

Draw down Information for Board vote - APM Committee Chair – Mike Waghorn

I believe this discussion needs to be broken down to two areas;

1. Does the Board believe that a Draw Down is an appropriate management technique for our Waterway?

I believe the answer to this is yes.

- a. As a Board we have voted twice to proceed with the time, effort and expense to complete a draw down.
- b. The experts (WDNR, WL&PR) are very supportive.
- c. It addresses the number one concern Riparian owners have about the waterway – ‘Too Many Weeds!’
- d. The large majority of Riparian owners support it, as shown in the survey last year.
- e. I was personally elected to the Board on a very clear message that I support the draw down
- f. It allows riparian owners to complete shoreline work and personal dredging.
Information on this will be included with communications
- g. It is a cost effective way to control plant growth. It has the potential to save in excess of \$100,000!!!!
- h. We have addressed the concerns, to the best of our ability, that some owners have
 - i. Timing
 - ii. Marinas ability to remove boats
 - iii. Upstream/Downstream Impact
 - iv. Access to Tichigan during drawdown
 - v. Use of water by Fire Departments
 - vi. Impact on wells
- i. Planned communications (Mailings, Informational Meeting, email, website, FB) will continue to reinforce the message

As with many things, there are some risks with this approach

- a. Potential impact to fish.
Although this is unlikely, it can be mitigated by budgeting for a future fish stocking program. According to the DNR fyke netting survey on Tichigan the majority of the fish are likely from recent stocking years anyway, so they can be replaced.
- b. Warm winter.
The weather may not cooperate. This would reduce the effectiveness on the plant population, but would still allow for personal dredging and shoreline work.
- c. Liability to the District.
We have addressed the liability with impact to wells, we have followed all parts of the permitting process and will abide by the specific conditions requested in the permit.

2. Assuming the answer above is correct, when should we schedule the drawdown?

The District is quite active and there are obviously items to consider when determining the timing.

- a. We cannot complete the draw down during the dredging work.
- b. We would hope to start dredging in 2018. It would take a number of years to complete.
- c. We want to complete some testing for our LMP prior to starting the draw down.
- d. The sooner we start, the sooner we get savings.

Taking these into account the decision seems clear. If we don't do the drawdown in 2017/18 we can't do it for 5+ years.

We should work with Onterra to complete any needed testing this season, communicate the draw down benefits, and how we have addressed concerns, as often as possible, through as many channels as possible, and proceed with the draw down as planned starting September 18th 2017.

Addressing Town of Waterford Resolution Opposing the draw down

'Said drawdown is opposed because it is believed it will severely impair the usage if said waterway for at least 6 months to a year, said usage including, but not limited to: fishing, boating and hunting'

This is a legitimate concern to a point. This was raised last year and the WDNR allowed us to reduce the time. Impairment will be for LESS THAN 6 Months. Drawdown will begin on September 18th, with level dropped <5ft by October 1st. Levels will be restored by March 1st. These are the requirements as stated in the permit approval.

'Said drawdown will cost retail business owners, such as bait shops, restaurants, gas stations, and taverns considerable financial loss during said drawdown'

I am not aware of any study confirming this. Local businesses I have discussed this technique with are fully supportive and in favor of a drawdown.

'Said drawdown will temporarily diminish the value of any real estate that is intended to be sold during the drawdown period'

I would dispute this opinion. The goal is to improve the conditions of the waterway, consequently improving the value of any real estate. The ability for the home owner to perform personal dredging and shoreline repair increases this.

'Said drawdown will likely result in the death of certain fish and other native life forms'

The drawdown is done in a controlled manner to eliminate/minimize the possibility of this. There is a small risk that some fish may be impacted. Based on the recent WDNR fyke netting survey on Tichigan many of the fish are likely from recent stocking years anyway, so they can be replaced. I will propose adding a line item to the 2017/18 WWMD budget for a fish stocking program to mitigate this risk.

'Said drawdown may not achieve said goals and objectives due to weather'

You are correct, the weather may not cooperate. This would reduce, but not eliminate, the effectiveness on the plant population, but would it still allow for personal dredging and shoreline work.

'Said drawdown will impact residents and businesses in the communities to the north such as Vernon, Mukwango, and Waukesha.

This is incorrect. There will be no impact on the river north of the county line.