, and I don't think it's a big cost to the County, so I'd like to see that as a priority.

That's the only thing I'm asking.

I think Bob Panzer said it very well. He spoke eloquently of you guys. Thank you for what you're doing.

Richard Smith, 27200 145th Street, New Auburn, WI

I'm Richard Smith, 27200 145th Street, New Auburn. I live in the Town of Sampson and I'm sometimes identified with the Ice Age Trail. I would like to comment on a couple of points in the....I'm also on the advisory committee by the way.

The Committee....the work plan calls for some activity on the part of the County....on the part of the Department to support activity by the Ice Trail Alliance and the National Park Service to continue to work on developing a corridor for the Ice Age Trail to extend from its present terminus near Cornell to east of the Chippewa River to Taylor County.

We've been working on a project like that for many, many years, and it's been a long slough because of reasons I can't even begin to explain because I honestly can't even begin to know...but when you're working with the Park Service, things take a little longer than you might have hoped. But we appreciate the work the County did in this area, at least a dozen years ago perhaps, and getting us started, and we have been working on that for the last couple years, but there is a lot of work to do.

It's one of the longer stretches of unmapped Ice Age Trail in the State. Another one of the long stretches is on the other side from the Chippewa Moraine north into Rusk County, so there's a lot of unplowed ground when it comes to the Ice Age Trail.

One of the benefits that we don't always think about, that the trail....that the plan, I think, highlights is that the Ice Age Trail has become a corridor. A natural corridor through the state that allows for all of the good things that natural corridors bring, whether it be the opportunity for wildlife or native plants, and those sorts of things to prosper as they continue to move back and forth and expand and develop and thrive in some of those corridors so....there is a lot of spinoff values for the Ice Age Trail Corridor that are beyond the obvious, which I guess, is recreation and all the potential of people who might be coming to the area to use it.

I applaud the efforts to include that focus and the willingness of the Committee to invest that imprimatur....to the Committee....to the Department to say you have the time. You have the authority to work with the nonprofits that are trying to protect land in the County, whether it be for recreation or just protection of natural lands, whether it's through the variety of nonprofits that are referenced in the report. Having that kind of scientific and knowledge base serving all of those organizations is very useful and very helpful. So, everybody isn't flying off in different directions and not having any kind of central coordination point. So, I express my appreciation and support for that.

Thank you.

Gary Bergstrom, 722 21st Avenue, Bloomer, WI 54724

My name is Gary Bergstrom. I'm from Bloomer, WI, 722 21st Avenue, 54729.

I want to begin by telling you I am not a lifelong resident of Chippewa County. I came here as a result of an accident. My wife picked me up hitchhiking on the Grand Portage Indian Reservation. That's how I ended up here.

Retired teacher.

We are all products of our environment. Sustained by in countless ways, emotionally, physically, spirituality, and I think this environment I love with all my heart because of the people that this environment has produced and sustained all these years.

I've never been involved in anything even remotely like this. I was on the advisory board and I'm grateful that I was invited to participate. I think the most important thing that we can do is bring people together any way that we can, and I think that was reflected in this whole process, and I'm grateful.

I'm also grateful for the professionals who..... I know I talked earlier to someone about this. The fact that it's one thing to be volunteers and just come in at the end of the day, and I'm retired, but for the people like Dan and Mike, who are out in the field or whatever they're doing all day, and then to devote this time, I think is truly a credit to their dedication and I, for one, am grateful for it.

Anyway, I don't have a lot more to say about that. I'm grateful for the educational component that has been included in this program.

Again, thank you.