

February 23, 2015

Steve Ales
Department of Natural Resources
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Madison, WI 53711

RE: Lake Koshkonong Water Level

Dear Mr. Ales:

I am President of Thiebeau Hunt Club and own a cottage at Thiebeau Point. I have been involved in the case, but want to offer my comments regarding the secondary economic impacts.

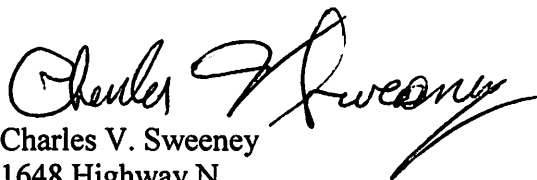
I talked with several Town Chairs and the value of properties on Lake Koshkonong continues to go up. This lake was built as a flooded marsh, and by raising the water levels it will flood historic wetlands, including our marsh.

We believe the businesses on the lake are doing extremely well and have not been adversely affected by the water levels.

In addition, if the water levels are raised, the Rock River elevations at the railroad bridge will not allow boats to go under the bridge. On the down-flow side of the river, the merchants in Indianford will have negative impact, as most boats will not be able to get under the railroad bridge.

It is also clear that when these businesses were built, they clearly knew the water levels on Lake Koshkonong. I think it is very important that people understand that the water levels are not being lowered. The Lake District is trying to raise levels. Raising the levels will also cause siltation around the lake and adversely affect numerous farmers.

In addition, it would be interesting to look at the tax revenue from the Town and Lake District property owners. I know our property has increased taxes over the years. Property values continue to go up around Lake Koshkonong.



Charles V. Sweeney
1648 Highway N
Stoughton, WI 53589

Cottage Address:
N315 Charley Bluff Road
Milton, WI 53563