

# The Daily Union

## opinion page



W.D. HOARD  
Founder, 1870

### DISAPPOINTING DECISION

Editor, Daily Union: After reading the Aug. 9 Daily Union headline story, "Indianford Dam Commission Rejected," I must say that I am very disappointed at how the majority of Jefferson County supervisors view one of Wisconsin's largest lakes and one of southern Wisconsin's largest recreational assets.

Comments and views directed at Lake Koshkonong, from a few of the quoted supervisors were down right narrow-minded and disturbing. However, this type of thinking is not surprising, coming from a county that generates some of the lowest tourism dollars in all of eastern Wisconsin (in a pro-tourism state). The county board chairman stated that the resolution being considered, prior to the vote not to become involved in the Commission, had nothing to do with money. Well Mr. County Board Chairman, if the dam was to be removed, what type of impact would a dried up lake bed have on the area's economy?

A county supervisor stated that "the county board really doesn't have any figures beyond speculation of what this is going to cost (dam repair) at the immediate time or in the long haul — and it will impact the county for years to come if the county were to take part in this commission. Well, Mr. County Board Supervisor, the key word in your statement is cost. What type of impact would dam removal have on Jefferson County taxpayers in the long haul? Who would absorb the cost of lost lakefront property taxes?

Give it some real thought because Jefferson County does not have a large population base, and we're not talking about a pond here, we're talking about a 10,000-acre lake in which the bulk of it is situated in Jefferson County!

Why would the county vote down an option to be in control of their own future? A multiple government effort, working together, to manage and maintain the huge southern Wisconsin asset known as Lake Koshkonong! What is the logic in this decision?

As a result of the overwhelming 22-8 vote against Jefferson County's involvement in the dam commission, I can now clearly see a county government who's manure spreader is stuck axle deep in ignorance!

This lake is a viable asset to not only Jefferson County, but southern Wisconsin, as well. It is almost a shame to see such a large, beautiful, valuable, body of water be neglected by a county government. The recreational aspect of Lake Koshkonong alone is worth its weight.

If you can't see this, take a sunny weekend afternoon boat ride down river into Rock County's unincorporated town of Newville on the lake's south end. There, you will find beautifully remodeled lakefront homes, thousands of campsites, full hotels, busy gas stations, and busy stores. Restaurants are full, hundreds upon hundreds of boats are on the water, and literally millions of dollars are being spent annually that are directly related to Lake Koshkonong recreation. Then take the same trip north up river into Jefferson County. Should I go on?

On Aug. 19 and 20, the north shore of Lake Koshkonong was host to the Firewater 2000 Boat

Rally, and the Mercury Marine Owners Group Regatta. This event attracted hundreds of boats and thousands of boating enthusiasts from all over the U.S. and Canada . . . Betcha didn't know that, either.

To the 22 county representatives who voted the resolution down, maybe you need a vacation! I know that you will be hard-pressed to find a Wisconsin vacation destination without a lake. So may I suggest going to central Illinois and plopping down in the middle of a cornfield? — Tom and Leigh Gimmer, Fort Atkinson.