

20-01-14

Posting Winnebago System as Federal Waters

The Winnebago System is considered Federal Waters and includes all the waters of Lake Winnebago, Lake Poygan, Lake Winneconne, and Lake Buttes des Morts as well as the Wolf River from the Shawano Dam to Lake Buttes des Morts and the Fox River from Portage to Lake Buttes des Morts. The landings and access points to these waters are not posted as being Federal Waters and most people would not have any way of knowing this and the related Federal requirements. You would not expect waters such as the Fox River and Wolf River and lakes such as Lake Puckaway to be Federal Waters but they are.

Because of the different requirement for boating on these waters and the potential fines for not abiding by these rules and regulations it would only make sense to properly post these. It would be no different than arresting someone for speeding on a highway with no posted speed limits. Seeing as these are Federal Waters the United States Coast Guard should be responsible for all costs associated with this.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Fond du Lac County on April 14, 2014, recommend that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources and U. S. Coast Guard to properly post all waters of the Winnebago System as Federal Waters at all boat landings and boat access points. In addition this should be included in the Wisconsin Fishing and Boating Regulation publications.

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