

Lake Mills City Council Candidates share perspectives on Rock Lake:

RLIA is a non-profit, all volunteer, member-driven association dedicated to protecting and improving Rock Lake. We are non-partisan. As a service to our community, we asked the two Lake Mills City Council Candidates for District 2 (Wards 2, 3, 6, 7) to outline their perspectives on key issues concerning Rock Lake. Their answers are presented unedited and in-full. For ease of reading, the question is in black. Incumbent Greg Waters' response is in blue and candidate Todd Temperly's is in brown.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, April 4th

Question: Known sources of nutrients escaping into Rock Lake include runoff/erosion from shoreland properties and construction site erosion. These nutrients can lead to lower water quality and fuel algae blooms. **Please describe what the Lake Mills City Council can do to address this area of concern. Explain how the City Council can assure shoreland property owners and developers optimize protection of the lake.**

Greg Waters: Thank you for offering a forum for this type of feedback. I believe shoreland owners and developers have a personal stake in the preservation and restoration of Rock Lake. City Council can assure all invested parties become stewards of Rock Lake by facilitating open lines of communication. Council can also collaborate with other community organizations and government agencies to increase awareness, provide educational opportunities, and ensure shoreline restoration resources are available. Clear and understandable guidelines applied universally encourage property owners and developers to become Rock Lakes' strongest advocates. The entire community benefits from the protection of the natural resource that makes our community unique.

Todd Temperly: The city already has ordinances in place and a Building Inspector to report violations. Several recent projects on my street implemented silt fences.

Question: The City of Lake Mills has 60+ storm drains that enter directly into Rock Lake. Ongoing costs of building and maintaining this infrastructure are covered by property taxes, putting an excessive burden on residential properties. Development of a stormwater utility would reapportion these costs as stormwater fees based on the quantity of impervious surface and resulting stormwater each property generates. **Do you support exploring the feasibility of setting up a storm water utility to generate funding to help reduce and/or filter the runoff? Why or why not?**

Todd Temperly: I was on the council during that feasibility study. We decided to not continue the study for several reason. A. A utility would require additional administrative costs. It would be cheaper to increase property taxes to increase spending on storm water management. B. Lakeshore property owners could file an appeal to opt out of the utility if they proved their storm water went directly into the lake rather than city streets. This would have been a loss of revenue for the proposed utility. C. Storm water utility fees are not tax deductible. D. In 2013, the state modified the tax levy limits to require a referendum for implementing a storm water utility. The city is considering a referendum for Fire/EMS

services. Also an upcoming sanitary sewer rate increase for a new plant. And the school is going to propose another referendum. Too many spending projects all at once.

Greg Waters: I am aware of the impact of storm drains that empty into Rock Lake. My son marked these drains for his Eagle Project in 2008. He wanted a project related to the conservation of Rock Lake and increased awareness that stormwater entering these drains directly impacts our lake. I supported the idea of the Stormwater Utility during this period. It was debated for over a year in City Council before the measure was defeated by a 2-3 vote. Instead of distributing these costs to the sites that directly generate the stormwater, the defeat kept the cost of construction and maintenance of the Stormwater system on residential property owners. In July 2013, the momentum towards this type of utility ended as the state put levy limits in place. If a Stormwater Utility passes, the municipality must reduce the levy limit by the amount of the new fees. This means the City of Lake Mills cannot achieve extra revenue without a referendum to exceed levy limits. To address the runoff issue, the City of Lake Mills started installing filtration systems in construction projects that directly impact Rock Lake. This is a big step to improve water quality.

Question: The Sandy Beach Development Project will affect local residents for many years to come. **How do you think the City Council might specifically accomplish the following in this project?**

- Assure public opinion is considered.
- Reduce or shorten beach closures.
- Protect Rock Lake's water quality by incorporating best management practices in stormwater management with natural infiltration systems such as: more permeable surfaces and native plantings.
- Educate residents on what they can do to manage stormwater with visible demonstration projects.

Greg Waters: Sandy Beach became a public park about 50 years ago to improve access to Rock Lake for area residents. City Council recently did a survey related to the restaurant project and got over five hundred responses with valuable insights. Council held multiple workshops on this topic with some RLIA members in attendance and plans to hold more meetings in the future. I support measures to improve natural infiltration like permeable surfaces and native planting and feel it is important to ensure the measures are practical for the residents and caretakers. It is important that the lake water continues to be monitored and we implement measures to ensure the safety of the community. As discussed in the prior question, we recently started installing filtration systems in the projects that directly impact Rock Lake. This step helps to reduce runoff pollution moving forward.

Todd Temperly: I have been a big critic on that project. I provided the previous and current council examples from other cities where at least 2 open house meetings open to all members of the public kick starting studies. That is what our own school district follows. Instead, the

city just wrote checks for the consultants to run off and do their own studies. And there has yet been an open house meeting for the public to make comment and questions those studies. For the 1999 Municipal Building project, the city conducted 3 open house meetings on the plans. The Parks Board seems to have been brushed aside. They should be allowed at the city council meetings to jointly be part of the discussions. This project needs a redo and start over with several public meetings. The city bought the original resort to increase public access to the lake. The Sandy Beach project seems to be converting the beach back to a resort squeezing out beach goers.

Question: Salt concentrations are rising in area lakes, rivers and groundwater due to runoff from roads and streets. Currently 51 rivers and one lake in southeastern Wisconsin are considered chronically impaired for chloride by the DNR. The application of street brining technology instead of solid salt application in winter can be successful in reducing these impacts and has been initiated by the City of Lake Mills. Similarly the careful use of salt and deicing derivatives on sidewalks and bridges near the lake can provide cost and environmental benefits. **Will you pledge to support expanded implementation of improved winter practices and ordinances pertaining to Lake Mills streets and sidewalks near the lake?** ([Reference: Salt Wise Web Page for sample ordinances.](#))

Todd Temperly: Personally, I go heavy on cheap kitty litter on my sidewalks. It's grittiness helps walkers. It absorbs heat. Yes, I support the city using brine solutions. _

Greg Waters: I support best practices to increase awareness of lake issues. The brine technology was budgeted before I joined Council and it significantly improved safety and water quality. This technology interests me, and I would be interested in implementing other ideas like the brine truck and encouraging other area municipalities to take similar actions.

Question: City committees and commissions provide important input to the City Council. For instance RLIA has observed variances granted by the City's Zoning Board Of Appeals (ZBOA) that could have a detrimental effect on Rock Lake due to allowing increased erosion and runoff. **Will you commit to encouraging City Council guidance and oversight so as to assure members of the ZBOA and other city entities are trained and informed as to their responsibilities so they are effective in enforcing zoning ordinances within the City?**

Greg Waters: This is one reason I got involved in city government. The zoning rules appear to be selectively followed and enforced. If the rules are not clear, then they should be revised so they can be evenly and fairly enforced. The ZBA is an independent board for hearing appeals and applications and granting variations and exceptions in harmony with the purpose and intent of the Zoning Ordinance. The City Council's scope of involvement with the ZBA includes the selection of members and making training requests. Upon joining City Council, I asked for training for the ZBA and was notified of recent training. To ensure rules are fairly enforced, I asked the President of the ZBA to prepare a brief for variances granted so the Plan Commission can review the code and ensure it meets the intent of both the community and the Plan Commission. I believe City Council members must represent the community's best

interest over the interest of their friends and believe city board members should act accordingly.

Todd Temperly: There has only been 1 ZBA case involving the lake. I was the one who contacted the RLIA and filed a complaint with the council because the findings of fact concerning hardship was not followed for political reasons. The city does have training, but members can use biases. The city can remove members through a public hearing, or file an appeal. Anybody can file an appeal if they disagree with a ZBA ruling.