Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Summer 2018

(For property owners and friends of Windigo Lake, Lake 27, and Hub Lake)



Windigo, an Island Lake with Natural Shoreline

Desk of the President

Patrick Steininger

Hello Friends.

I hope this newsletter finds you well, and I'm sure everyone is ready to enjoy the summer this year.

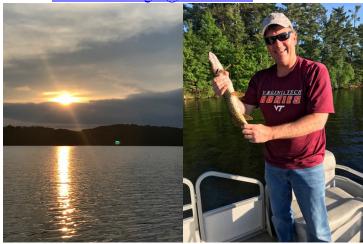
Hayward has had enough rain now in June to carry us for several weeks, and I'm sure the dragonflies will have enough mosquitos to eat for quite some time based on my last trip to Hayward. There are some great items in the newsletter and reminders for our Annual Meeting coming up in August with a location change this year.

Special Note: We are currently looking for new volunteers to help out on the board and if you would like to consider doing that please contact me and I could answer any questions you may have, or even if you wanted to attend a meeting first to see what each position does and what would suit your skill set as a volunteer that could be arranged.

Hope everyone has a great summer!

Regards, Patrick Steininger C #708-899-3193

E-Mail Patrick.steininger@skodie.com



<u>Please join us at the Annual Meeting: Saturday August 4, 2018 at new location!</u> Barb Pjevach

The Annual WLPOA Business Meeting and Picnic will be held again this year the first Saturday in August. The business meeting will be held at 4pm. The picnic will follow at approximately 5pm with bratwurst, BEER, (yes, beer!), water and lemonade provided. If you can, please bring any dish to share and anything else you would like to drink. Please stop in for any part of this picnic/meeting to catch up with neighbors and friends of Lakes Windigo, Hub, and Lake 27.

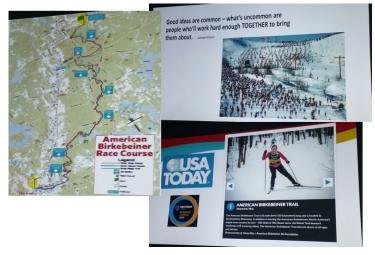
The event will be held at a <u>new location</u> this year: Steiningers' homes at 15390 Tamarack Trail. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. You can contact Barb Pjevach at 952-829-9016 or email us at <u>info@windigolake.org</u>. But also feel free to just come if you forget to RSVP.

Spring Dinner Recap

Barb Pjevach

Our Annual Spring Dinner was held on Saturday April 28th at The Ranch in Hayward. 36 of us enjoyed socializing with fellow property owners, had an enjoyable meal, and engaged in a very interesting talk with Ben Popp, Executive Director of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation. We once again had a separate room which facilitated a presentation and discussion with our speaker. Thanks to John Garrett who arranged for Ben to speak with us!

Originally from northern Wisconsin, Ben has been involved in American Birkebeiner events since the late 1970s. Born and raised in Phillips Wisconsin, Ben attended St. Olaf College as an undergraduate, and



then received his Masters degree in Education from St. Thomas University in St. Paul MN. Ben has coached Nordic skiing and soccer at Carleton College and St. Mary's University. He got into skiing at a very young age along with his entire family.

Ben told us a brief history, how the organization has grown and developed to have year-round events in the Hayward area and the goals of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation which has been the steward for the events, the trails and nurturing healthy outdoor lifestyles since 1985.

The first Birkebeiner ski race took place with 35 skiers in Hayward in 1973 and started at the Lumberjack Bowl. It was modeled by Tony Wise and original organizers after a ski race in Norway since the late 1800s that celebrated the effort to save a Norwegian Prince in 1206. The race and events grew pretty quickly. By 1977/1978, the start had moved up to Mount Telemark with 3500-4000 skiers. Originally, the trail was comprised of snowmobile trails and logging trails. After a year, Tony went back to Sawyer County and slowly moved the entire trail to old logging roads and with the help of skiers, turned it into actual cross-country ski trails.

By 1984, finances were in trouble. The Foundation was formed in 1984 with 3 key goals: promote the greatest cross country ski race in the world, be stewards of the trail, and promote the healthy outdoor lifestyle. In 1984 and 1985, the Hayward Chamber of Commerce funded and support much of the race and surrounding events because The Foundation did not yet have sufficient funds. Since then, the Foundation has grown in stability and today the event has 13500 skiers involved in Birkie week and another 25,000 to 28,000 spectators.

The Birkie has now become an integral part of our community and not just a ski race. As an example, in 2017 when the race was cancelled due to weather, 8000 of the 10,000 registered skiers showed up. When they poll their participants, 88-90% tell them they will be back to the area for another event sometime in the next year.

65% say they will likely come in the summer. The community of the Birkie is expanding around the year and into related outdoor sports. In addition to the events in February, they run the Birkie tour in January and a variety of high school events. In total they run 10 ski events, 2 running events and 2 bike events. They run a running event in the fall with events ranging from 1km to a marathon relay of 66 Miles (100 kilometers). The marathon relay is the most popular event. Two weeks after the Birkie week, the Foundation runs the Fat Tire bike race with over 1200 riders and continues to grow. It started in 2013 with 170 riders.

The second part of their mission and a sizable part of their budget is being stewards of the Birkie Trail. It is now about 100 kilometers long. Most of the work is done in summer. There are 8 stations along the trail. There are 2 trails that start in Cable. The trails are often in great condition. Way finding is a large part of upkeep for the trails. The stewardship paid off when in 2016, the Birkie trail was rated the #1 Cross Country ski trail in America by USA Today. 100,000 people will use the trail throughout the year. The Foundation also created 8 little shelters for hiking and skiing for year round use. Each has solar power, a fireplace and running water. 95% of Birkie Trail is in county forest that can be used throughout the year. There is generally no user fee, but they do charge a \$50 per adult annual user fee in the winter for skiing.

The third part of The Foundation's mission is Sport Development. They have a key goal of getting more kids and adults involved in a healthy active lifestyle. A lot of that starts with youth. They fund different youth initiatives and for example they started biathlon for kids in Hayward. They also support youth mountain-biking with the strong mountain biking trails in the area. Youth events are a very important part of what they do.

Ben also mentioned that they have studies from the Mayo Clinic that have guided some of their direction. They have found that those that can do the Birkie, can do so because they live a healthy lifestyle. And other findings are that people get engaged and come back to do an active event more than once because of community. So, engaging family, friends, coworkers, etc, is key to keep individuals engaged and coming back.

He also mentioned that volunteers are key. The community really rallies around the events and are critical. 3000 volunteers help annually and are vital because the Foundation operates on a small staff. He also mentioned that any non-profit can organize as volunteers and the Foundation will donate to their organization.

The Birkie Foundation events also create much economic support for our local community. There was a 2 year study by the University of Wisconsin which showed a \$22 Million impact in Bayfield and Sawyer County from the Ski and biker events. As a further example, The Foundation has a \$3.5 million budget per year with over 80% of funding coming from more than 100 Miles away and more than 80% of spending being spent in the local area.

For the long term, a key goal is to make sure the Foundation does fundraising to make sure the Birkie will be self-sustaining for the future.

Some recent and future improvements are:

- 1) The new bridge in downtown Hayward is the new Tony Wise International Bridge. (There was an original bridge up in Cable). The bridge was part of the SuperBowl in Minneapolis and used on Nicollet Mall during SuperBowl week. It created a lot of exposure with media outlets for the Birkie and for our Hayward area.
- 2) They just got approval from DOT to install an underpass under Hwy 77.
- 3) They are also building a connector trail between a housing development and a county park within 2 miles from downtown. They will be connecting the Birkie Trail with the housing development and the county park.
- 4) Also SC Johnson is sponsoring a new permanent building in Cable. They funded over ½ of the building. They have property in the cable area and have been big supporters historically.
- 5) Historically every year the skiers received a white plastic bag. They made a move last year for people to buy a backpack and charged \$35 that can be reused. They can stop have plastic bag go into the landfill.
- 6) The Foundation started an endowment. They have a separate Board of Directors and kicked it off in fall of 2017.

Windigo Water Testing Volunteers Needed

Barb Pjevach, Roxanne Lantz

As we mentioned previously, since 1995, Windigo volunteers have conducted water testing for the Wisconsin DNR. There are specific tests and materials are supplied by the DNR and Windigo results are located at https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/CLMN/Station.aspx?station=10471.

We thank Roxanne and Mike Lantz who have been our volunteers for about the past decade and we are now looking for some new volunteers to do this work for upcoming summers. Roxanne will help train her replacement and would even be very happy to coordinate and conduct the sampling together this summer with a new volunteer. We can also easily get training from the local DNR. Here is a note from Roxanne about what the work entails.

Greetings Fellow Windigo Residents

Mike and I have been doing the water testing for about ten years now. We are thinking it is about time to turn this over to another person(s). What the volunteer job consists of is:

Year	Secchi Mean	Secchi Min	Secchi Max	Secchi Count
1995	11.13	10.25	12	2
1996	10.81	9.75	13	9
1997	12.83	10.5	14.25	3
1998	9.05	6.5	11.75	5
1999	9.67	9	10.25	3
2000	9.56	8.5	10.75	4
2001	8.9	7.5	10.25	5
2002	13	13	13	1
2003	12.25	12	12.5	2
2004	9.8	9	10	5
2005	4.25	4	4.5	2
2006	10	10	10	1
2008	13.5	13	14	3
2009	12	9	14	4
2010	9.33	8	10	3
2011	6.15	5.6	7	4
2012	5.78	3.6	8.5	4
2013	11.25	11	12	4
2014	8.4	7	9	4
2015	12.75	12	14	4
2016	7	6	9	3
2017	4.35	2.25	8	5

Windigo Water Readings 1995 - 2017

- 3 to 4 times a summer you will take a water sample at the deep hole and do a little chemistry and send the samples to the Madison DNR.
- Then throughout the summer when you have time take a secchi disk reading which shows depth visibility and water temp down every 5 ft to 50 foot mark. I try to do that once a week if possible but even if you end up doing it twice a month that is fine as the DNR is just very happy to have any information.
- It only takes about 30 to 40 minutes from start to finish (leaving your dock) but when doing the water sampling add on another 1/2 hour to take the samples to town to the post office.

If anyone is interested I would be more than happy to show you the ropes and explain more. All the materials are supplied. It really isn't difficult and is very interesting to see the results. Any questions you can call me at 715-634-4647.

Thank you, Roxanne Lantz

Critter Reports and Loon reminders

Barb Pjevach, Colleen Graham, Marilyn Konkler

We have had some notable critter sightings on our lakes this summer so far:

- 1) Bears are around. We have sightings on Tamarack Trail on the south side of the lake and also Bluebird lane on the north side
- 2) We have a couple of baby loons reported that have thus far survived. PLEASE watch out for them and keep a wide berth. If the adult loon rises up and flaps its wings, it is in distress and please back off. Sadly based on data collected by Northland College, boats are the greatest cause of loon deaths, not eagles or other prey. Read the helpful loon etiquette rules below as a reprint from last year and obtained from Northland College.
- 3) A pair of herons have been spotted in the northwest corner of the lake popping between the islands.
- 4) We have plenty of ducks some geese and our neighborly deer who are also call our lakes home.

LOON ETIQUETTE

The following rules of loon etiquette were provided by the LoonWatch program at Northland College:

- Keep a distance of 200 ft. when observing loons, especially around nests.
- Slow down! Loon nests can be hard to see. Motor boat wakes and waves can wash out nests. Stay at least 100 ft from shore when throwing wakes or waves to avoid ruining a nest.
- Even when kayaking or canoeing, give nesting loons a wide berth (200 ft. rule). If a loon is startled off its nest, it will not return until it feels safe.
- Never fish near loons, and clean up monofilament line so loons and other wildlife do not become entangled.
- Use non-lead tackle to prevent poisoning loons and other waterfowl.

Let's all do our part to keep the loons safe on our lakes!

You can read more here: https://www.northland.edu/sustain/soei/loonwatch/protect-loons/



LOON WATCH

As a reminder, our Lake 27, Windigo and Hub Lakes Loon Watch volunteer is Marilyn Konkler. Please contact her at **mkonkler@centurytel.net** with your loon sightings and observations throughout the summer. Thanks!

AIS Update: Summer is the time to look for Eurasian Milfoil

Colleen Graham

Eurasian watermilfoil is visible throughout summer. Plants usually extend 3 to 10 feet, but can reach as much as 33 feet in length. The stems are reddish-brown to whitish-pink. It forms dense mats on the surface of water bodies, and new plants may emerge from each node on a stem root on contact with mud. It regenerates mostly from rhizomes, fragmented stems, and axillary buds that develop throughout the year.

More detailed pictures and instructions for how to look for AIS are on the AIS page on our website: http://www.windigolake.org/aquatic-invasive-species-prevention/.

Note that we have hired a boat landing monitor, Dennis Dollhopf, again this summer for weekends and holidays, utilizing our grant from the DNR along with volunteer hours to cover the cost. He will be working most weekends during the higher traffic times through summer. On weekends when Dennis is not available, volunteers are helping monitor. If you are interested in volunteering, let Colleen Graham know. Thanks to those who have volunteered thus far. Colleen is working on scheduling a training with the DNR.

Note that our reimbursement for our grant for AIS prevention only allows us to claim volunteer hours associated boat landing monitoring. However, it is always helpful when you are out and about on the lake to look for AIS! If you find a suspicious plant, bag it in a ziplock bag, note the location on the lake where it was found and drop it off at the Sawyer County Conservation Department or the DNR for confirmation of the species.

Thanks for your continued vigilance in keeping our lakes AIS-free!





Fishing Committee Updates

Paul Martin

The Fish and Wildlife committee and the Windigo Lake community would like to extend a special thank you to the members who have donated to our fund to help assist with the ever increasing pressure on our beautiful lake. These donations will go a long way in allowing us to continue our mission. We hope that our projects will show that we are good stewards of the funds and that you will continue to support us in future years.

A note of thanks to the people that came to the Fish and Wildlife committee meeting. We had a good turn out with discussions on many topics that affect our lakes environment and fishery.



Thanks also to those who have requested and are using the lake maps that we had made and distributed at the Spring Dinner. We still have some available if you have not yet received one. I have them at my house or you can email Barb at info@windigolake.org.

There will be a fall meeting (time to be determined) and we are hoping more people will want to participate and help us be proactive in dealing with the challenges we face. Happy fishing! Remember to practice "CPR" (catch, photo, release).

Water is high. Please remind friends and guests to help preserve shoreline!

Barb Pjevach

With the water levels even higher this year on Windigo, reaching levels last seen in about 2002, we are repeating some reminders to help us all keep our lake shore as healthy as possible. It is more important than ever to make sure that speeds of all boats and watercraft are slow near shore and in the bays of Windigo to help preserve the health of the shoreline and animals who nest there. Thanks to the Windigo neighbors who gave us the below fun photo opportunity! Many of us have experienced having to raise our docks this year!



Thx for letting us photograph your dock!

Please make sure your guests know about our efforts to preserve the beauty of our lakes, protect our wildlife and keep our lakes AIS free. Please also inform them about our no-wake zones, our loons, and considerate boating practices.

The DNR regulations for ANY Wisconsin lake are that boats need to have no wake 100 feet from shore and for personal watercraft (PWC), the no-wake law specifies that they need to be 200 feet from shore before a wake is allowed. PWC also need to slow to no-wake speeds when within 100 feet of another boat.

These regulations are set to enable everyone's enjoyment of the lakes and also help us preserve the natural shoreline that all of us appreciate as compared to many other lakes in the Hayward area. We are lucky that Windigo is large enough that there is plenty of room out in the middle of the two large bays of the lake for higher speed boating activities.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

WLPOA's income through June 20, 2018 is summarized below:

- We have received \$1,950 in dues from members and \$65 from "Friends of Windigo".
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$ 1,047.
- Donations to the Fish Management Fund totaled \$ 1,067.
- Reservations for WLPOA's Spring Dinner brought in \$ 1,048. As usual, WLPOA paid for the speaker's dinner plus a \$ 50 honorarium. Our bill at the Ranch was \$ 953 so we actually made a small profit (\$ 45) this year since five people who had paid were not able to attend and they graciously declined a reimbursement.

It should be noted that we have received some very generous donations to our Invasive Species Fund and our Fish Management Fund this year. We are very grateful for your continued support.

Our 2017 DNR Grant has been closed out. We spent \$ 3,125 last summer monitoring our boat landing and Wisconsin DNR reimbursed \$ 2,955. WLPOA covered the remainder of \$ 169 to bring the account balance to zero. We had a small shortfall this year since we did not provide sufficient volunteer hours.

WLPOA has been awarded another DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant for 2018. We have received an advance of \$ 750 and monitoring of our boat landing is underway. We can be reimbursed by the Wisconsin DNR up to a maximum of \$ 3,000 by providing \$ 1,000 worth of "in-kind" labor. This labor must be related to boat landing monitoring and cannot include time donated toward AIS monitoring or other activities beneficial to Windigo. To date we have spent \$ 1,101 so at this point our 2018 DNR Grant account has a negative balance as shown below.

Expenses to date paid from the General Fund are \$896.75 which includes \$97.86 for Fall Newsletter, \$166 for Membership mailings, \$250 for membership in the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, \$267.81 for printing Windigo maps, and \$115.08 for our Spring Newsletter.

As of June 20, 2018 WLPOA has the following account balances:

WLPOA Account Balances	Amount
General Fund (Checking)	\$ 2,936
Non-dedicated Reserve	\$ 5,000
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 3,791
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 10,562
DNR Grant for 2017 (closed out)	0
DNR Grant for 2018 (active)	(\$ 351)
Total on deposit	\$ 21,938

Tourist Rooming House (TRH) Information

Kris Soegaard

The June 6th edition of the Sawyer County Record included an article on what the State of Wisconsin calls a tourist rooming house (TRH). Sawyer County property owners who are renting out a house, cabin or cottage on a short-term basis are likely operating a TRH. If so, the owner is required to have a state TRH license and to pay state sales tax.

We are including an overview of the key points in the WLPOA newsletter to help Windigo homeowners, both those renting out property and those who are not but want to stay informed, understand the TRH requirements. We hope you find this information helpful.

Per the information in the Sawyer County Record article:

State Rental Statute

- The state defines a TRH as "...all lodging places and tourist cabins and cottage, other than hotels and motels, in which sleeping accommodations are offered for pay to tourists or transients. It does not include private boarding or rooming houses not accommodating tourist or transients, or bed and breakfasts.
- Under state statute 134.02, section 14, a "tourist or transient" is defined as "tourists or other persons who occupy a dwelling unit for less than 60 days while traveling away from their permanent place of residence."

Getting Licensed

- The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is the state agency licensing TRHs.
- Recently Sawyer County became an "agent of the state" to process the TRH license application for the DATCP.
- The first step in getting licensed is to call a Sawyer Country Environmental Specialist. The Specialist will email or mail a packet of information that includes the TRH application.
- The next step is a pre-Inspection during which a state-licensed sanitarian will visit the rental and ensure the rental meets health and safety requirements. A recent Sawyer County Health and Human Services memo titled "Sawyer County New Contact for Vacation Rental Licensing" states that "during this inspection, your sanitarian will share with you the applicable code requirements that your structure must meet." The memo is available on the county's website at:

 https://www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/View/1495/Tourist-Rooming-House-Licensing.
 - mtps.// www.sawyercountygov.org/DocumentCenter/ view/14/3// Tourist-Rooming-Trouse-L
- The sanitarian may require the owner make changes before approving the rental.

Cost of Licensing

- The pre-inspection fee is \$300; the actual TRH license costs \$110 and the annual renewal also is \$110.
- Another annual fee is a bacterial water test that can be done by the county for \$25.
- The TRH license is good for one year, from July 1 to June 30. Renewal notices will be mailed around May 1 each year.

Seller's Permit, Sales and Room Tax

- Another requirement to obtain a TRH license, per the county, is a state-issued seller's permit.
- The permit can be obtained by contacting the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.
- "Homeowners or other individuals who make rooms or lodging available to the public for periods of less than one month must report and pay Wisconsin sales tax on such rentals," states the county memo. "This includes the short-term rental of a home, room, apartment, cabin, inn, motel or any other building in which accommodations are made available to the public."

Renting Without a License

- Those renting without a TRH license will be issued a warning letter.
- The owner will be asked to cease renting, including removal of all advertisements for renting, or to obtain the TRH license. *Those who ignore the warning are subject to a fine of \$749*. The fine will be waived for those who apply for a TRH license within 14 days of being notified.

Additional Information

• Sawyer County Health and Human Services can be contacted for more information. They can be reached at 715-634-4806. Ask for the Environmental Sanitarian Specialist. Or, email environmentalhealth@sawyerhs.hayward.wi.us.

New Neighbors?

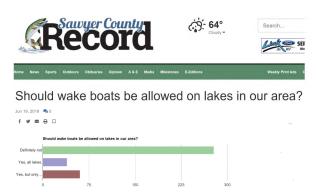
We need your help! We try to keep abreast of property ownership changes, but the best way to keep aware of new neighbors on our lakes is for current members to tell us! If you have a new neighbor, please pass on the newsletter and website information to them. In addition, please contact any WLPOA officer or email us at info@windigolake.org. Thanks for helping us welcome and reach out to our new neighbors!

Wake Boat and ATV ordinance updates

Thanks to everyone who communicated with our local government and personally engaged regarding the Town of Bass Lake discussions regarding ATV road use last fall and Sawyer County Committee consideration of a new "wake boat" ordinance this Spring. Here are a few updates:

WAKE BOATING

1) The Sawyer County Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee voted at their June 13 meeting to continue consideration of an ordinance for all Sawyer County lakes to limit the use of boats creating excessive wakes, requiring that they keep a 700 foot distance from shore, docks, etc. The initial proposed ordinance developed by the Sawyer County Lakes Forum in April designated "wake boats" in particular, but the latest form of the proposed ordinance broadened applicability by



- denoting <u>any</u> boat that produces an excessive wake. This widens the applicability, but may make enforceability a challenge.
- 2) The next step in the process is a public hearing in mid-July.
- 3) The Sawyer County Record also is conducting a poll of public opinions and the picture to the right shows the responses to date. If you have not registered your opinion and wish to CLICK HERE to vote.
- 4) <u>CLICK HERE</u> to download and see the latest version of the proposed ordinance.

ATV ROUTES

- 1) As we previously discussed last fall, thanks to everyone who contacted the Bass Lake Town Board to
 - express opinions about allowing ATVs and UTVs to use the roads near Windigo. Last fall our township board approved a year-long pilot to allow use of Williams Road, but not Highline Road. Due to safety concerns related to its many hills and windiness, Highline was omitted from the pilot.
- Signage is now posted on both Williams Road (designating ATV use) and on Highline (prohibiting ATV use).







Highline Rd ATV Prohibited Sign

Membership Report

Dave and Donna Roeker

Thank you to everyone who supported our lake association this year. We have 78 property owners paying dues representing our 3 lakes. We also have 13 Friends of Windigo who also get our email updates.

Thanks to everyone who has joined this year! If you are still interested in joining, a form can be downloaded from our website in the April 2018 updates post (http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2018-WLPOA-dues-letter-2-9-18.pdf.



Note that our membership form includes options for making voluntary donations to our Invasive Species Fund and our Fishery Management Fund. Members are also asked to select their preferred method of Newsletter delivery – either email (November, March and June newsletters) or postal delivery (November and March Newsletters) or both.

Note that for our June Newsletter and for occasional quick communication on behalf of our association, we ARE requesting emails from everyone. Email is our preferred method of newsletter delivery, but if you would also like a physical newsletter mailed, please indicate so to us and we are happy to also mail one to you.

WLPOA serves property owners on Windigo Lake, Hub Lake, and Lake 27 by promoting communication and cooperation among lakeshore owners and by working with the DNR and local government to maintain lake quality and protect our lake from invasive aquatic weeds. WLPOA, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization so your membership donation is tax-deductible as provided by law.

Sawyer County Home Water Testing Program

Barb Pjevach

We received information to our info email box about a water testing program that Sawyer County has implemented in coordination with the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh.

The Sawyer County Health and Human Services: Environmental Health Department is offering water quality testing for drinking water. CLICK HERE for an informational brochure to learn more about the Sawyer County Water Lab, common well water contaminants, and to view options for testing wells for various contaminants. Water testing should be done on a regular basis.

All private well owners can use this service to ensure that their water is safe to drink.

Well owners which use their property for a business such as lodging, camping, and food sales can use this service to monitor their water quality and comply with state regulations and business license requirements.

For more information, here is a link to the Sawyer County website about this program: http://www.sawyercountygov.org/511/DrinkingWell-Water-Testing

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

Email: <u>info@windigolake.org</u>
Website: <u>www.windigolake.org</u> (or <u>www.windigolake.com</u>)

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