

A1 Positives and Negatives

Positives:

- Protection of Lake Raponda 's high water quality from dangerous levels of phosphorus which fuels the growth of algae and cyanobacteria, both of which endanger the lake's ecosystem, aesthetics and safety.
- Priority access to State technical and financial support via Act 76 (Clean Water Act dedicated funding) if our levels of phosphorus or Chlorophyll-a climb above the threshold for an A1 lake and possibly even before this threshold is reached to implement water quality enhancement projects. To be clear the A1 status would not guarantee funds for the lake were it to be reclassified to A1 and then impaired for A1 but this higher status would raise Raponda's priority in vying for the remediation funds dedicated to impaired lakes or soon to be impaired lakes. Thus, maintaining a B2 status would put us at a lower priority level for funding with a worse problem to combat.
- A faster response from the State to deteriorating water quality trends, such as increases in phosphorus or chlorophyll-a than if we were to maintain our status as a B2 lake . The State would respond more quickly because the threshold for restoring an impaired water is lowered through reclassification, which therefore provides a mechanism for action sooner with a greater chance of success. That is, with our current B2 status we would have to endure higher levels of phosphorus and/or chlorophyll-a before triggering state support. This could lead to much greater degradation to the lake than if the help were triggered at the lower thresholds of an A1 status, and a more expensive and less effective restoration effort.
- A lake protection plan, to be initiated concurrently with the A1 reclassification effort, would be collaboratively developed with the Lake Raponda Community's input to identify stressors and mitigation strategies, and specific projects to address the identified stressors. These programs/projects are voluntary and developed around the needs of each specific lake. So, with road runoff being a major contributor to our nutrient load in the lake water, we could work with the state to hypothetically enhance plantings at the south end where much of the runoff enters the lake. Note that we have already implemented two other voluntary management programs to help water quality: the Greeter Clean Boats program and the Lake Wise program.
- There is no way that this reclassification can impact people's current boating rights. These rights are expressly protected under the Public Use of Water Statutes. "A1" is a narrowly defined standard that has no standing vis a vis boating statutes or use of public waters.
- There is no way that this reclassification can impact people's logging rights as the only potential condition to logging under A1 status is to leave a 50 foot buffer by a tributary but we have NO tributaries feeding into Raponda so the limitation is irrelevant.
- The only A1 Prohibitions are all irrelevant to our community:
 - 1.) Direct discharge into lake of any solid waste. Irrelevant as all homes have septic systems.
 - 2.)Septic systems designed for more than 1,000 gallons/day. Irrelevant as there are no commercial structures on lake.
 - 3.) Sold waste management facilities in vicinity. Irrelevant.

- The State is committed to saving the last of its best lakes, Raponda being one of eight. Rather than “overreaching”, the State would be a financial and technical silent partner poised to help if “impairment” occurs and/or ready to support projects to maintain Raponda’s excellent water quality and avoid impairment on a demand-driven basis.

Negatives:

- Possible increased popularity of Lake Raponda as a result of an A1 status. Recall, however, that Lake Raponda is only 120 acres and 8 feet deep on average. It is unlikely that it would prove attractive for long to multitudes of newcomers.
- With the A1 status will come management programs customized to our lake’s specific stressors (phosphorus) which will require volunteers to help implement and monitor preventions/remediations. A greater awareness of the stressors on Lake Raponda will be required as well as more volunteering.