



The Lac Courte Oreilles Foundation, Inc.

Dear Friends of Lac Courte Oreilles,

We are pleased to provide an exciting year-end update; much progress has been made! We do need to continue our aggressive actions, however, to preserve our property values as well as the legacy of our great lakes for our children. **Momentum is growing...** and the most important and permanent solutions for protecting and preserving Lac Courte Oreilles are now in sight: Legal protection from the state and phosphorus reductions from a number of the larger sources that discharge directly or through runoff to the lakes. COLA has never been closer to implementation of these measures. Now the final push is on to secure these protections. Here is what's in place, what's working, and what is still left to do to preserve Lac Courte Oreilles:

Need for a stricter phosphorus standard for LCO WDNR rejected COLA's proposal for a lake-wide phosphorus standard of 10 parts per billion, instead arguing that the current standard (15 ppb) is adequate. COLA and the LCO Tribe petitioned the state of Wisconsin for judicial review of this rejection, and negotiations are underway. COLA has also asked that phosphorus-laden discharges from cranberry operations be considered as "point sources" under the Clean Water Act, which would avail COLA of new remedies. WDNR's extensive delays in its rule-making process have made it very difficult to move ahead, but COLA is pressing on with the urgency needed to preserve our lakes.

COLA offers solutions While two cranberry operations on Lac Courte Oreilles have installed closed water management systems to keep phosphorus out of the lakes, the remaining and two largest cranberry operations on Lac Courte Oreilles, totaling more than 140 acres, have not. COLA has publically thanked the two cranberry growers who have installed closed systems. COLA has also offered of up to \$100,000 to supplement federally available financial assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (NRCS) to encourage installation of these two final closed systems. NRCS is the arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provides America's farmers with financial and technical assistance to help protect the natural environment.

Support from key partners COLA's regular communications to local, state and regional news organizations as well other interested groups such as the Midwest Environmental Advocates are garnering support for COLA's struggle. Please visit COLA's website for communications that are particularly noteworthy and have brought much attention to COLA's efforts to protect Lac Courte Oreilles.

The substantial progress COLA has made would not be possible without your contributions to the Foundation. **The future of our lakes depends entirely on a significant financial response from all lake property owners.** The Foundation's fundraising goal for 2016 is \$100,000; to date

we have received \$76,000 towards our goal. Please help us push through our goal by making your 2016 tax-deductible donation, using the enclosed form in this mailing. Please also note that LCOFI can receive your gift of stock as your tax deductible donation.

On behalf of COLA and the Lac Courte Oreilles Foundation, we sincerely appreciate your trust through your financial contribution. Please visit www.cola-wi.org and www.lcofi.org for more information. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lac Courte Oreilles Foundation, Inc. Trustees

John Berg, President

Rob Gales, Vice President

Jim Coors, Secretary

Richard R Land, Treasurer

Gary Pulford, Water Quality Chair

Kris W Sivertson RLA, COLA Liaison

David Kasper

Art Malin

Bill Zimmer

How To Give:

Personal Check

Please complete the included card and return with your check made to "Lac Courte Oreilles Foundation, Inc." using the included envelope.

Stock Donations

Donating publicly traded shares that have risen in value and held for more than one year can save capital gains tax and generate a charitable donation deduction of the appreciated value. Check with your financial adviser and contact the Foundation's Trustee and Treasurer for details on share transfers to our Brokerage Account. Please return attached donation card indicating that you would like to donate stock. Contact Dick Land for additional details:

Richard R Land

Email: landrr@aol.com Mobile: 1-281-797-0337

Matching Gifts

You can double or even triple your tax-deductible donation to LCOFI by utilizing your employer's matching gift program. Thousands of companies will match charitable contributions made by their employees - some will even match donations from retired employees. Ask your human resources department if they have a matching gift policy in place. You can also visit www.hepdata.com to search for your company.