

INSTRUCTIONS: Please circle and/or fill in all applicable blanks below. Please be sure your answers are truthful, clear, complete, and legible. PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE MANITOWISH CHAIN DEFENSE FUND USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE (mailing address is c/o Brennan Steil, S.C., 1 E. Milwaukee St., Janesville, Wisconsin, 53545). Please also feel free to distribute copies of your completed questionnaire to your elected representative(s) and whomever else you see fit. Thank you!

TO: John Simonson, Wisconsin DNR c/o Manitowish Chain Defense Fund

RE: Comment on Wisconsin DNR's proposed change to operating order for the Rest Lake Dam

FROM: Name: DAVID ESSER
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I (own/lease) property on (Rest/Stone/Fawn/Clear/Spider/Island/Manitowish/Little Star/Wild Rice/Alder) Lake of the Manitowish Chain at the mailing address of 120 SPIDER LAKE RD EAST. I have (owned/leased) this property for 5+ years. My property has lake frontage totaling 100+ feet.

PIERS: Over the time I have owned my property, I have invested at least \$ _____ on installing and/or maintaining _____ pier(s) on my property. My pier(s) (is/are) _____ feet long. When water in the Chain reaches the normal summer water level of 8'6" on the Rest Lake Dam gauge, the deep end of my pier(s) reaches water that is 2 1/2 feet deep. In order for me to safely dock a boat at the pier(s) and access the Manitowish Chain from my property, the water level of the Manitowish Chain needs to be at least 2 feet at the Rest Lake Dam gauge. When the water level falls below that, I have the following problems navigating on the Manitowish Chain (describe any and all problems you may experience):
I CAN NOT GET OUT OF THE BAY TO MAIN BODY OF WATER. I ALSO AM UNABLE TO USE A BOAT LIFT. THE BOTTOM IS MUCK & I CAN NOT EVEN WALK THE BOAT OUT. I NO LONGER HAVE A WATER FRONT PROPERTY WHICH WILL HAVE A MOST SEVERE AFFECT ON RESALE VALUES

BOAT LIFTS AND BOATHOUSES: Over the time I have owned my property, I have invested at least \$ 1500+ on installing and maintaining _____ / _____ boat lift(s) and _____ boathouses on my property.

SHORELINE PROTECTION STRUCTURES (check boxes and fill in applicable blanks): Over the time I have owned my property, I have invested at least \$ _____ on installing and/or maintaining the following shoreline protection structures on my property:

- _____ feet of seawall which is constructed out of _____.
- _____ feet of rock riprap.
- Other: _____

INVESTMENTS IN STRUCTURES AND POTENTIAL ICE DAMAGE: Presently, I take the following action(s) to protect my (piers/boat lift(s)/boathouse(s)/shoreline protection structures) from ice damage in the winter (please describe all steps you take, why you take those steps, and what the steps cost each year; or, if you take no action, please state that and explain why you take no action):

COMMENTARY ON DNR'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE REST LAKE DAM OPERATING ORDER. I

understand the DNR is proposing to modify the operating order for the Rest Lake Dam such that (1) summer water levels would fluctuate between a 7'0" minimum and 8'6" maximum, (2) the traditional winter drawdown would be eliminated and/or significantly reduced, so that winter levels would never go below 7'6" in the winter, and (3) summer flows over the dam would not be restricted unless and until levels in the Chain drop to 7'0". With regard to that proposal, I offer the following comments to the DNR (check each applicable box and provide any explanation for your answer):

Overall, I (support/oppose) the DNR's proposed changes to the Rest Lake Dam operating order because: it will have a major affect on the Chain. From my own perspective I will be out hundreds of thousands in real estate value

If the summer water level on the Chain is allowed to fall below the 8'4" to 8'6" range that historically has predominated on the Chain, I will experience the following problems and costs (describe any problems you will have with navigability and your enjoyment of the Chain; if your problems will be worse at lower water levels, please indicate the types of problems you will have at each water level): The chain is no longer a chain as you cannot move from lake to lake.

If the winter water level is kept at _____ or higher, I will be forced to take the following actions in order to protect my structures from potential ice damage (please fill in the blank to identify the water level at which you will have problems with ice damage, describe the problems you would have with ice damage, describe the steps you would take to try to prevent ice damage, state the estimated cost of taking those steps, and state whether you believe those steps would be successful): _____

I offer the following additional comments for the DNR to consider: _____

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:


David H. ESSE
10-30-12