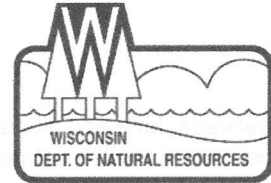


**State of Wisconsin**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
3911 Fish Hatchery Road  
Fitchburg WI 53711

Tony Evers, Governor  
Preston D. Cole, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



June 18, 2020

**Rock Koshkonong Lake District**  
**Mr. Alan Sweeney, Board Chair**  
11327 North Casey Road  
Edgerton, WI 53534

Expedited delivery via email: [alan.sweeney@co.rock.wi.gov](mailto:alan.sweeney@co.rock.wi.gov)

**Subject:** Water Level Order IP-SC-2019-54-01639 for Lake Koshkonong and the Indianford Dam  
Field Investigation of Impacts from Increased Water Levels

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the status of the water level order for the Indianford Dam.

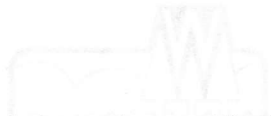
As required by the current water level order for the Indianford Dam, docket number IP-SC-2019-54-01639, the Department was to complete a field investigation to determine the impacts of the first of two potential increases in the maximum ordered water level. The first increase allowed the maximum water level to increase from 776.33 to 776.55. The water level order then required a field investigation to determine the impacts of this increase prior to granting the second increase, which would potentially allow the maximum to increase to 776.75.

Due to high water levels, the field investigation was delayed until September 2019. This investigation showed severe adverse impacts to wetlands. Therefore, the maximum water level for the Indianford Dam will remain at 776.55 at this time.

The Department acknowledges that water levels have been significantly above the maximum water level for a very long time, which makes an evaluation of the wetland impacts very challenging. It is very difficult to know if the cause of the severe adverse impacts was the water level increase to 776.55, or if it was the long amount of time that lake levels have been significantly above the maximum allowable water level, even with the dam fully open.

Based on the acknowledged difficulty to determine the cause of the impacts, the intent of the Department is to treat this as a "stay" of the current Order and not a final closure of the matter. The Department has not yet been able to determine that the 776.55 water level has not resulted in, or significantly contributed to severe adverse impacts to wetlands as required in the order for the second increase to 776.75, but also has not definitively determined that it has.

Attached to this letter is the Lake Koshkonong 2019 wetland quality monitoring results as well as the assessment methodology and benchmarks that were implemented. This report summarizes the results of the 2019 wetland condition surveys compared to the baseline surveys completed in 2016 and 2017. The Department commits to performing another field investigation in the future when conditions allow. Ideally, this will require water levels to be at or below the maximum water level for an entire growing season (May through October), and then again in the first few months of the following growing season, starting at frost out through when a survey can be conducted



between June and September. While some deviation could be tolerated, these are representative of the type of conditions the Department needs to make a fair evaluation.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with RKLD and continuing to strengthen our working relationship.

Sincerely,

*Mark D. Aquino*

Mark Aquino  
Secretary's Director, South Central

Encl: Lake Koshkonong 2019 wetland quality monitoring memo

Copy to: Robert R. Davis, PE – Dam Safety and Floodplain Section Chief  
David C. Rowe – Region Team Supervisor  
Michael Sorge – Basin Supervisor  
Travis Schroeder – Basin Supervisor  
Uriah Monday, PE – Water Management Engineer  
Shelly Allness – Acting Field Integration Leader