

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF LAND IN THE  
FISH LAKE NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

The Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan recommends the acquisition of land within the Fish Lake Natural Resource Area in recognition of the unique natural features of the lake and its attractiveness as a recreation destination. Fish Lake is a popular fishing spot and is unusual in that it has no natural inlet/outlet and is one of the deepest lakes in Wisconsin.

A current consequence of the lake's physical characteristics is repeated cycles of high water levels, which have negatively impacted properties along Fish Lake Road in a manner that could not have been anticipated when the homes were built. Historical orthophotos show that the majority of homes were constructed hundreds of feet from the shoreline on non-hydric soils. Due to recent rising water, most of these homes are uninhabitable due to flooding.

The County is working with several landowners who are willing to sell their properties. The property owners along with purchase price of each property are as follows:

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Purchase Price</u>
Kavanaugh	7864 Fish Lake Road	\$137,500
Ripp Grandchildren Lake Club	Lot 7 Gaukel's Fish Lake Sub.	\$45,000
Robarts	7888 Fish Lake Road	\$227,500
Steck	7860 Fish Lake Road	<u>\$195,000</u>
	Total Price:	\$605,000

The Town of Roxbury has agreed to act as a fiscal agent to purchase these properties and apply for a Wisconsin DNR Municipal Flood Control Grant which could cover up to 50% of project costs. Land & Water Resources would facilitate the transactions and the grant and would take ownership of the properties from the Town.

All structures would be removed and the land would be restored to natural conditions and available for public use and enjoyment, including hiking, picnicking, swimming and fishing. Fish Camp County Park is adjacent to these properties and so no additional infrastructure or staffing will be needed to incorporate these lands into the management regime.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize the purchase of property from Kavanaugh, Ripp Grandchildren Lake Club, Robarts and Steck for \$605,000 and associated costs according to Wis. Stats. Chapter 27.05(3);

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize application to the Wisconsin DNR for a grant to offset purchase costs and that the Dane County Executive and Dane County Clerk are authorized to execute the grant and partnership documents necessary to maximize cost-sharing from project partners, which will include temporarily vesting land rights to the Town of Roxbury;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department Director and the Real Estate Coordinator are authorized to administer the closing and the transfer of the above-mentioned rights to Dane County and the Controller is authorized to issue checks necessary to effectuate the transaction.