

I want to thank the Task Force and the members of the Technical Work Group for the opportunity to speak today. I live in Waunakee, District 25. I don't own lakefront property, but have been an avid boater and fisherman on the Yahara Chain for many years.

The rain, flooding, and subsequent damage to life and property in 2018 is something I hope we never have to witness again. I feel that the Work Group's report offers valuable insight into actions that will offer great benefit and it also illustrates actions that offer very little benefit.

It should be clear to everyone in this room by now that changing the DNR lake level orders in order to manage Mendota lower is of no real benefit to flood mitigation. Clearly dredging the Yahara below Monona and further down the system is a very effective option. Pumping is a very effective option as well, although it will be slower to implement.

We know that increased runoff is certainly a major contributor to the increased volume of water the chain of lakes has to deal with. We certainly need to work at increasing infiltration, no question. Increased infiltration practices are not going to be a short term fix. We know that with increased runoff comes an increase in sedimentation of the river. Sedimentation impedes the river's ability to expel water from the system. Dredging is the only way to get rid of the sedimentation that has built up over decades.

The Yahara Chain of Lakes' levels hadn't even peaked in August and already I was hearing cries of how Lake Mendota needs to be managed lower. "It's those evil lakefront property owners and big power boater's fault!", was a common theme. "Maybe [more study] is needed to convince really dense people to lower the lake level a foot", opined Mayor Soglin. Even drafts of Res. 227 included the preconceived notion that the outcome of this process would likely include petitioning the DNR to lower Mendota's target range. That notion was removed before passage by the County Board.

At face value, to a layperson, I can see how those reactions make perfect sense. At this point in the process and with the presentation of the Technical Work Group's report, every member of the Task Force should have a better understanding of this lake system and what it takes to prevent future flood events. You are now better educated on this subject than the average citizen.

No lakefront property owner on Lake Mendota wants to see levels anywhere near what they saw at the end of August. In fact, I know of many who were concerned when the levels were a foot above max all summer long, even before the August rains. On the

subject of boaters, little known fact, the two largest boats on Lake Mendota actually draw less water than nearly all other boats that operate on the lake.

Why wasn't Lake Mendota lower all summer long? Mr. Reimer has made it clear that Mendota was high because he was holding water back to give the lower lakes relief. Those lower lakes weren't able to discharge their water fast enough after heavy rains earlier in the season. Had they been able to drain faster, Lake Mendota would also have been lowered quicker. Months were spent holding water back in Mendota as they tried to get the water out of the lower lakes. We are seeing incredible evidence of how slow this system is to drain. It has been over 6 months since the heavy rains on August 20th and all 4 lakes are only now within their summer ranges. Mendota is at summer min. Monona and Waubesa are just under summer max, and Kegonsa is in the middle of it's summer range. We have a lot of snow sitting out there waiting to melt. I'm guessing all lakes will be over summer max by the end of March or early April.

As Resolution 227 was in the process of passage, I heard a lot of comments made by board members and citizens that we need a science based analysis of this situation as well as science based solutions. It's my opinion that some board members who were certain that the science would prove the need to manage Mendota lower are now not willing to accept the science that illustrates lowering Mendota is of little significant benefit.

There are members on this Task Force that are bucking the results of the Technical Report calling some scenarios "outliers". Those scenarios provide valuable information on what is and what is not effective in achieving lower levels throughout the Yahara system of lakes. To write them off as "outliers" is to ignore the valuable information within, or perhaps it illustrates an inability to fully understand the situation at hand. I'll offer one more explanation, perhaps continued pressure to lower Mendota's level is only pursued to pander to one's voter base. A voter base that has been crying for lower levels on Mendota for a long time without taking the time to understand how very ineffective that is in achieving a goal we all have.

I ask that the larger body of this task force not cave to the emotion driven calls of some members to petition the DNR to lower Mendota's summer min. There is no basis to support such action and it is a waste of time and resources. I'd like to remind the Task Force that recommendations of this group do not need consensus, only a majority for approval.

It is my hope that recommendations are approved for dredging as soon as possible. Thank you.