

Joint Rock Lake Committee



Meeting Minutes, July 5th, 2016, 6:05-7:15 pm at 148 Lake Shore Dr, Lake Mills

Chairperson Wes Dawson called the meeting to order.

Board Members Present: Larry Clark, Wes Dawson, Bob Volenec, Glenn Zastrow & Stan Smoniewski

Others Present: Patricia Cicero-Jefferson County Land and Water Resource Conservationist

The agenda was accepted. The minutes for June were approved, Glenn motioned and Larry seconded.

Notice of the meeting was posted, and was published in the Lake Mills Leader. Note: this meeting was focused on a trip around Rock Lake to view current conditions, and took place on a boat. No other individuals arrived at the meeting point and the boat left shore at 6:05 pm. Wes thanked Glenn for providing the pontoon boat for this meeting.

Correspondence and Public Comment/Questions: none

Old Business:

- A. Review Drafts of Proposed Rock Lake Town Regulations Regarding the Lake:** This item was moved to next month's agenda.
- B. Progress on Public Safety Issues Regarding Swimming Beaches:** Wes sent a letter to the President of the City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, and the Parks & Forestry Director with our Beach Safety Recommendations. The letter is attached at the end of these minutes.
- C. North End Pier:** No update.

New Business:

Slow-No-Wake Education: We discussed Glenn's letter to the editor regarding the need for greater boater awareness of this issue and ongoing education and enforcement efforts.

Reports:

- A. Town:** none
- B. City:** none
- C. County Staff Representative:** Patricia reported that the County has filled the position that enforces most of the Shoreland Zoning rules.
- D. RLIA Update:** Stan reported that the RLIA Annual Meeting is Saturday, August 20th 10am in Lower Rock Lake Park.

Next meeting August 2nd at 6pm at City Hall.

Adjournment: Glenn motioned and Bob seconded.

To: Mr. Steve Kurkiewicz, City Council President
Mr. Steve Wilke, City Manager
Mr. Rob Goetz, Park & Forestry Director
Ms. Misty Quest, City Clerk

Re: Public Beach Safety

Since 8/4/15, when the public brought to our attention concerns about the high fecal counts and numerous beach closings, the Joint Rock Lake Committee (JRLC) in conjunction with Jefferson County Land and Water have been looking for the best solutions to test the four city beaches, warn the public of beach closures and public education on such matters as blue-green algae and swimmer's itch.

The JRLC is now recommending that the city move away from its current fecal coliform testing of beaches and move to the EPA and WI DNR recommended method of E.Coli testing.

While fecal coliform testing was the norm prior to the late 70's it has proven to be less reliable, often giving false readings.

The WI DNR and EPA adopted the E.Coli testing in the late 70's following three studies conducted by the EPA. These studies indicated that E.Coli and/or Enterococci are the best bacterial indicators to assess the risk of acquiring a gastrointestinal illness as a result of using recreation waters, i.e., Rock Lake.

In 1986 the EPA found that E.Coli testing has the best correlation with high credible cases of gastrointestinal illness. In addition to the EPA studies, the WI DNR conducted a study prior to the first BEACH season of 2003 in which three (3) state park beaches were monitored for E.Coli and Enterococci. The E.Coli yielded the most reliable and consistent results in their study.

Patricia Cicero has been working with the County Health Department and Watertown Health to see if they could coordinate the collection of water samples and testing of the four city beaches when they do the sampling and testing for the Township. She informed Mr. Wilke of this effort but to date has not heard back from these departments. She will continue to pursue this avenue.

Until this can occur, however, JRLC recommends that the city arrange for E.Coli testing either using the County Health/Watertown Health Departments or register with DNR and do the necessary training to collect water samples. The samples would require a special sample bottle that would need to be delivered or send overnight to the State Lab., 2601 Agriculture Ave., Madison, WI 53718. The shipping cost per sample is estimated to be between \$30 -\$35.

JRLC and Jefferson County Land & Water have developed information brochures on algae and swimmer's itch which we will deliver and post at the beaches.

We also recommend that the City adopt the latest beach closure signage. A copy is attached for your review. This was developed and is being used by the WI DNR.

We thank you for your consideration of this recommendation. The JRLC would be happy to discuss this with the council committee and are ready to help.

Wes Dawson, President of JRLC
Larry Clark, Vice President
Stan Smoniewski, Secretary
Bob Volenec, Director
Glenn Zastrow, Director
Patricia Cicero, Jefferson County Land & Water