

W349S10110 Bittersweet CT
Eagle, WI 53119

February 1, 2010

Matthew J. Frank
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Frank:

I have in front of me a letter that you wrote on December 10, 2009 on behalf of Governor Doyle, replying to lake level concerns that were expressed by a number of our residents around Eagle Spring Lake. Your reply answered the "headline" of the letters sent to the governor and other politicians, but does not fully respond to the real issue and contains a few inaccuracies.

Many of us knew, prior to the public meeting on September 10, that Jim D'Antuono and his staff had decided not to demand that the lake level be lowered. (I am not certain whether it was D'Antuono who decided or Jim McNelly, who decided for him.) Regardless, the real question, once the final revised EA is released, is what we, as riparians, will have to do to get the current lake level approved. My fear is that we will now have to go through a time consuming and expensive legal process to achieve what would have probably been a relatively simple procedure, had not D'Antuono's staff mischaracterized the issue in the first place by saying that the lake management district was proposing to raise the water level, rather than to get it properly and officially established at the level at which it has been held for many years. I would refer you to a letter from attorney Paul Alexy on behalf of Eagle Spring Lake, to your attorney Megan Correll, with a copy to you, dated October 14, 2009.

I am not a member of the Eagle Spring Lake Management District but was asked to sit in on the lake level meetings with your staff. I was also in attendance at the so called "public information meeting". Instead of allowing the attendees to voice their opinion and ask questions of the entire assembly, we were quickly hushed up and told that we were to wander around the room and ask questions of the DNR experts about our specific concerns.

The results were generalizations given by DNR employees, many of whom had not even read the Environmental Assessment. The meeting was a sham (and a shame), since we were all adults with genuine concerns about our lake but were treated as though we would become unruly if allowed to speak publicly to the whole group. And leaving the existing lake level was not supported by the majority of attendees, it was supported by virtually all attendees.

In the meetings leading up to the public meeting, your staff told us (including SEWRPC staff) that they were going to rewrite the EA, in Jennifer Jerich's words, "So that her father could understand it". The rewrite was far from an attempt to make the document more understandable and in a subsequent meeting, some of the SEWRPC information was called "bad science" by your staff.

We, as a lake district, have spent untold hours and a lot of money because of the bungling and seemingly vindictive actions by your staff on this and other issues. We now have a rather large group of lake residents who have even less trust in the DNR than when this whole mess began. I have historically defended the Wisconsin DNR when others have expressed distrust and dislike. I regretfully have now joined their ranks.

And I am still watching your website for the final assessment and comments.

Sincerely,

John R. Mann

cc: Eagle Spring Lake Management District, via email