



Sedimentation of Winans Lake, North Shore - Volunteers Needed

The Winans Lake Association Board (board) has been discussing the issue of stormwater runoff, the erosion and sedimentation of the North shore of the lake during this past year. To accelerate progress on this important topic, a Committee will be formed to begin studying and developing recommendations. Please review the summary below and if you are interested in participating on this Committee, contact Dennis Durnwald (*contact info appears at the end*).

The topography of the land North of Winans Lake (especially the Teahen Road area) and development of homes and roads in this area have created the “perfect storm” for generating erosion and subsequent sedimentation from this drainage/sub-basin. At the Teahen and Cowell Road intersection, the runoff flowing down Teahen Road during rain storms can dump all of the suspended solids and much of the sediment directly into the lake. A similar problem exists from stormwater drainage coming from the Cowell Road area, East of Teahen. As a result of many years of stormwater runoff / erosion from this area, the North shore of the lake has gradually filled in with sediment.

Recently, residents that live on the North side of the Lake have requested that the board take action on this issue. Some homeowners on Cowell Road can no longer launch a paddle boat from their docks due to sediment filling in the lake. A study completed 11/6/1996 for WLA entitled “North Winans Lake Area ...” by the Livingston County Road

Commission stated the following: “Adverse effects caused by suspended solids (SS or TSS) include turbidity, a yellowish plume evident after a rain event, reduces light penetration, clogs respiratory organs of fish and invertebrate organisms, and reduces spawning and survival of fish populations.” Nutrient pollution (excess levels of phosphorus and nitrogen) can also occur from excess stormwater runoff dumping into the lake. Excess levels of nutrients can cause algal blooms which reduces clarity and depletes oxygen in a lake. In summary, due to the above problems and others discussed in historic studies, it is time for this issue to be addressed by the board.

To accelerate progress, a standing Committee will be formed to study the historical work on this topic, develop a path forward and possibly a control plan. The County Road Commission is also interested in resolving this issue and the Committee may work with the County to develop its plan. **Again, if you are interested in joining this Committee, please contact Dennis Durnwald** (dcdurnwald at gmail dot com). If possible, the committee will have at least one member from each quadrant of the lake (per WLA bylaws).