

## **FREE TODD COUNTY SWCD SHORELAND ASSESSMENT**

This article is to inform you of the shoreland assessment that was recently completed on my property. In June, Deja Anton and Josh Votruba met with me on my property to discuss the assessment. After a brief discussion about my property, they began their observations. They spent approximately one hour looking around and then met with me to discuss any questions they had.

In about two weeks I received an email with the assessment results. It was a 10 page report that included the following information:

### **Land Use Category**

Questions and recommendations regarding the property. This includes the septic system, impervious surface analysis, storage use along the shoreline and stormwater control. Recommendations were for some impervious pavers and adding some plants along the retaining wall.

### **Erosion Category**

Questions and recommendations regarding control of stormwater, shoreline erosion or areas without vegetation. Recommendations were to seed areas with poor vegetation, add some pea rock and potentially add some wild flowers or plants.

### **Vegetation/Pest Management Category**

Questions and recommendations regarding control of invasive plants or pests and the use of fertilizer. Recommendations were to limit the use of fertilizer that can runoff into the lake and to potentially plant a variety of trees to replace the aging trees that have limited life remaining.

### **Shoreline Buffer Zone Category**

Questions and recommendations regarding the shoreline. I had zero recommendations as there are trees and maintained grass in these areas.

### **Upland Zone Category**

Questions and recommendations regarding trees, grasses and rainwater runoff in the area upland of the shoreline. I received compliments on the various garden areas and trees.

**Aquatic Zone Category**

Questions and recommendations regarding any water treatments or manually control of areas in the water. There were no recommendations as I use a certified applier of chemicals and minimal manual removal of lake weeds.

**Miscellaneous Category**

Questions regarding my property were in regards to firepit ash control, leaf control and is aquatic invasive species present. They recommend raking leaves and keeping the firepit clean.

At the end of the report is a rating of the property which for me was a bronze rating. I could easily improve to a silver rating if I implement some of the recommendations to improve the property. The report also included photos of plants that were recommended I plant. I was also told that there may be funds available on a cost share basis to implement some recommendations.

I would strongly recommend property owners contact Deja or Josh (320-732-2644) to set up an assessment of their property. I was assured that if there were code or legal issues regarding my property, they would not be addressed or mentioned in the report.