

Winnebago County to Highlight Lake Winneconne Breakwall Project and Wetland Restoration Efforts

[Winnebago County, WI] — Winnebago County officials will host a press event to highlight ongoing work by the Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) to protect and restore wetland habitat on the Winnebago System, including the Van Dyke Breakwall Project on Lake Winneconne, which is currently under construction.

This initiative represents a major investment in protecting shoreline wetlands that have eroded over decades due to wave action, ice, and wind. The Van Dyke project builds on years of collaboration between the County, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and local partners to restore aquatic habitat and improve water quality across the Winnebago System.

When complete, the Van Dyke Breakwall will protect approximately 3,400 feet of shoreline and restore over 40 acres of adjacent wetland habitat. The project includes eight breakwalls with 35-foot openings every 300 feet for an estimated 2,545 feet in total length. The project was supported through multiple funding sources, including the Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program, LWCD Spirit Fund Program, Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA), and North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Lake Poygan Sportsman's Club, Monsanto Settlement Funds, as well as contributions from Eric & Michelle Van Dyke.

"Projects like this deliver benefits far beyond a single shoreline," said Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz. "By reducing erosion and rebuilding wetland habitat, we improve fish and wildlife habitat, filter runoff, and protect water quality for the entire Winnebago system."

The press event will include remarks from County Executive Gordon Hintz and Land & Water Conservation Director, Chad Casper.

WHAT: Press Conference — Van Dyke Breakwall and Wetland Restoration Project

WHEN: Tuesday, November 4th at 1:00pm

WHERE: Winneconne Fishing Pier East, 15 E Main St, Winneconne, WI 54986