

I thank the committee today for the opportunity to voice my thoughts on Resolution 227.

As an avid boater I spend quite a bit of time on the lakes and am very in touch with changes in the water levels. I monitor the water levels on the County website nearly every day. This year was puzzling to me as the higher waters earlier in the season due to heavier rain events never gave way to water levels that were within range by mid-season when precipitation was below average. Throughout the summer I felt like there was a lake management issue that was causing the lakes to be held about a foot higher than their state mandated levels.

It is my assertion that if the lakes were at least a foot lower the day before the big rains, which would have put them at their DNR mandated summer maximums, we would not even be having the conversations about lake levels that we are now having. It would have been a **non-event** as far as lake levels are concerned.

Mendota was about 11 inches above its State mandated summer max on Aug 19th, the day before the storms. It's my understanding the County goal has been to manage to the middle of the 6 inch summer range. Had Mendota been managed to the mid-range level, the lake would have been 14 inches lower the day before those heavy rains.

At its highest point after the storms, Mendota reached 26.5" higher than it's mandated summer max. Had Mendota been managed to the summer mid-range, it's post heavy rain maximum, would have only reached 2.5" higher than it actually was all of summer 2018 prior to the storms. It would have been a **non-event**, lowering the lakes would not be the conversation. However, the conversation now is, lowering the lakes. What does that mean? Does that mean petitioning the DNR to lower the range? It should mean implementing measures to make it easier to manage them within the current summer range.

Last week we all heard Assistant Director Reimer talk about the importance of flow. Flow is the key to effective management of the **levels**. Simply moving the target levels lower is not going to fix the problem of high levels. If he can't hit the current target, how is he going to hit a more aggressive target?

I've read many statements in the press that the levels are being held high to accommodate large boats and land owner's piers. I do not believe this to be true. I've spoken to landowner's who actually contacted the county to voice concern over the above range levels we were seeing all summer. High water damages their piers and property. Having owned and operated both large and small boats on Mendota, I can tell you that the large boats on Mendota don't require any more water than the average sized boats. Sure, there are some variances. Some smaller boats actually need more depth than some larger boats. It's all about displacement, not length. Boats of all sizes on Mendota require the same minimum depth to operate within a margin of safety.