From: Greg Sieren
To: Johnson, Elaine M - DNR
Subject: Rochester Dam Draw Down Questions and Concerns
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 10:22:12 PM

Elaine,

I am from the Wind Lake area and was in attendance at the informational hearing at Waterford on March 23 about the Rochester Dam Draw Down. I have some questions and concerns that I wish to voice about the proposed permanent drawdowns.

These questions I sent to Alan Jasperson on Tuesday evening, and am still awaiting on a reply for him, but the DNR may be able to answer these, or at least address them in the EIS:

Do we know what the "optimum" depth of the canal is supposed to be?
Where are the sonar soundings that show we are silted in?
How deep was the canal when built?
How deep is it now?
Has the drainage district provided sonar soundings or depth readings as evidence to how much the canal is silted in?

These questions are for the DNR:

As part of the EIS are Water Quality Samples of the Canal going to be done?
Who holds the Sod Farmers responsible for their Silting in of the Canal and for the pollution of Fertilizers they are dumping in to the canal from run off?

My suggestion is sampling should be done at the Dam outflow out of Wind Lake, out of the Waubeesee Creek outflow and at Malchine Rd and CTH K.

I have made a few observations of my own. The water coming out of Waubeesee is very clear, and the water coming out of Wind Lake is also quite clear. Only a north wind or abnormally heavy rains will cause a "dirty" condition out of Wind Lake stirring up silt. However, when the water is clear, and you look at the Wind Lake Canal at Malchine Road or CTH K, it is very dirty and carries an almost coffee w/ cream color. The silting problem has to be coming in from the Sod Farms. This is evident from the amount of pumping they are doing after a normal rain fall.

I have driven through the Sod farms at least 3-5 times a week for the last 17 years. When it rains less than an inch, and everything is saturated, their pumps are pumping dirty run off water sitting in their fields / drain tiles into the canal. Meanwhile, the out flow from Waubeesee and Wind will be clear. Their land is very low and holds water easily after a rain. The one picture Mr. Jasperson showed was auxiliary canal, right off of east wind lake road. That part of the canal has a low bank. They threw down some dirt there and never properly built a dike for that low spot.

I understand allowing the Drainage district to do a dredging if it is necessary to regain what was lost due to silting. But not a permanent order….that is getting greedy and I am against it. By my

observation, the Canal does it's job except in those times when we have excess rain and the ENTIRE system, Fox River included, is taxed.

I am mostly concerned about the fishery of the Rochester Pool extending to Waterford Dam and up the Wind Lake Canal to Waubeesee and Wind Lake. I am an avid fisherman and fish the Rochester Pool from time to time. In the spring there are many game fish the come up the canal to the dams to spawn. I have underwater video of Muskie, Northern Pike, Walleye, and Bass that have come as far as the Waubeesee outflow pool by the Penny Bar and Hwy 36. I have observed the same species below Wind Lake Dam. I am concerned that many of these fish have migrated out of the system due to the lack of wintering habitat caused by the Rochester Dam drawdown. I am concerned that these fish are unable to access that section of river / canal area because of no fish ladder or fish way around the dam. What would it take for the a Fish way or Ladder to be installed so even when there are emergency – temporary drawdowns, the fish can access that section of river again?

My last question is when does the DNR hope to have the EIS finished?

I appreciate your time and efforts. Thanks for listening.

Regards,

Greg Sieren
7136 W. Wind Lake Road
Wind Lake WI 53185

414-343-9229
262-895-6162