

### **Information about the Metonga Lake area:**

The Metonga Lake area is a popular spot for vacations as well as year-round living. Shorefront property values are high and many lakes have miles of shoreline. All the larger lakes and some of the smaller ones have public boat landings, providing access to the area residents and tourist to the lakes for fishing, water skiing, and recreational boating.

Zebra mussels invaded Wisconsin in 1990 via Lake Michigan. Today, they are spread throughout the state and their ecological impacts are substantial and far-reaching. The economic impacts of zebra mussels have not yet been fully estimated, but are far in excess of \$100 million in Wisconsin alone. Research, public outreach, and policy responses have not yet fully addressed the problems caused by zebra mussels.

In 2001 zebra mussels were confirmed in Lake Metonga, Forest County. At this point no other lakes in the immediate area are invaded by zebra mussels. In response to the growing concern over zebra mussels, local stakeholders have convened a meeting to discuss a response. You are attending this meeting.

You are a: **TOURIST**

#### **Important information about your character:**

- You live in Green Bay, which is located 100 miles south of the Metonga Lake area.
- Each summer, you and your family travel to the area with your boat and rent a cabin on Riley Lake for a week. While in the area, you enjoy many lakes in the area by fishing, water skiing, and relaxing on the water. Your entire family enjoys the tradition and would like to continue visiting the area for the foreseeable future.
- If Riley Lake were to become less appealing due to the presence of zebra mussels, your family, which is the most important thing in the world to you, would continue to go on vacation each summer, but it would not be in the Metonga Lake region.
- Your oldest son (10 years old) is very interested in nature and last summer he participated in a “what’s in your water” camp, organized by a local lake association. Your daughter mainly enjoys tubing and reading books.

#### **Goals of the meeting:**

The local community has **\$20,000** of state and local funds to invest on the prevention of zebra mussels in the Metonga Lake area. You must work with the members of the group to allocate these funds and design a strategy for addressing zebra mussels in the area.

The funds may be spent on any of the items listed on the “Options for Prevention and Management...” sheet. You are also free to be creative—don’t feel limited by the options presented here.

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You are a: **RESIDENT OF METONGA LAKE**

#### **Important information about your character:**

- You own a home on Metonga Lake and live there year-round.
- Your husband/wife is an avid angler and you have heard a lot of complaints lately that the fishing has not been good. (Actually, it is pretty tiring!)
- Last summer you cut your foot on zebra mussel shells on the beach. You got a bad bacterial infection and had to be on three different antibiotic treatments. No Margaritas on the rocks with the neighbors that summer!
- You pay property taxes each year.

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You are a: **LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER (and RESIDENT OF PESHTIGO LAKE)**

### **Important information about your character:**

- You own property on Peshtigo Lake and just built a new, multi-million dollar home a couple of years ago. Business was good then, but now you are worried about paying off your mortgage when the economy is slowing down.
- Peshtigo Lake is a popular lake with a public boat launch. It is known for producing many trophy walleye. Your brother in law caught a 15 lbs walleye last year; he said it was the best day of his life.
- You also own and operate a business, located in Crandon that sells boating accessories and bait. Your business relies heavily on tourism in the Metonga Lake area. Increases and decreases in tourism affect your business significantly.
- You are an avid angler.
- You pay property taxes each year.

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You are a: **DNR LAKE COORDINATOR**

#### **Important information about your character:**

- You live in a blue house on Main Street in Crandon.
- You are responsible for lake issues in several lake areas, including the Metonga Lake area. The \$20,000 allocated for this project is for the Metonga Lake area only. You are responsible for working with concerned citizens to make sound prevention and management decisions.
- In addition to these funds, you also have the option to work other partners to seek out additional funds.
- Your primary concern is protecting the natural resources of the state for all state citizens. You are concerned with the prevention and management of invasive species. You must also balance competing demands on the water resources in this area.
- You have many friends in the neighborhood and get invited to at least 10 barbecue cook outs during the summer. Your favorite beer is Mountain Creek.

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You are: **MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF CRANDON (and RESIDENT OF LAKE LUCERNE)**

### **Important information about your character:**

- You own a home on Lake Lucerne and live there year-round. Lake Lucerne is a large, popular lake with a public boat launch.
- You have been the mayor for 12 years and are up for re-election this year. All full-time residents (including you) may vote in the upcoming election.
- You have the authority to raise property taxes, which could raise up to \$10,000, but would be very unpopular with property owners in the area. You also have the authority to raise landing fees, which could raise \$3,000, but would negatively affect tourism.
- You enjoy recreational boating and water skiing.
- You grew up in a big city in California and it was always your dream to move to the Northwoods of Wisconsin

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You are a: **RESIDENT OF ROLLING STONE LAKE**

#### **Important information about your character:**

- You own a home on the north western corner of Rolling Stone Lake and live there year-round. It is the quietest part of the lake and you keep to yourself most of the times.
- Rolling Stone is a beautiful, popular lake with a public boat landing.
- You have a row boat that you like to take out very early in the morning before anyone else gets out on the lake.
- You think that the boat landing at your lake should be closed (and are not opposed to closing other boat landings either). You would be open to any measures to keep outsiders off the lakes.
- You pay property taxes each year.

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You are a: **FISHING GUIDE**

#### **Important information about your character:**

- You live in Green Bay, which is 100 miles south of the Metonga Lake area.
- You take most of your fishing tours to the Metonga Lake area but you have no connection to the area. You only go there because your clients want to.
- During the summer season you rent a room from an old lady in Crandon.
- If fishing were to decrease due to the presence of zebra mussels, you would not hesitate a minute to take your tours to another area.
- You are an avid angler.

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You are a: **STATE LEGISLATOR**

#### **Important information about your character:**

- You split your time between Madison and Crandon. You have a small house on Main Street in Crandon and occasionally you get invited over to the DNR Lake Coordinator's house.
- Sometimes when you go up to Crandon in the summer you bring your boat from Madison.
- You understand the concern that people have about zebra mussels but you focus mainly on what is important to your constituents.
- You are a good listener.

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