






Welcome Rock Kosh | [Your Profile](#) | [Sign Out](#)

[WCLO](#) | [WJVL](#) | [Walworth County Today](#) | [E-Edition](#)

GazetteXtra



89.2°

[f](#) [t](#) | Wednesday, August 10, 2016

[News](#) [Sports](#) [Opinion](#) [Living](#) [Columnists](#) [Videos](#) [Community](#) [Services](#) [Buy and Sell](#) [Jobs](#)




Our Views: DNR crafts a credible compromise



[Comments](#) [Print](#)

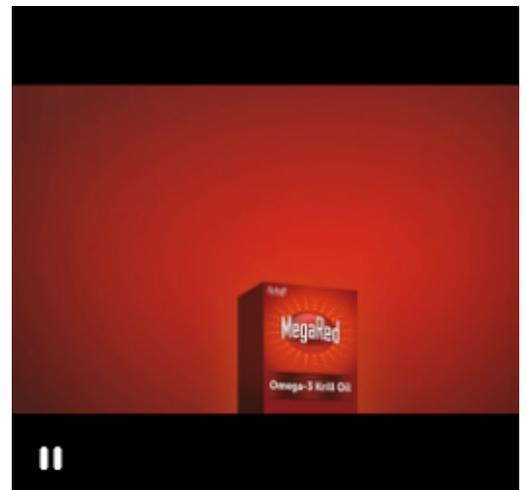
GAZETTE EDITORIAL BOARD
Monday, August 8, 2016

Pleasing environmentalists and business interests alike is rarely easy, which is why the state Department of Natural Resources deserves credit for its proposal to raise the water level of Lake Koshkonong by 5 inches.

Environmental groups, concerned raising the water could hurt plant and wildlife, can take comfort in knowing the DNR's plan is less ambitious than the Rock-Koshkonong Lake District would prefer. It calls for raising lake levels by only 3 inches starting June 15, 2017—far less than the 7.2 inches sought by the lake district.

The lake would rise to 5 inches only after the DNR examined the effects of raising it by 3 inches. If wetlands show no signs of “dramatic injury,” lake levels would rise another 2 inches in 2019 for a total of 5 inches.

Search...

Neither side can claim victory here, a sign that the DNR’s proposal is a fair compromise.

Often the scapegoat in environmental disputes, the DNR has tried to craft a credible proposal aiming to persuade competing parties to drop their threats of litigation.

True, the DNR’s plan could fail long before that 5-inch mark is reached. Starting at 3 inches, the two sides could start fighting over what constitutes “dramatic injury” and whether higher lake levels caused the injury.

But for the moment, let’s celebrate what appears to be a path forward.

The DNR’s 5-inch plan recognizes the importance of factoring in economic interests, which the state Supreme Court ruled in 2013 the DNR must consider in formulating a lake level plan.

Koshkonong, a 10,500-acre Rock River impoundment backed up by the Indianford Dam, is Wisconsin’s sixth-largest inland lake. But it’s a shallow body of water with an average depth of just 7 feet, while its 27 miles of shoreline include more than 12 miles of wetlands.

A few inches make a difference in determining whether boaters can use the lake and, ultimately, whether tourists decide to go someplace else. Water levels mean everything to the lake’s economy, and the DNR rightly recognized that refusing to raise lake levels was no plan at all.

A Sound Off caller opined last week that the best solution was to remove the Indianford Dam and allow the lake to become “Koshkonong swamp like it was originally and help the earth heal itself.”

Yeah, that would be wonderful. It would be great, too, for Wisconsin’s landscape to revert to its pristine condition when European settlers arrived in the 17th century. Ideally, all dams would be removed to restore waters to their natural habitats. We wouldn’t use pesticides, either, and everyone would only use



Got a news tip?
Click here to contact our newsroom

Inside the Games

The Latest: China’s diving golden sweep dashed in Rio

Gray skies and green water at the Rio de Janeiro Games

US rolls on, routs Serbia 110-84 in women’s basketball

Olympic village: Early finishers party while others compete

Rain, rain, go away: 20 of 26 Rio tennis matches postponed

MORE

HOME

ADVERTISEMENT

Ads by Rubicon Project
FREE Online Courses Get the skills you need to land the job you want.
START LEARNING NOW



Galleries



biodegradable bags at the grocery store.

But let's face it: Protecting the lake's environment at any cost is not realistic. The DNR's job is to balance our pro-growth economic reality against the needs of frogs, herons and other creatures deemed sensitive to landscape alterations.

With its lake-level proposal unveiled last week, the DNR accomplished its mission. Now, environmental and business interests need to do their part by accepting the proposal even if it wouldn't give them everything they want.



Comments



Print

GazetteXtra.com does not condone or review every comment. Read more in our [Commenter Policy Agreement](#).

- **Keep it clean.** Comments that are obscene, vulgar or sexually oriented will be removed. Creative spelling of such terms or implied use of such language is banned, also.
- **Don't threaten to hurt or kill anyone.**
- **Be nice.** No racism, sexism or any other sort of -ism that degrades another person.
- **Harassing comments.** If you are the subject of a harassing comment or personal attack by another user, do not respond in-kind. Click the "Report Abuse" button on offensive comments.
- **Share what you know.** Give us your eyewitness accounts, background, observations and history.
- **Do not libel anyone.** Libel is writing something false about someone that damages that person's reputation.
- **Ask questions.** What more do you want to know about the story?
- **Stay focused.** Keep on the story's topic.
- **Help us get it right.** If you spot a factual error or misspelling, email newsroom@gazettextra.com or call 1-800-362-6712.
- **Remember, this is our site.** We set the rules, and we reserve the right to remove any comments that we deem inappropriate.

Post a comment as Long Time Gone:

Remaining characters: 1000



Latest News

Craig High School banker gets two years in prison for taking student money

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Trump, on defense, blames media for Second Amendment flap

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Rock County vote totals delayed

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

US women gymnasts, Phelps, Ledecky all golden again

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Today in History: August 10

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Complete primary election results

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Latest Columns

Press Start: The best games within games

Monday, August 8, 2016

Ted Peck: Wisconsin River dams attract muskies—and anglers

Friday, August 5, 2016

Steve Knox: Your children are listening and watching

Friday, August 5, 2016

Fuel & Tires: NASCAR turns right at Watkins Glen

Thursday, August 4, 2016

Dish, NFL Network reach settlement

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

UW-W teacher known for popular trip to Yellowstone

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Trending now

Craig High School banker gets two years in prison for taking student money

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Lake Geneva man faces fourth OWI

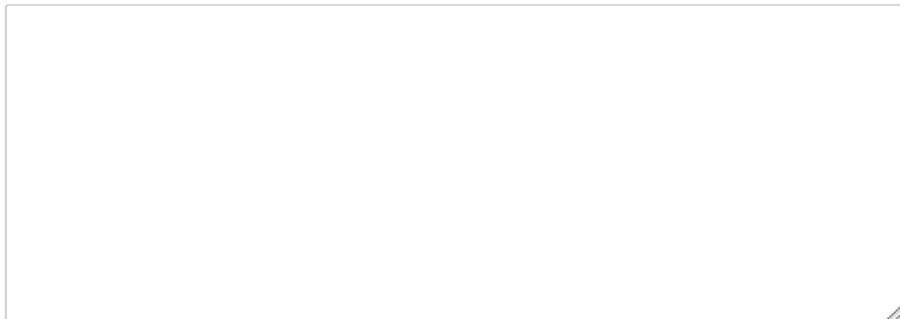
Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Joel Teubert, Janesville, WI

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

John Rosemond: Don't be the stepped-on parent

Tuesday, August 9, 2016



Post a Comment

Delavan police officer sentenced to 30 months probation in strangling case

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Elkhorn man receives 10 years probation in sexual assault of a child

Monday, August 8, 2016

Most read

Most commented

Looking to Buy or Sell? Look no more

GazetteXtra
HOUSES.com

Obama Increases Amount Seniors Can Get From Reverse Mortgages

[Calculate New Payment](#)

Tap Your Age: 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 66-75 OVER 75

MAILED BY 187223, 1208
http://consumeraccess.org

www.LowerMyBills.com

Site map

News

- Local
- State
- Weather
- Lottery Results
- Crime
- Nation and World
- Columns
- Special Sections
- Photos
- Public Record

Sports

- Columns
- Preps
- Local Sports
- Auto Racing
- Baseball
- Basketball
- College
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Photos

Opinion

- Columns
- Letters to the Editor
- Submit a letter
- Our Views
- Other Views
- Sound Off
- Political Cartoons

Living

- Kicks
- Travel
- Health
- Home
- Money
- Columns
- Relationships
- Music
- Food

Columnists

- Columnist index

Videos

- Local Videos
- Shows
- Traffic Cameras

Community

- Obituaries
- Births
- Couples
- Death Notices
- Community Briefs
- Names in the News
- Events
- Submit Your

Services

- Subscribe
- iServices
- E-Edition
- Photo Reprints
- About Us
- Contact Us
- Advertisers
- Newspaper in Education

Buy and Sell

- Homes
- Classifieds

Jobs

Celebration

FAQ
Privacy Policy
Legal Notices
**Terms &
Conditions**
Tearsheets
Reader Rewards
Retail Locations

© 2016 GazetteXtra, a division of Bliss Communications, Inc.