

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Alan Sweeney

Chair

Supervisor Rock County Board

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Commissioner

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Jim Bowers

Commissioner

(608) 480-0189

Mike Shumaker

Commissioner

(608) 444-1071

Supervisor Kerry Hull

Fulton Township

(608) 290-9045

Board of Commissioners Meetings

All meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. The public is welcome to attend all meetings.

www.rkld.org

Letter from the Chair

2020 offers some challenges and opportunities for Rock Koshkonong Lake District (RKLD). Your Lake District Board of Commissioners has kept a robust schedule and multiple accomplishments since 2019.

First, the RKLD Board met on a monthly basis. This schedule (along with busy agendas) resulted in many projects either completed or awaiting elector approval.

After nearly a year of parliamentary delays, a policy and procedure manual were approved. This is a living document with the purpose of open governance and accountability. Future RKLD Boards will add and amend this document to make transitions from outgoing boards to new boards with seamless efficiencies.

Other completed projects were an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and an Inspection, Operation and Maintenance Plan (IOM). The EAP and the IOM were part of a 2014 WDNR directive that was never completed. They are now at WDNR for administrative review.

In the early months of 2020, your RKLD board has been reviewing (with the help of hydro engineers and construction engineers) the best approach for addressing the 2020 WDNR water level control directive. The most effective option for water level control, as well as cost efficiencies for the future, are the removal of the wicket gates, trash rack modifications and the installation of six (6) slide gates in front of the existing powerhouse.

These plans along with the required EAP and IOM were submitted to the WDNR for grant considerations through the WDNR Dam Grant Program. The results are being put into a "Grant Priority Status" making RKLD eligible for up to \$400,000 in Dam Grant reimbursements.

After an evaluation of parcels exempt of lake district fees, the RKLD Board is recommending the lake district use a property tax levy for the operations obligation instead of a special fee as used in the past. Reasons include that special fees can then be used for projects that benefit a local area or project. A property tax levy is a more consistent, fair and defensible tax responsibility. At the present time there is no uniform determination of exempt parcels, a tax levy would result in a reproducible outcome. The Rock Koshkonong Lake District electors would still determine the complete annual budget and project funding.

We look forward to a successful 2020-2021 year. Have a wonderful summer!

Chair Alan Sweeney



Daily Water Forecasting

The RKLD Board of Commissioners have requested NOAA add daily water forecasting to the water level data for the Rock River in addition to the existing flood forecasting. In the past, the flood forecasting data would only be visible when flood stages were predicted or if the levels were beyond flood stage. The forecast disappears when the river level is under nine feet. In summary, the forecast will be updated daily predicting the next three days. Under flood danger or flood conditions, it will be updated twice a day.

2020-2021 RKLD Board of Commissioners Election

During the annual meeting, two board members will be elected. This is a three-year term. Nominations will also be made at the meeting.

The board is always looking for new district people to bring in their ideas.

If you are interested in running, please contact Chair Alan Sweeney at (608) 884-4026 or use the email form on the RKLD website.

2020 DNR Directive

The new 2020 WDNR directive includes all of the 2014 nonaction items plus a specific directive to improve the ability of the (Indianford) Dam to pass water". The Rock Koshkonong Lake District is required to complete this directive by December 31, 2022. The WDNR directive also includes "submittal of plans for water level control, including but not limited to":

- a. Powerhouse Intake Trash Rack Cleaning System
- b. Modification of Trash Racks to Include Wider Spacing
- c. Modification and/or Removal of Wicket Gates/Turbine Pit
- d. Addition of Gated Spillway(s)

2020 Annual Meeting

August 15, 2020 10:00 AM

As we move towards the required annual meeting (Wis. Stat. 33.30(1)) and being aware of the situation COVID-19 has on gatherings., this has resulted in some changes the RKLD Board has developed for the 2020 annual meeting.

REMINDERS:

- Annual meeting will be held at Racetrack Park
- Please practice social distancing, wear facemask and any other protections to ensure your safety.
- Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, pens, writing surface and hand sanitizer
- Voter Check-In Process has changed to improve efficiency and accurateness
 1. For all eligible voters, a voter certification form is needed. The form will be available in this newsletter, on the RKLD website, and at the meeting. To expedite the process please have it filled out prior to the meeting.
 2. To ensure social distancing the only interaction will be an exchange of the voter certification document for a ballot and a voting card for agenda items.
 3. Eligible voters include any lake district resident or landowner who is 18 years or older and a US Citizen. You must be a resident within the district for 28 days.

RKLD recommends attendees take all precautions if attending the annual meeting. Attendees should understand they are attending of their own choosing and shall hold harmless the Rock Koshkonong Lake District and its commissioners for damages from attendance.