

Meeting Minutes

Rock Koshkonong Lake District

November 13, 2001

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Red Apple Restaurant

- 1. Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm**
 - a. Attending; Jim Folk, Jerry Richardson, Frank Micale, Ray Lunder, Buck Sweeney, Dick Towns, Kerry Hull and approx. 41 guests**
 - b. Approval of the minutes from 9/11/01, Jerry made motion, Buck seconded;**

Approved: 7-Yes- 0- Nay
- 2. Treasurers Report**

Buck made a motion to approve, Richard Towns seconded;

Approved: 7 Yes- 0 Nay
- 3. Frank resigned as secretary. Jim appointed Ray Lunder as secretary.**
- 4. Rough fish removal.**
 - a. Don Bush, Mike Cross put on a presentation describing the past history of the rough fish control program.**
 - b. Koshkonong started as a deep-water marsh, dam was constructed in 1850, created a water depth max of 7'. Buffalo was more common before carp. Fishing for carp usually is sold and the price hasn't changed in 50 years.**
 - c. Seining is the only option, DNR started and funded, but was cost prohibitive.**
 - d. When pan fish were more prevalent, this seemed to control the carp to some degree.**

- e. **Linn Duesterbeck talked about complaints of the current fisherman, leaving dead fish on shore, leaving fish penned up for longer than necessary.**
- f. **Fisherman stated they can't control the weather or market, they need to fish when they can, they need to move from one side of the lake to the other. They also said they don't get any help from anyone here, if we wanted to control the carp, we would have to subsidize the fishing. The fish crib isn't the answer, kills too many fish. Fishing takes place for the most part in the fall, this sometimes has been a problem with the duck hunters because of where they are fishing. Jim pointed out it was not just duck hunters complaints, it is also a problem for other property owners whenever the fisherman are working the lake and that he receives numerous phone calls over the dead fish issue.**
- g. **Don Bush suggested forming a committee with the fisherman, DNR, Lake District to negotiate a compromise of the fishing problems.**
- h. **Subsidizing might be an option until a market can be found for the left over fish. Cost of subsidizing fisherman was estimated by Jim to be \$50,000 to 75,000 per year as an on going cost and when the guest were asked if they want to pay that type of subsidy it was a resounding NO.**
- i. **Because of the fish coming in from up river, we would need a controlled fishing system that could take out several million pounds of fish each year.**
- j. **Don estimated the rough fish population of about 6 million pounds. About 1/3 of this amount is taken out each year.**
- k. **The state can kick in about \$20K each year for subsidizing the removal if the district subsidized the fishermen as well.**
- l. **Buck asked, the Chairman to appoint a committee to form an advisory committee of 4-6 people to work with the DNR, Fishermen & Property Owners to find solutions or methods; for the Fishermen to follow before the DNR renews the contract for next year. The committee is to recommend changes in the current contract operation procedures to help reduce complaints of the rough fish removal program. Jim asked for anyone wishing to be on the committee to contact him after the meeting and he would assign up to 4 people to the committee. This ended this discussion that lasted for about 2 hours.**

5. **Indianford Dam issues.**

- a. **The contract between Rock County and Jefferson will be on Rock Counties agenda 11/15/01.**
- b. **RKLD Resolution for possible ownership of the dam will not be on Rock Counties Agenda till December.**
- c. **Rock Counties Budget was passed and \$504K was approved for the dam's repair.**

6. Planning Grant updates.

- a. **Steve Hjort talked about the status of the planning grants and provided a handout of the progress.**
- b. **Water level issues: OHWM data is being collected from 9 locations, data collected will determine the OHWM and will be used in part for a complete water level study.**
- c. **RKLD has requested a temporary suspension of the winter draw down to gather data of ice/water shoreline erosion vs. drawdown erosion. Chairman Folk said the District has not requested formally, a permanent change in water levels, only a study of the water level and orders.**
- d. **Commissioner Sweeney stated that if anyone tried to change the operating/water level order that he would file a lawsuit against whoever requested such a change and that he might have to resign from the Board of Commissioners due to a conflict of interest.**

7. Other Business.

- a. **Donaldson vs. RKLD; the judge issued his findings and his findings was in Donaldson's favor.**
- b. **Our Attorney Bill O'Connor determined the judge didn't follow the proper procedures when making his decision.**
- c. **Motion was made by Buck to appeal the decision, seconded by Frank; Approved: 7 Yes- 0 Nay**

8. Adjourn

- a. **A motion was made to adjourn by Frank, seconded by Buck;**

Approved: 7 Yes- 0 nay.

b. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Ray Lunder Secretary

Rock-Koshkonong Lake District