

ROCK KOSHKONONG LAKE DISTRICT

Attn: Brian Christianson, Chair

P.O. Box 6655

Madison, WI 53716

www.RKLD.org

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The Official Publication of the Rock Koshkonong Lake District

July, 2007

RKLD

Elected Board of Commissioners

BRIAN CHRISTIANSON

Elected/Chairman
374 E. Samuelsen Dr.
Edgerton, WI 53534
(608) 884-9444 Work
bkc@cpgmidwest.com
Term expires August, 2009

RAY LUNDER

Elected/Treasurer
N557 Blackhawk Bluff Dr.
Milton, WI 53563
(608) 868-2805 Home
raylunder@yahoo.com
Term expires August, 2007

ED SANDNER

Elected/Secretary
W8541 White Crow Rd.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
(920) 563-5304
sandner@earthlink.net
Term expires August, 2007

MARY MAWHINNEY

Appointed/Rock County
17 S. Scharine Rd.
Avalon, WI 53505
(608) 883-2419 Home
mmawhinney@sbcglobal.net

JEFF FOLK

Elected
W8651 White Crow Rd.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-9743
(608) 884-3466 Home
jcfolk@ticon.net
Term expires August, 2008

FRANK MICALE

Elected
W7889 High Ridge Rd.
Ft. Atkinson, WI 53538
(920) 563-8518 Home
yukon@ticon.net
Term expires August, 2008

MIKE GUISELMAN

Appointed/Fulton Township
5424 Pomeroy Rd.
Edgerton, WI 53534
(608) 884-9272
MIKEG@co.rock.wi.us

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Board Reduces Special Charge from \$100 to \$45 per parcel

Brian Christianson

The Board faced a great deal of skepticism when we asked our Lake District electors for a one-time jump in the special charge that doubled our tax from \$50 to \$100. The 2006 annual meeting ratified our budget unanimously. And while no one stood to speak against the need to fully fund our efforts to contest the DNR's operating orders, each commissioner has honored our commitment from last year.

Today, we ask you to support our 2008 operating budget with a \$45 per parcel charge.

As a local unit of government, created by the Rock County Board of Supervisors in 1999 under WI State Statute Chapter 33, the Lake District Board is comprised of 5 volunteers and 2 appointees who take their responsibility to safeguard our ecology and our property tax base very seriously. As a result, the RKLD has become the largest depository of research on the characteristics of Lake Koshkonong, the Rock River, and their impact on the economy and habitat.

We are now engaged in an expensive legal effort to insure that this science, collected by university PhDs and supported by a former DNR staffer is given its full consideration.

Some have suggested that the RKLD has wasted time and money on challenging the DNR and their supporting parties, the wetlands and hunting clubs. I would respond to those folks by saying that we met each and every DNR request for further study, more information and deeper research. To invest our tax dollars in such a massive book of knowledge, only to leave it on a bookshelf collecting dust, would have been the real waste of time and money.

The day is fast approaching when our legal battle with the DNR and their parties will be resolved. At that time, we will invoke Lincoln's words given during his Second Inaugural, "With malice toward none, with charity for all."

Currently, our appeal is being heard by Judge Dillon at Rock County Circuit Court. This step was unavoidable. Had the RKLD won a very unlikely victory at the Contested Case Hearing, a hearing designed to protect government agencies such as the DNR, the DNR would have surely appealed at circuit court. The best we can report to our taxpaying electors is that the attorneys have agreed to represent RKLD at no additional cost. That's worth repeating, the RKLD is not being charged for more legal fees.

The future of Lake Koshkonong is healthier than it would be without you supporting the Lake District. The Indianford Dam will never disappear. And with cooperation from the DNR, the Army Corp. of Engineers, our state and federal politicians, and even the wetlands and hunting clubs, our lake will one day see man-made islands and stone break walls.

We can indeed bring balance back to the lake and river for all user-groups. We can insure the inspiring sunsets across the lake are there for our children and grandchildren. ❖

TO ALL ELECTORS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE DISTRICT

Please take notice that the 2007 Annual Meeting of the electors and property owners of the Rock-Koshkonong Lake District will be held pursuant to Section 33.30 of the Wisconsin Statutes at the

**Fort Atkinson High School
926 Lexington Street
Fort Atkinson, WI**

**9:00 a.m.
Saturday, July 28, 2007**

to consider the following matters.



ROCK-KOSHKONONG LAKE DISTRICT NOTICE AND AGENDA for the 2007 Annual Meeting

~ AGENDA ~

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Call to order | 8. Presentation of the Proposed 2008 Annual Budget |
| 2. Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting | 9. Consideration and Vote on the Proposed 2008 Annual Budget |
| 3. Annual Audit Report of 2006 (Audit Committee) | 10. Election of (2) Commissioners to Serve Term expiring in 2010 |
| 4. Chairman's Report (Brian Christianson, RKLD) | a. Nominees:
Ray Lunder
Ed Sandner |
| 5. Water Level Proceedings Report | b. Nominations may also be made from the floor |
| a. Bill O'Connor, Wheeler Van Sickle & Anderson S.C. | c. Brief statements from nominees |
| b. Art Harrington, Godfrey & Kahn | d. Balloting |
| 6. Operational Report | 11. Adjourn |
| a. Hydrology — Rob Montgomery, Montgomery Associates | |
| 7. Future Goals and Objectives | |
| a. Phosphorous — Mark Watkins, Jefferson County Conservationist. | |
| b. Dredging Presentation | |

The Board shall meet immediately following the annual meeting to elect a chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

Candidates for RKLD Board of Commissioners

Please vote for 2 candidates. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor

❖ **STEVE CLINE*** ❖ **RAY LUNDER*** ❖ **ED SANDNER***

*See www.RKLD.org for bio information

BUDGET SUMMARY, PROPOSED TOTAL BUDGET ROCK-KOSHKONONG LAKE DISTRICT 2007 BUDGET

CATEGORY	2006 ACTUAL	2007 BUDGET	2008 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
REVENUES					
a) Taxes					
b) Special Assessments					
Special Charges*	\$ 213,416	\$ 400,000	\$ 180,000	\$ (220,000)	-55.00%
c) Intergovernmental Revenues					
Planning Grant	-	-	-	-	-
d) Licenses and permits	-	-	-	-	-
e) Fines/Forfeitures/Penalties	-	-	-	-	-
f) Public Charges for Services	-	-	-	-	-
g) Intergovernmental charges	-	-	-	-	-
h) Miscellaneous Revenue	33,660	-	-	-	-
i) Other Financing Sources	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 247,076	\$ 400,000	\$ 180,000	\$(220,000)	-55.00%
EXPENDITURES					
I. CAPITAL COSTS	-	-	-	-	0.00%
II. COST OF OPERATIONS					
a) General Government					
Office Supplies	\$ 4,104	\$ 3,190	\$ 4,000	\$ 810	25.39%
Rent/Utilities	1,742	640	1,700	1,060	165.63%
Wages	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	3,199	3,500	3,500	-	0.00%
Printing	3,050	3,060	3,060	-	0.00%
Professional Fees					
Accounting	400	600	600	-	0.00%
Consulting	23,000	2,000	19,040	17,040	852.00%
Legal	2,300	9,000	52,000	43,000	477.78%
Legal & Accounting*	-	-	-	-	-
Public Information	2,922	5,000	5,000	-	0.00%
Indianford Maintenance	7,463.00	30,000	30,000	-	0.00%
Engineering	-	-	10,000	10,000	-
Water Level Proceedings (Legal, Accounting and Consulting)	371,131	342,000	50,000	(292,000)	-85.38%
DNR Grant					
Other	69	680	700	20	0.00%
Dues/Fees	376	330	400	70	21.21%
Total General Government	\$ 419,756	\$ 400,000	\$ 180,000	\$ (220,000)	-55.00%
b) Public Safety	-	-	-	-	0.00%
c) Public Works	-	-	-	-	0.00%
d) Health & Human Services	-	-	-	-	0.00%
e) Culture, Recreation, Education	-	-	-	-	0.00%
f) Conservation and Development	-	-	-	-	0.00%
g) Debt Servicing	-	-	-	-	0.00%
h) Other Financing Uses	-	-	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 419,756	\$ 400,000	\$ 180,000	\$(220,000)	-55.00%
All Governmental and Proprietary Funds Combined	Fund Balance 1/1/2006	Fund Transfer	Revenues	Expenditures	Fund Balance 12/31/2006
General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Indianford Dam Fund (Nonlapsible)	170,762	-	60,000	-	242,529
Total	\$ 170,762	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 242,529

* Legal & Accounting has been separated for the 2008 Budget

Who Can Vote in RKLD Elections?

*All district resident electors who are U.S. citizens,
18 years of age or older.*

This includes resident property owners, renters, children 18 years and older whose residence is in the District, but not campers to the extent their permanent residence is not within the District. Ownership of more than one parcel does not entitle a property owner to more than one vote. One eligible voter = one vote.

Non-resident property owners

This includes a person whose name appears on the tax roll, as well as a person who owns title to property even though the person's name doesn't appear on the tax roll. However, it is up to the would-be voter to produce evidence to the District that they are an owner of property or designated representative of an organizational property owner (i.e. trust, foundation, corporation or other organization), such as a letter on organization letterhead that clearly authorizes that person to vote on behalf of the organization. ❖

HISTORY OF THE RKLD SPECIAL ASSESSMENT — PER PARCEL

1999	\$25.00
2000	\$25.00
2001	\$25.00
2002	\$35.00
2003	\$25.00
2004	\$45.00
2005	\$50.00
2006	\$100.00
2007	\$45.00 (proposed)

FAQs

What does Ordinary High Water Mark mean?

The Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) can be described as "the point on the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of water is so continuous as to leave a distinct mark either by erosion, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other easily recognized characteristic." The OHWM is the boundary between riparian owned uplands and the publicly owned beds of natural lakes.

Does shoreline armoring protect against erosion?

Armoring of shorelines along Lake Koshkonong provide wave energy dissipation that greatly reduces the erosive nature of moving water. The majority of shorelines along the lake are currently armored with riprap or other rigid structures. This armoring provides a protective barrier for shoreline erosion and also provides some habitat for wildlife. The on-going Lake Study being conducted by RKLD and WDNR indicates that armoring of wetland shorelines has allowed these wetlands to begin the reclamation or outward expansion of these important wetland communities that will benefit the wildlife that call Lake Koshkonong home.

If the new water level target is at 776.8, wouldn't the wetlands between their new rip rap and the

old shoreline be filled with water, and halt the re-vegetation?

Behind the rip rap, sediment has been building up to a depth of 6 to 12 inches. It does that during higher water periods and wave action. Sediment is carried by the waves over the riprap and dropped and trapped by the riprap, which is what causes the build up of soil.

Once that happens, if the sediment is kept dry, what you would see is woody plants growing and not the desired wetland vegetation, which needs water to be a healthy, more robust wetland.

What is the Rock Koshkonong Lake District and why is there a charge on my property tax bill?

The Rock-Koshkonong Lake District (RKLD) is an elected, local unit of government formed under Chapter 33 of the WI State Statutes. A property tax special charge funds lake management activities. Board meetings are held monthly at STH 59 and CTH N and are open to the public.

How big is the RKLD?

The RKLD numbers more voting-eligible constituents than either Edgerton or Fort Atkinson, the nearest city governments.

Can fishing be improved on Lake Koshkonong?

By eliminating the DNR winter draw-down and nominally raising the summer

water levels, turbidity will be reduced and clarity will be improved. Improved water quality will promote submergent aquatic plants that support fish habitat.

The RKLD also supports more aggressive fish stocking from the Bark River Fish Hatchery. Until water levels are resolved though, the current DNR orders do not warrant RKLD investment.

I heard back in the 1950s man-made islands in Lake Koshkonong were once proposed. Will islands ever become reality?

Once the water level issue is resolved, the RKLD will recruit the wetlands clubs and the Audubon society to lobby the DNR and the US Army Corp. of Engineers for approval of man-made, uninhabited, protected islands. These islands would protect migratory birds from predators and improve fish habitat. Islands would also serve to break wind fetch, reducing natural erosion of lake shorelines, not to mention the aesthetic beauty of isolated islands.



For More on Rock County Circuit Court:
www.rkld.org/circuitcourt.html

For More on Dredging:
www.rkld.org/blog/2007/02/acoe-dredging-101.html

For More on RKLD Milestones:
www.rkld.org/meetings/RockLake_July06_NL.pdf