



## 2020 Annual Shoreland Activities Survey

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions for your county's 2020 activities within the shoreland area (*1000 feet from lakes and 300 feet from rivers or the extent of the floodplain, whichever is greater*).

This survey is six pages in length. All questions are required unless otherwise noted. You will not be able to move onto the next page until all required questions are answered.

There is an option to "save" your survey, but clicking this button does not submit your survey to the DNR.

**You must click "submit" on the last page of the survey in order for the DNR to receive your responses.**

If you would like a copy of your complete responses for your records, please print your survey before you submit. A PDF copy of your survey responses will be sent to you when the survey is closed.

To receive a shoreland grant in 2021, this form must be completed by **February 1, 2021**.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Kathleen Metzker, DNR Land Use Hydrologist  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032  
(651) 259-5694  
kathleen.metzker@state.mn.us

County Name:

2020 Shoreland Block  
Grant Amount (\$)

### Variances

List the number of shoreland variance approvals in 2020 (if zero, please enter "0" in the box):

A) OHWL setback:	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Of these, how many were in the SIZ?	<input type="text" value="0"/>
B) Bluff setback:	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Of these, how many were in the BIZ?	<input type="text" value="0"/>
C) Septic system setback:	<input type="text" value="0"/>
D) Impervious coverage:	<input type="text" value="0"/>
E) Building height:	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Approximately how many approved variiances for items A through E above involved new construction on a conforming lot?

- All
- Most
- About half
- Hardly any
- None

How many variiances were approved in 2020 to allow guest cottages or guest quarters on lots not meeting the minimum lot size for duplexes?

How many variances were approved in 2020 to allow small contiguous lots in common ownership to be individually developed or sold and not combined as required by Minn. Stat. 394.36 Subd. 5(d)?

0

How does your county identify small contiguous lots in common ownership that are required to be combined under Minn. Stat. 394.36 Subd. 5(d) (ie, those less than 66% of the minimum lot area required by shoreland rules)?

County Assessor's information, GIS, Zoning Applications

How does your county enforce the combination of small contiguous lots in common ownership?

Required to combine or apply for variance on proposed property transfer or zoning application

Did your county approve any subdivisions (with or without variances) in 2020 where the lots did not meet the lot area and width standards?

- Yes  
 No

Did you typically require conditions of approval on variances approved in 2020?

- Yes  
 No  
 Did not approve any variances in 2020

For approximately how many variance inquiries in 2020 were alternative solutions found (thus reducing the actual number of variance applications)?

- All  
 Most  
 About half  
 Hardly any  
 None

What approaches were most effective in helping owners pursue better solutions?

SSTS setback variance to structure was granted rather than to OHWL.

Does your county require septic system compliance (system upgrades) whenever a variance or permit of any kind is granted?

- Yes  
 No

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## Lots & Land Subdivisions

What were the total number of lots created in 2020?

Shoreland PUD: 0

Standard lot and block subdivision: 0

Lot Splits (administrative subdivision): 2

Were there any resort conversions in your county?

- Yes  
 No

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## Permits

How many land use permits did your county issue in shoreland areas in 2020 for **new construction on previously undeveloped lots**:

2

How many land use permits did your county issue in shoreland areas in 2020 for **redevelopment** (e.g., expansion of structures, substantial improvements, new structures added to developed lots):

7

How many permits for grading and filling within the SIZ, BIZ, and steep slopes were issued in 2020?

3

To what extent do you think grading and filling within the SIZ, BIZ, and steep slopes were permitted vs. done without a permit?

We feel that some work is probably done in more remote agricultural areas without a permit. We worked with the DNR on a lakeshore violation in December, but most work seems to be permitted.

Does your county generally inspect the work?

- Yes  
 No

How does your county administer and enforce the shoreland vegetation provisions that prohibit intensive vegetation clearing and limit selective cutting in the SIZ, BIZ, and on steep slopes on residential and commercial properties? Check all that apply.

- Complaint-based  
 Specify quantifiable standards for cutting in ordinance  
 Require permit  
 Inspection  
 Other

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## Planning & Administration

Did your county update or amend its shoreland ordinance in 2020?

- Yes  
 No

Does your county have plans to amend its shoreland ordinance in 2021?

- Yes  
 No

Who do you notify by email at the DNR 10 days prior to a public hearing and within 10 days of final decisions on applications for shoreland variances, CUPs, and ordinance amendments? (Please identify the name of your DNR Area Hydrologist):

Katie Wigen

Have any townships in your county taken on shoreland and floodplain zoning administration in **2020**? If yes, please list the township(s) and describe any cooperative agreements between your county and township(s):

*You have ? characters left in your response.*

No

Are you aware of any townships in your county which intend to take on shoreland and floodplain zoning administration in **2021**? If yes, please list the township(s):

*You have ? characters left in your response.*

No

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## Resources/Training/Other

**All of the following questions are optional.**

What shoreland-related trainings, guidance, or tools do your staff or Board of Adjustment need?

*You have ? characters left in your response.*

Any new or refresher shoreland or floodplain training is always useful.

Have any new or unanticipated issues arisen in the past year that you would like the DNR to address or provide guidance on? If yes, please describe:

*You have ? characters left in your response.*

Did your county pursue or consider pursuing any partnerships, special initiatives, education and outreach efforts or unique higher standards to protect shorelands in 2020? If yes, please describe:

*You have ? characters left in your response.*

If you have any additional comments or questions on any shoreland-related issues, please enter them here:

*You have ? characters left in your response.*

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## Contact Information

County: Watowan

Contact Person & Title:

David Haler- Land Mgmt Director

E-mail Address:

david.haler@co.watowan.mn.us

Phone Number:

507-375-1225

**Thank you for completing the survey!**

**If you would like an immediate copy of your responses for your records, please be sure to click "Print" below before you submit. You will also be sent a PDF of your responses by e-mail when the survey closes.**

**After printing, be sure to click "Submit" to send your responses to the DNR.**

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