



Board of Commissioners

**Alan Sweeney – Chair
Supervisor Rock County
Board**

608-884-4026 Home

Mark Meyer – Treasurer

608-728-1838

Term expires August 2025

Susan Shearer – Secretary

608-436-6728

Term expires August 2025

Mike Hart

Term expires August 2023

Eric “Rick” Richardson

608-751-0732

Term Expires August 2023

Mike Shumaker

608-444-1071

Term Expires August 2024

Supervisor Kerry Hull

Fulton Township

608-290-9045

Monthly Meetings

All meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at Fulton Town Hall, 2738 W Fulton Center Drive in Edgerton.

The public is encouraged to attend these meetings.

www.rkld.org

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Newsletter!

This season has been full of many extremes so far. At the end of 2022, the entire lake district endured high water levels that again caused a pause in construction at the Indianford Dam.

The water control project, mandated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, at the Indianford Dam has experienced multiple delays specifically due to weather several times over the past 18 months. The WDNR approved the water control project design plan in June of 2021, and the completion of the west chamber with 6 gates and operators were installed, marking the halfway point in the project.

The most recent work stoppage was January 3, 2023, when a dive team from GOE discovered a 7x7 foot hole in the west retaining wall of the dam. At that time, WDNR ordered all construction to cease. The project's contractor, IEI, was undertaking cement sawing and east chamber debris removal when the failing wall and sinkhole were discovered. Engineering and contractor review of the damage and causes were initiated, including an underwater survey of the downstream river bottom. It was determined that a causeway that was installed to service the east side of the powerhouse was not completely removed after the 1990s project. It is the 9+ foot "hill" of debris that caused the tailwater to be deflected to the west, striking the retaining wall and, in the opinion of the lake district, causing the damage. The retaining wall is part of the Rock County Indianford Park, and a discussion with Rock County yielded a resolution to allocate \$425,000 from Rock County to repair the retaining wall. The total costs for the wall repair were \$115,600, which was reimbursed to RKLD; however, \$100,000 was allocated from the dam fund to remove some of the debris from the downstream "hill" to improve river flow greatly.

As of June 5, 2023, the gates were closed and remain closed. After the spring-high water receded, the water control project continued in the east chamber. Then the precipitation seemed to stop, and we are hoping to maintain the summer maximum operating order of 776.55 feet.

During the year, additional USGS/NOAA tools have been added to the RKLD website, including the Lake Koshkonong Monitor. These are important tools that are used in predicting water levels and river flows resulting in better and more consistent water resource use.

As the RKLD water control project comes to completion in the coming months, the Board is looking forward to future projects and initiatives. This is where we are requesting your assistance. If you have an idea for a project improvement within the district that may benefit all landowners, please reach out to the Board.

I would like to thank the RKLD Board of Commissioner Volunteers for their work and interest in representing the electors of the District. Special thanks to the other people that continually offer help, ideas, and administration.

Alan Sweeney, Chair RKLD