

P.O. Box 7179  
Prospect Hts., IL 60070  
Oct. 7, 2012

Mr. Jon Simonsen  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
107 Sutliff Ave.  
Rhineland, WI 54501

Re: Comment on Potential Change in Rest Lake Dam Order

Dear Mr. Simonsen,

I am writing to plead with you not to change the current operations on the Rest Lake Dam in Manitowish Waters, WI. I purchased the property at 203 Wahoo four years ago from my father's estate. My father originally purchased the property in 1973, when I was an adult. It has always been clear to me that the historical rhythms of the lake level have always been critical to the ongoing health of the property, and I'm very distraught with the proposed changes. The changes will cost me not only thousands of dollars in one-time expenses, but thousands in annual expenses, and will eventually destroy the permanent pier and the boathouse (which I just had repaired--having gone through the extensive DNR permitting process to fix the boathouse for \$4790.00).

The implications for me, and I would suspect many of my neighbors, include the following:

- Currently, when summer water levels are low (which means 8'4" and lower), I am unable to get my speedboat out at all, as it is on a boatlift in the boathouse. At the current minimum levels, the boatlift doesn't lower enough to get the boat out.
- Currently, when summer water levels are low (which means 8'4" and lower), I have to move the boat lift for the pontoon boat beyond the end of the pier, and can barely reach the wheel to lower and raise the boat.
- If the water levels were to be as low as 7' in the summer, it would render my boathouse totally useless given that the water is too low to get the boats out, while the 7' levels in the winter would cause ice damage that will likely eventually destroy the boat house.



COMMENTARY ON DNR'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE REST LAKE DAM OPERATING ORDER. 1

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: <sup>+ 8'4"</sup> ① Water levels between 7'0" would render my boat house, which I just went through DNR permitting to repair, If this takes place immediately, I will have my speed boat on a shore station that cannot be lowered enough to get the boat off. The historical pattern of lowering the lake is one of the major reasons I purchased the property!!
- 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): ① I will not be able to get my speed boat out of the boat house, ② I will not be able to get my pontoon boat out. ③ I will not be able to dock boats at my pier.

- If the winter water level is kept at 7 feet 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):

① I would have to deal with ice damage to the boat house and pier annually. ② I would have to put both the speed boat & pontoon boat into storage for the winter (buying trailers for each) ③ I would have to have someone move the canoe & sail boat off the shore station they are on, ④ move all shore stations (i.e. boat lifts) to the shore. This will cost at least

- I offer the following additional comments for the DNR to consider: \$2500/year and permanent damage to the boat house
- I'm very distraught that I just bought this property from my father's estate and now these changes drastically would impact not only property value but also yearly expenses.

Signed:  
Print Name:  
Date:

Judith J. Zawojc  
Judith J. Zawojc  
10/5/12

- I have three shore stations (one in the boat house for the speed boat, one next to the pier for the pontoon, and one next to the boat house for the sail boat and canoe). If the water levels were kept at the 7' level in the winter, all of these shore stations would be vulnerable to ice damage. Thus, I would have to:
  - Pay someone to take the pontoon boat and speed boat out of the lake for winter storage,
  - Pay to buy trailers for these boats so the above could be accomplished,
  - Pay someone to move the shore stations to a safe place on shore so as to avoid ice damage,
  - Pay someone to move the canoe and sail boat to winter locations on the property.
  
- My 15-foot pier is a permanent pier, so high waters in the winter would eventually destroy the pier due to ice damage.
  
- My sea wall would also eventually be destroyed to ice damage.

This home has been in the family for over 40 years, and even though I now own it, most of the family still comes to enjoy Wisconsin's wonderful environment at the house. Please know that I am not so wealthy as to find these added costs and loss in property value easy to absorb. Please do not change the Rest Lake Dam operating order that has been in effect for 70 years!

Very sincerely,

  
Judith Zawojewski

I sent a version  
of this letter to  
each of the 9  
people on the  
list.