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RKLD board proposes \$20 per parcel increase

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The Rock-Koshkonong Lake District Board of Commissioners will hold its annual meeting of electors on Saturday, July 29, at the Fort Atkinson High School Auditorium. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program will start at 9 a.m.

Board Chairman Brian Christianson said this year's proposal to increase the special charge that is applied to district property owners' tax bills is dedicated to modifying the powerhouse at the Indianford Dam. The proposed increase is \$20 per parcel, bringing the special charge to \$65.

Christianson said: "For the past year, the private Wetlands Club has lobbied the DNR to remove the wicket gates and trash rack at the powerhouse and replace them with slide gates. They have suggested their duck hunting clubs would help fund installing new slide gates, which could discharge a greater amount of water during high flow periods. If they help fund what may be a quarter million dollar price tag, then the RKLD Board will work with them and pursue possible DNR grants as well."

Christianson said Rob Montgomery, professional engineer, diplomate water resources engineer, and a professor of practice at UW-Madison's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, will present hydraulic data on Indianford Dam and its impact on the lake level at Lake Koshkonong.

"Because the spillway at the Indianford Dam is lower than the elevation of Lake Koshkonong, the lake and Rock River is always in a state of discharge, even when all gates are fully closed," said Christianson. "Mother Nature's rain and snow is to blame for high water. Rob will explain how the dam can only slow down the draining of the lake when dry and drought conditions hit the area usually during July and August."

The Rock-Koshkonong Lake District is a statutorily created local unit of government. Much like Wisconsin's annual town hall meetings, all attending electors review and vote on the special charge and the budget. Elections will also be held for two board seats. Board commissioners serve three-year terms.

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