

BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Correction of Benchmark References Used in)
Maintenance of Water Levels for Lake Kegonsa,)
Town of Pleasant Springs, Dane County) 3-WR-1116

FINDINGS OF FACT AND ORDER

The Dane County Park Commission and the Department of Natural Resources have discovered errors in the benchmark references used in the maintenance of water levels for Lake Kegonsa, Town of Pleasant Springs, Dane County. Corrected benchmark reference elevations must be incorporated in this order. An order was issued and maximum and minimum levels established on October 5, 1972. Corrected order issued.

As a result of the confusion which the October 5, 1972 order created because it referred to an old datum this order is revised to reflect United States geological survey mean sea level datum adjusted to 1929.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The level of Lake Kegonsa prior to 1975 was monitored by reading a staff gauge on the left abutment of the railroad bridge upstream from the dam. Since 1975 the county has found it more convenient to read a staff gauge on a pier of a bridge just north of Halverson's restaurant on Highway 51. The fact that the Halverson's gauge refers to U.S.G.S. mean sea level datum corrected to 1929, while the railroad gauge refers to U.S.G.S. mean sea level datum prior to 1903, has caused much confusion and ultimately two years of management of the lake four tenths of a foot below the intended levels.

2. The following elevations refer to benchmark 866-B and reflect the fact that the datum of the original 1972 order has been changed from U.S.G.S. mean sea level prior to 1903 to U.S.G.S. mean sea level adjusted to 1929. The change in data has caused an addition of four tenths of a foot to all the elevations referred to in the 1972 order, however, the absolute elevations will remain unchanged. Benchmark 866-B is a tablet marked Public Service Commission of Wisconsin set on top of the upstream end of the right abutment of the dam. The elevation of this monument is 848.45 mean sea level datum adjusted to 1929.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The Department of Natural Resources has authority under section 31.02, Wisconsin Statutes, and in accordance with the foregoing findings of fact to establish elevations on Lake Kegonsa.

ORDER

The order of October 5, 1972, under docket 3-WR-1116 shall remain in effect except as modified herein:

1. All elevations reviewed to in the October 5, 1972 order shall be referred to United States Geological Survey datum corrected to the 1929 adjustment. That correction shall be the same as referred to in this order and will consist of adding four tenths of a foot to all elevations given in the 1948 order.

2. The maximum summer level of Lake Kegonsa be, and is hereby established at, elevation 843.5 feet, mean sea level datum.

3. The minimum summer level of Lake Kegonsa be, and is hereby established at, elevation 843.0 feet, mean sea level datum.

4. The operation of the dams on Lake Mendota, Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa and at Stoughton shall be coordinated. Releases from each dam shall be coordinated by the Dane County Park Commission.

5. Jurisdiction to issue further order in this matter, with or without public hearing, is hereby retained.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin

APR 11 1979

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
For the Secretary

By

Andrew C. Damon

Andrew C. Damon, Administrator
Division of Enforcement *AD*

BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Petition of the Dane County Park Commission)
for Establishment of Summer Water Levels for) 3-WR-1116
Lake Kegonsa, Town of Pleasant Springs, Dane)
County)

FINDINGS OF FACT AND ORDER

The Dane County Park Commission, 1202 Northport Drive, by Carlos Martin, Jr., Chairman, on September 8, 1971, filed a petition under section 31.02, Wisconsin Statutes, requesting the Department of Natural Resources to reevaluate the water levels which are maintained during the summer months on Lake Kegonsa in Dane County. Order issued and maximum and minimum levels established.

Pursuant to due notice, hearing was held February 23, 1972 at Madison before Examiner Maurice H. Van Susteren.

Appearances:

Dane County Park Commission, by

Carlos Martin, Jr.
Madison

In Opposition:

Door Creek Drainage District, by

Eugene H. Skaar
Cottage Grove

Town Board of Cottage Grove, by

Irving Smith, Supervisor
Cottage Grove

Himself and Other Residents in his Area, by

Ralph E. Hough

As Interest May Appear: (Continued)

Dane County Park Department, by

Jerome L. Storlie
Madison

Door Creek Drainage District, by

Fred H. Witte, Chairman of District
Cottage Grove

Robert Gust, Treasurer
Cottage Grove

Larry Severson
Stoughton

Himself and Many Residents of Lake Kegonsa, by

Irving Quam
Stoughton

Harold L. Randecker
Stoughton

Irvin Gramley
Stoughton

Roger Amundson
Stoughton

Mrs. Richard Roedell
Stoughton

Waubesa Lake Association, by

Carl Von Allmen, Board Member
Madison

Of the Staff of the Division of Environmental Protection:

Edmund M. Brick, Chief, Water Regulation Section
Merton Webber
Madison

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Dane County Park Commission on September 8, 1971, by Carlos Martin, Jr., filed a petition under section 31.02, Wisconsin Statutes, requesting the Department of Natural Resources to raise the

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Petition of the Dane County Park Commission -)
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FINDINGS OF FACT AND ORDER

The Dane County Park Commission, 1202 Northport Drive, by Carlos Martin, Jr., Chairman, on September 8, 1971, filed a petition under section 31.02, Wisconsin Statutes, requesting the Department of Natural Resources to reevaluate the water levels which are maintained during the summer months on Lake Kegonsa in Dane County. Order issued and maximum and minimum levels established.

Pursuant to due notice, hearing was held February 23, 1972 at Madison before Examiner Maurice H. Van Susteren.

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Town Board of Cottage Grove, by

Irving Smith, Supervisor
Cottage Grove

Himself and Other Residents in his Area, by

Ralph E. Hough
Stoughton

As Interest May Appear :

Dane County Parks, by

As Interest May Appear: (Continued)

Dane County Park Department, by

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Madison

Door Creek Drainage District, by

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Irvin Gramley
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Roger Amundson
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Mrs. Richard Roedell
Stoughton

Waubesa Lake Association, by

Carl Von Allmen, Board Memeber
Madison

Of the Staff of the Division of Environmental Protection:

Edmund M. Brick, Chief, Water Regulation Section
Merton Webber
Madison

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Dane County Park Commission on September 8, 1971, by Carlos Martin, Jr., filed a petition under section 31.02, Wisconsin Statutes, requesting the Department of Natural Resources to raise the summer levels held on Lake Kegonsa, Dane County, from 842.6 to 843.1 feet, mean sea level datum.

2. All procedural requirements of Chapter 31, Wisconsin

3. Lake Kegonsa is a navigable and meandered lake, whose levels are held by a dam and boat locks which are located on the outlet of said lake at the Yahara River, which is a navigable stream. It is located in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 20, township 6 north, range 11 east, in the Town of Pleasant Springs, Dane County. The dam consists of a boat lock and concrete control structures with wooden stoplogs.

4. Lake Kegonsa has a surface area of 2,716 acres and a maximum depth of 29 feet and is used for recreational purposes such as boating and fishing.

5. The dam and locks were constructed in 1938, pursuant to a permit granted by the Public Service Commission in docket 2-WP-290 on January 21, 1937. The purpose of the dam is the maintenance of water levels on Lake Kegonsa. The dam is owned and operated by Dane County.

6. Levels of Lake Kegonsa for the past 20 years, during the summer months have been held higher than the normal levels of 842.60 U. S. G. S. datum established in docket 2-WP-290.

7. In 1970, the operator of the Kegonsa Dam was instructed to maintain a summer level of 842.60 as required by the Public Service Commission order in docket 2-WP-290.

8. During the summer of 1970 a lack of rainfall in the immediate area caused a recession of the lake level which was maintained. Difficulties were experienced in transporting cut aquatic plants to shore for further disposal. Riparians found it very difficult to bring their boats into the piers and to dock them.

9. Under docket 2-WP-676, an annual winter drawdown was ordered for Lake Kegonsa. The water level is to be reduced to 842.40 feet between October 15 and October 30, to 842.20 feet from November 1 to November 20, to 841.85 feet from November 20 to December 1 and held at 841.85 feet between December 1 and the spring thaw.

10. The level of Lake Kegonsa is measured by a staff gauge located on a piling of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railroad trestle across the Yahara River at the outlet of Lake Kegonsa. The gauge is so set that the water level reading of the gauge when preceded by the figures "84" will give the lake level according to U. S. G. S mean sea level datum.

11. The above elevations refer to benchmark 866A which is a bronze tablet marked Railroad Commission of Wisconsin and set in a concrete post located along the Milwaukee Road tracks, 850 feet north of the railroad trestle over the Yahara River. It is also located 159.8 feet from the southeast corner and 163.4 feet from the northeast corner of a house on the top of a hill. The monument is also located 1.8 feet west of the fence line and 122.9 feet from the southeast pier of the high line tower. The elevation of this monument is 848.00 feet.

12. The operation of the dams at the outlets of Lakes Mendota, Waubesa, Kegonsa and Stoughton are coordinated into a system whereby each operator is notified prior to any unusual flows from the dam above. There is approximately a four day time lag for water released from Lake Mendota to reach Lake Waubesa and another two days before it reaches Kegonsa.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Department of Natural Resources has authority under section 31.02 and 31.13, Wisconsin Statutes and in accordance with the foregoing findings of fact to establish a maximum elevation on Lake Kegonsa and to issue an order permitting Dane County to raise said levels.

ORDER

The order of October 5, 1948, under docket 2-WP-676 shall remain in effect except as modified herein :

1. The maximum summer level of Lake Kegonsa be, and is hereby established at, elevation 843.10 feet, mean sea level datum.

2. The minimum summer level of Lake Kegonsa be, and is hereby established at, elevation 842.60 feet, mean sea level datum.

3. The operation of the dams on Lake Mendota, Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa and at Stoughton shall be coordinated. Releases from each dam shall be coordinated by the Dane County Parks Commission.

4. Jurisdiction to issue further order in this matter, with or without public hearing is hereby retained.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin

OCT - 5 1972

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
For the Secretary

By


Thomas G. Frangos, Administrator
Division of Environmental Protection