LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor, 8/31/11

As fourth generation Rock County Residents in the Pleasant View Community of Fulton Township, we are appalled by recent actions taken by the Lake Koshkonong Board of Directors as reported in recent articles in the Edgerton Reporter. We are particularly disturbed by the Board's decision to appeal the Appellate Court's recent decision denying their ongoing request to set water levels in conflict with careful standards established by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Re-sources (DNR). The ongoing use of taxpayer assessments to further this legal challenge is self-serving, misguided and a waste of scarce taxpayer resources. These funds could be better spent protecting and improving the quality of water, air, the shoreline and adjoining streams and marshes, and the flora and fauna of this once pristine area.

Most long time residents are familiar with early settlers' accounts that describe in great detail the stunning beauty of greater Lake Koshkonong, including the rich wildlife and abundant wild rice growing in the lake. While few would choose to return to the idyllic period inhabited by the Winnebago, the Sauk and other tribes, most I'm sure want to actively protect what remains of the natural environment instead of acquiescing to the reckless expansion of tourism and development envisioned by the Lake District through manipulation of water levels.

The Lake District should abandon their ongoing litigation against the DNR and instead re-appropriate their substantial litigation account to perform a survey of residents, local businesses, involved governmental entities and non-profits to determine a comprehensive set of priorities to enhance the ecosystem of this historic district.

Continued litigation that attempts to lessen the State's environmental standards is a gross mistake and misuse of public resources. Property owners and other concerned citizens must let their voices be heard. We must demand ongoing improvements to our environment, not stand by and watch a relentless march toward ever expanding exploitation and degradation.

Let's demand thoughtful development of our lake and river that's greener, healthier quieter, cleaner, safer, and more beautiful. A place our children and grandchildren will be proud to call home.

Steven and Carol Porter, Edgerton and Los Angeles
Susan Porter, Edgerton and New York

Dear Editor,

As the Edgerton Reporter has often covered, the Lake District has been very active in proposing plans to alter Lake Koshkonong and the Rock River. There is now a proposal which will be discussed at a September 19th Rock County board committee meeting to increase the water level at which a no wake zone on the Rock River comes into effect. As a 19 year homeowner on the beautiful and often peaceful Rock River I am very dismayed to think that there is anyone who thinks that it is a good idea to wait until the river rises to one foot below flood stage before imposing the no wake restriction.

My pier on Rock River Drive was installed more than 50 years ago by some prior owner. It is totally submerged when the river level is at 8.2 feet. This is common along the river and as you can imagine, when a pier is underwater for a period of time, the possibility of loose and wayward lumber is a safety concern, not to mention the invisibility of the piers to speeding boaters of which there are all too many.

Myself and many of my neighbors have conscientiously tried to protect our shoreline from erosion by installing costly retaining walls, plantings and rip rap. It is most likely that raising the no wake above the current standard of 7.5 feet will in fact cause erosion to the shoreline and make our efforts meaningless. The wave action on the river, especially in the narrow section between the railroad trestle and Hwy 51 bridges, is significant with the zooming of numerous personal watercraft , "cigarette" and other high powered boats, especially on the weekends. In fact if there is a discussion of the no wake zone. I'd like to recommend that this section of the river become a <u>permanent</u> NO WAKE ZONE.

As a taxpayer of annual assessments to the Lake District, I am confounded by the irresponsible allocation of funds to ill-conceived and costly projects which seem to cater only to the interests of some lake owners and commercial entities.

Karen Popowski

9-7-11