

District threatens legal steps

Lake group will act to save dam in peril

By Catherine W. Idzerda
Gazette Staff

Officials from the Rock-Koshkonong Lake District said they will take legal action if Rock County petitions for removal of the Indianford Dam.

"These are our homes and our businesses that would be impacted, and we would take legal action if they asked for removal," district official Jerry Richardson said Saturday at the lake district's annual meeting at Janesville Craig High School.

Richardson's comments come just days after the Jefferson County Board rejected a plan to share ownership of the dam with Rock and Dane counties and the lake district.

Under the proposed plan, the lake district would pay one-third of the cost of dam maintenance. Of the remaining amount, Rock County would pay 50 percent, Jefferson County 40 percent and Dane County 10 percent.

In addition, the four entities would set aside a total of \$60,000 a year for future repairs.

The Rock County Board approved the plan Thursday, but many supervisors indicated they weren't willing to keep the dam without help from Jefferson County.

Most of Lake Koshkonong is in

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Jefferson County.

At Thursday's meeting, Rock County supervisors asked the county's corporation counsel to draft a resolution allowing them to petition the state for removal of the dam.

But some members of the lake district don't believe Rock County ever will remove the dam.

"They're not going to remove that dam," Edgerton resident Keith Callfas said. "Anybody who thinks they're going to remove it is a fool."

Another district resident urged the district officials to "stop volunteering to pay for the dam."

Lake district board member Frank Micale disagreed.

"If you don't believe they'll take out the dam, you should come to their meetings and listen to them talk about it," Micale said.

Fulton Township and lake district board member Kerry Hull

said that if the dam was removed, the resulting decline in property values would boost taxes all over the county.

Board members urged people to contact supervisors from all three counties but especially those from Jefferson and Dane counties.

"We need just truckloads of letters to Jefferson and Dane counties," district Chairman Jim Folk said.

After an extended discussion, lake district members passed a resolution asking the board to continue to pursue joint ownership of the dam and continue to protect it.

In addition, district members passed a \$121,000 budget for 2001. About \$101,975 will come from taxes, and the other \$20,000 comes from Department of Natural Resources grants.

About \$45,000 of that will be used for legal fees and accounting. Another \$53,000 will be used for engineering studies.