

Lake may be drained if dike isn't repaired

Dike, From Preceding Page

is not used much, Tarmann said. Although the boat launch is in good shape, the lake is very shallow there and boaters must paddle through a mucky area to get to deeper water.

The lake averages about 3 feet in depth, although there is one 8-foot-deep area. The lake is used primarily for fishing and swimming, although some people ski on it.

After the repairs in 1978, lake residents formed a self-taxing district to make additional improvements. In the past eight years, the about 75 district members have paid about \$50,000 in taxes on the lake and \$20,000 in special charges on a weed harvester.

Frederic Fleischman, chairman of the lake district, said the district was contemplating a dredging project.

Rebuilding the dike won't improve the lake, he said. Only dredging or raising the lake level will deepen the water.

A proposal to raise the lake level 3½ inches last year was abandoned after state officials said the dike was not adequate to support the existing lake level, let alone a higher one.

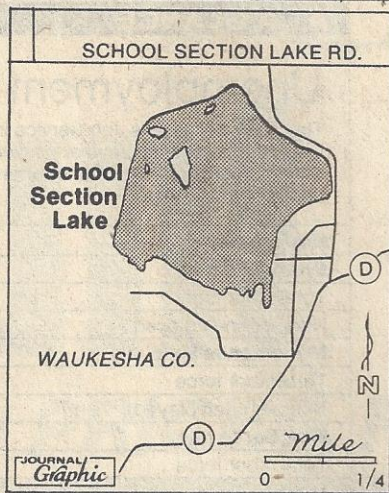
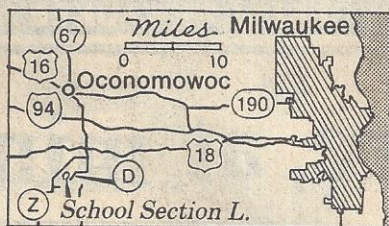
"We don't want to do it the way the county wants to do it," Fleischman said. "All the county is intent on doing is having us paying for half the dike."

He criticized the county and state for what he said was a lack of cooperation with property owners. The lake district is considering asking the county for permission to fill wetlands behind the dike with lake bottom dredgings — something the county and state may not favor.

"They are more concerned with saving that wetland than helping the lake district," Fleischman said.

A year ago, the county obtained bids from engineers on the cost of a study to put dredging material behind the dike and asked the lake management district to pay the estimated \$12,000 cost.

"We don't have that kind of mon-



The dike on School Section Lake is in need of repair

ey," Fleischman said. "We're very limited [in resources]."

If the county doesn't fix the dike under state orders, the DNR will order the dike removed, according to Mark Riebau, assistant chief for dam safety and flood-plain management.

"Any dam has to be maintained properly," he said. "If it's not going to be maintained properly, it's going to be removed."

Said Fleischman, "I'm sure they're not going to just pull the plug and eliminate a lake."

Riebau said the DNR had ordered other lakes drained, pending dam repairs. Two years ago, the Town of Manitowoc decided to remove a dam rather than fix it.