

Happy spring, everyone. Well, it supposed to be spring anyways....

I've gotten a couple of e-mails asking about the lake level. More specifically, people have been asking if there's anything wrong with the dam. I figured I would respond to everyone, since that question is probably on a lot of minds these days.

Yes, the lake is low. We don't have any history on it, really, but I've been told that when the gauge was put in to measure the lake level, the bottom of the gauge was about 12 inches below the surface of the water. The water level is now below that. Given our typical level for this time of year, we're probably down something in the area of 18 inches. Where I'm at, I now have 6-8 feet of beach where I had none before.

So the good news is, there's nothing wrong with the dam. The bad news is, there's nothing wrong with the dam. If there was something wrong, we could fix it and that would be that. Instead, we're going to have to rely on Mother Nature to supply us - and every other lake in the area - with much needed rains. It was a dry year last year and the lack of snow this winter didn't help things any.

These things do tend to balance out over time and next year we'll probably hear about the lake level being too high. The lake level was set by you direction at an annual meeting and was approved by the DNR. Without requesting permission to change it, the level is set at the rest is left to the weather. Anecdotally, Lake Michigan is at an historic low level and Little Muskego is down three feet. And if you want to feel better (or worse, depending upon how you view things), this isn't just a local thing. Lake Powell in Nevada is down 87 feet!

On a related note, the lack of a snow cover and the lower lake level means that milfoil could be a real problem this year. We're working through our aquatic plant management program to address those concerns. Compounding things, you might recall seeing a large, open area on the lake this winter. Again, we don't have any history, but few people can ever remember such an occurrence. It was plenty cold to freeze, but the lack of snow allowed the wind to keep the water moving and it caused a funny freezing pattern. Open water this winter also makes us believe we may have aggressive weeds to contend with.

I hope I've answered more questions than I've raised. You'll be getting information soon regarding a spring meeting, so watch your mail and e-mail. Thanks for being on our e-mail distribution list. You get the news first, so please tell your neighbors. And mark your calendars for the boat parade and lighting of the lake - Friday, July 4. The parade will be later in the day and when it's over, there will be enough time to get your flares ready for the lighting of the lake.

See you on the lake!

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