

Milford Public Hearing September 3, 2009

John Sanders: I apologize if I don't read this properly, I wasn't supposed to read this, two other people were, and I didn't bring my glasses with me so bear with me. Dear Mr. Schnieders, I'm writing on the behalf of the East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corporation, or EOLIC, our organization has been working for 41 years to protect and improve the waters of East Okoboji, Upper Gar, Minnewashta and Lower Gar lakes. We support the inclusion of all these lakes as well as West Okoboji and Big Spirit into the Tier 2.5 list as Outstanding Iowa Waters for the following reasons; 1.) The Iowa Great Lakes are known for their outstanding recreation attributes, people come from all over the country to enjoy the waters of a very unique set of natural lakes. The economy of the region depends on the quality of the water of these lakes. 2.) We have heard suggestions that West Okoboji and Big Spirit are the only lakes that really qualify as Outstanding Iowa Waters, that the others because of their water quality should not be included on the list. We contend that East Lake Okoboji should have all the same protections as West and Big Spirit. Because the waters of the East and West Lakes commingle as do fish, fowl and boat traffic. What sense does it make to provide the greatest protection to one lake, when the lake to which is connected is not protected. 3.) A large number of boats are trailers from outside our area for recreation on our lakes. On windy days, many of these boats find the large bodies of water West Okoboji and Big Spirit way too rough. They, therefore, migrate to East Okoboji as a more desirable place for water skiing, tubing, etc. 4.) The lower chain of lakes, Upper Gar, Minniwashta and Lower Gar, have become populated in spite of their lesser water quality, because people like their unique character and their connectivity to the rest of the lakes. They are a part of the entire Iowa Great Lakes economic package. This entire package needs to be protected. It is our understanding that the Antidegradation review is triggered by applications from industries and municipalities for new wastewater discharge pollution permits and other applications for permits to conduct activities that may degrade water quality including stormwater water permits or constructions sites and the permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, for the filling or altering of wetlands. If our lakes are listed as Tier 2.5, maybe Bridges Bays type disasters where storm washed tons of soil into East Okoboji due to inadequate silt vents and stormwater control during construction could be prevented by greater scrutiny before construction begins. Also, this may help prevent wetlands from being filled in without anyone's knowledge. EOLIC cares about our lakes and we see the listing of all these lakes as Tier 2.5 Outstanding Iowa Waters as a cohesive asset enhancing the big and small actions already being taken by many in entities and organizations in the Iowa Great Lakes to protect our water quality. This was written by Jan Lee and I thank everyone here. Also, this just one more comment, I fish, and I have caught nice large trout and small and it's a beautiful part of the country, as well as Iowa.

Orville Berg: I'm Orville Berg, I live in West Okoboji and there's six of us families that share a little pieces of West Lake and a dock and so I have a boat and a jetski. But a little

bit of where I'm coming from, my degree is in Animal Science from Iowa State, I taught vocational agricultural, I farmed through the seventies and I did twenty-five years in this area as a real estate broker. But more importantly, I spent twenty-eight years as a SAW commissioner, I chaired the Clean Water Alliance roughly its first fifteen years, I chaired Dickinson County Water Quality Commission it's first years and so I've kind of been there and my comments are two, first this is the greatest treasure there is in Iowa for people, for the people because millions of people come here every year to enjoy the Iowa Great Lakes. And because of that, I think the entire Iowa Great Lakes should be given the greatest protection under Iowa Law and Federal Law. Second, when we started the Clean Water Alliance and Clarence Hall and I called the first meeting, we had people from Lower Gar, we had the East Lake Association, we had the OPA, we had the Big Spirit Association, we had business people, we had county supervisors, the public showed up. And it was very clear that the entire Iowa Great Lakes is one area and has a common bond when it comes to water quality. And to do anything other than treat the Iowa Great Lakes as one entity would be very wrong. The public in this area considers it one great area and it should be continued, every bit of it should have the highest protection allowable under Iowa law. Thank you.

Jane Shuttleworth: I'm probably going to put in written comments, but I just would say...Ditto.

Dennis Heimdal: My name is Dennis Heimdal, I've lived in Milford for the past year and a half and I moved here from Marion Iowa. I've probably seen a couple hundred different lakes in the state of Iowa through previous jobs, collecting water samples. The one thing I noticed first off when I moved to this area was how the whole community was very interested in water quality, especially of all the lakes in this region. For the past ten, eleven years there's been volunteers, hundreds of volunteers collecting water samples from all these lakes. So far, I think that from my own personal perspective that the water quality in these lakes far surpasses, especially as one whole body in particular, West Okoboji, Big Spirit Lake and East Okoboji surpasses all their lakes in the state of Iowa for water quality. Especially for natural bodies of water, natural lakes, a lot of the time people, me in particular, I'm interested in what's been here, what god has given us is something that we really should protect, and that's why I think I'm all for the Antidegradation rules the way they are, especially having the Iowa Great Lakes on the list. Thanks.

John Wills: Hi my name is John Wills, private citizen, John Wills because I am not here representing anybody today, except myself, my own interests. First of all, I would like to say that we all love the Iowa Great lakes, and we all feel that they're important and we value them and we value each of the lakes independently and for our own reasons. As far as what I can support, as a person, I can support West Lake Okoboji and Big Spirit Lake for water chemical properties and recreational value to be on the Outstanding Iowa Waters, I definitely support East Lake Okoboji to be on the Outstanding Iowa Waters, not as much for chemical

properties but definitely for the recreational value and also the mixing of waters from East Lake into West Lake Okoboji. It's very important that what East Lake Okoboji gets the same protection as West Lake because they do mix. I do not support the lower chain of lakes, the Lower Gar and Minnewashta and Upper Gar because two of the lakes are impaired already, I think that would send a wrong message to the rest of the state of Iowa if we accept impaired water bodies as outstanding water bodies. That's the only reason that I feel that they should not be on the Outstanding Iowa Water list because there is recreational value, you go down there today you probably saw skiers or tubers, there is recreational value, but I don't believe that they quite meet the Outstanding Iowa Water Body designation as outlined by the Iowa DNR. Thank you.