

Letter the Editor:

The Big Sand Lake Property Owners Association was formed in 1993 to deal with the Eurasian water milfoil problem. I have been a voluntary member and contributor to fight that problem from the beginning.

I am proud to say the association has done a wonderful job with members voluntary donations, and grants from the state of Wisconsin to bring the milfoil to a much less expensive and manageable condition.

Not all property owners belong to or donated funds to the association. Some feel it is wrong to treat the lake with chemicals. (Do you remember the approved use of DDT?) These people are exercising their freedom of choice.

By law, to form a lake district, 51% of the landowners must petition, or owners of 51% of the land. Two years ago, formation in the form of 51% of the landowners failed.

Now the petition is based on owners of 74% of the land, not 74% of all the property owners. Sixteen of the largest parcels are owned by only six owners, some of which are corporations and trusts.

There are 79 lake associations in Vilas County, but only six lake districts. Why? Many associations have fundraisers that are open to the public to raise funds to raise awareness and to promote fellowship in the committee.

The Big Sand Lake Association has never in 20 years had one, yet as a district they want to levy taxes. Why? The goals of an association and a district are identical. However, in practice, one is voluntary and one mandatory. One seeks donations, the other levies taxes. One allows

Lake association offers freedom of choice

