

09-04

**RESOLUTION TO COMPLETE STATEWIDE RULEMAKING FOR  
MINNESOTA'S SHORELAND**

Whereas Minnesota is recognized nationally for its abundant water resources and as "The Land of 10,000 lakes";

Whereas the majority shoreland on Minnesota's general development and recreational development lakes have already been fully developed and;

Whereas Minnesota's population is expected to grow by 1.3 million by 2030 and many counties in lake country are expected to grow 40-60% during this time period and;

Whereas most of Minnesota's undeveloped shoreland is located on shallow or natural environment lakes, marginal lake shoreland, and along rivers and streams and

Whereas Minnesota law requires that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare" is to "provide guidance for the wise development of shoreland of public waters and thus preserve and enhance the quality of surface waters; to preserve the economic and natural environmental values of shoreland; and to provide for the wise use of water and related land resources of the state." and;

Whereas given contemporary understanding of science and expected development trends, statewide shoreland rules, established over 30 years ago and last revised 19 years ago, are inadequate to protect and conserve Minnesota's shoreland resources and;

Whereas in 2004, Governor Pawlenty's Clean Water Cabinet recognized the need for new shoreland rules by establishing the North Central Lakes Pilot Project and;

Whereas in December 2005, the alternative shoreland standards were completed and became "voluntary" standards for local government use and;

Whereas the legislature recognized that a voluntary approach to statewide standards would result in at best a patchwork of inconsistent shoreland regulations throughout the state. In 2007 the Minnesota legislature directed the DNR to conduct a statewide shoreland rulemaking and;

Whereas the DNR commenced this rulemaking in January 2008, conducting a comprehensive rulemaking process with extensive public input from all regions of the state. The DNR will complete this rulemaking process with a complete set of updated statewide rules and a statement of need and reasonableness in June 2009 and;

Whereas the vast majority of the work to update statewide shoreland rules will be complete in June 2009, and the final few steps to finish the job should take no more than six months;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America in convention April 26, 2009 urges that DNR Commissioner Holsten and Governor Tim Pawlenty should take the necessary action to finish the rulemaking process so that new statewide shoreland rules (M.R. 6120) are in place by December 2009.

Submitted by the Prairie Woods Chapter