

**SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 302
Volume Two, Alternative and Recommended Plans**

**A LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ELIZABETH LAKE AND LAKE MARY
KENOSHA COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Appendix C

1999 DAM BOARD POLICY

#141307 V1 - CAPR-302 V2 APPENDIX C TITLE DRAFT
300-1060
MGH/JAT/pk
12/03/08

This Page Left Blank Intentionally

DAM BOARD POLICY (1999)

1. A general policy statement about our goals.

Lakes Mary and Elizabeth are shallow, seepage lakes; we depend on rainfall and groundwater-fed springs to maintain the water level. We must recognize that we can't increase the lake level in drought years, but we should not be trying to keep the lake abnormally high at the beginning of the summer just in case we have a drought in late summer.

If our lakes were part of a river system it would be feasible to maintain a minimum level all summer. Since we are not on a river system we have to expect that there will be years when the lake level will be lower than many boaters would like.

Low water levels are not damaging to shorelines and wetlands. However, prolonged high water especially when combined with even moderate wind causes erosion damage. (In recent years when the water level has been high, there have been many times when "islands" of wetlands break loose and float around the lake. This is just one example of high water levels causing damage and hazards for night boating.)

Low water levels in winter lessen the ice damage to shorelines. If the level is extremely low at ice out (spring), it would be a signal to install the board earlier than May 1st to help retain whatever rainfall we get.

2. Set a specific date for the public works department to install the board unless the Lake Committees instruct them otherwise. *I suggest May 1st.*
3. Set a specific date for the public works department to remove the board unless the Lake Committees instruct them otherwise. *I suggest September 15th.*
4. Designate official staff gauge sites on each lake for determining the current lake levels. *I suggest using the staff gauge sites installed by the USGS at the Porps' pier on Lake Mary and the Jooss' pier on Lake Elizabeth.*
5. Establish some general guidelines for the Lake Committees to use to determine when to remove the board and how long to leave the board out when it is removed. (Note: The Lake District Annual Meeting authorized Judy Jooss and Tom Porps to jointly determine when the board should be placed & removed.)
 - a. Using the official staff gauge sites, set a maximum level that, when reached, triggers a determination to remove the dam board.

I am of the opinion that we should try to keep the level at the Lake Elizabeth staff gauge no more than 6 inches above the surveyed sea level of the dam.
 - b. When the board is removed, always lower the level (at the staff gauge) at least 3 inches before replacing the board.
 - c. Considering weather conditions and forecasts, determine whether to lower the lake level more than 3 inches.
 - d. If there has been a sudden dramatic rise (*i.e.*: 4 inches in 24 hours) in the lake level due to a major rain storm, we should wait a few days, if possible, before removing the board to limit the impact on our downstream neighbors.

7-8-00 addendum: There has been a lot of confusion about who directs whom to place and remove the dam board. Tom Porps and Judy Jooss today agreed that after consulting each other about lake level and weather conditions one of them would notify either Dorothy Sandona (clerk) or David Cox (village administrator) to direct Public Works to remove or replace the board.

This Page Left Blank Intentionally