

RACINE COUNTY BOARD OF DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

c/o Knuteson, Hinkston & Quinn, S.C.

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Al Wilks, Chairman
Alan Jasperson, Secretary, Treasurer
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September 18, 2017

To All Interested Persons:

The Racine County Drainage District has received DNR approval for phase 2 of their dredging project of the Wind Lake Canal and approval to draw down the impoundment of the Rochester dam during this project. As per the DNR order we are allowed to start the drawdown Monday, October 1, 2017 or before the water temperatures go below 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Due to the warm weather, we will be implementing the second option. We will measure water temperatures in the Fox River/Wind Lake Canal at certain locations: 1 meter from shore and 1 meter deep. The actual start date will depend on weather conditions and water temperature. We would anticipate the drawdown to occur closer to November 1, 2017 based upon these factors.

The project has been bid. The contracts have been let and the contractors are ready to begin the project this winter. The project includes maintenance on the Wind Lake Canal from just north of the Dover Line Road, southwest to Hwy 36. This main canal was last cleaned over 60 years ago. This is the primary canal with a water shed area of over 55,000 acres, encompassing properties as far north as New Berlin. This entire watershed area has seen increased development and substantial increases of impervious surfaces during this time period. Because it is the primary canal it is imperative to maintain it to prevent flooding of our roads and property. The permit also includes the Goose Lake Canal from Hwy K to the Wind Lake Canal. This is a maintenance project removing sediment and debris from the ditches that has built up and washed in over the last 60 years. With favorable weather conditions we hope to complete the project this year.

The drawdown of the impoundment will be accomplished by opening the gates wide open at the Rochester Dam during this period. We want all residents to be aware that the water levels in the system, from Rochester Dam to Waterford Dam and from Rochester Dam to Wind Lake Dam, will be extremely low during this period. Local residents may be able to use the low water levels to do brush removal and cleaning or shoreland restorations. If you wish to do so, be sure to contact Elaine Johnson with the DNR to see if a permit is needed. You can reach Elaine at elaine.johnson@wisconsin.gov or at (262) 574-2136.

It is anticipated that the impoundment will start to be refilled beginning February 15, 2018 depending on the status of the dredging project.

You can find us on the Racine County website by typing "Drainage" in the search bar.

Sincerely,

Racine County Board of Drainage Commissioners
Alvin Wilks – Chairman