

Dear Editor,

The Rock Lake Improvement Association believes that one of our community's greatest assets is Rock Lake. From "Icehenge" to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Rock Lake brings visitors to our community year round.

Whether you are on the water every weekend or are just enjoying the view, Rock Lake improves the quality of all of our lives.

Part of what makes Rock Lake a fantastic resource are the protections that we as a community decided to give Rock Lake. While they were more stringent than what the state required, our community understood that greater measures were needed to help preserve what helps drive our community.

However, during the last budget cycle, the ability for local governments to decide how to manage their water resources in regards to shoreland zoning standards was taken away. A "one-size-fits-all" approach now governs all lakes, regardless of how different they are and regardless of the will of the local citizens to require greater protections.

Because of this, the RLIA has recently adopted an advocacy resolution that can be viewed in its entirety at [www.rocklake.org](http://www.rocklake.org). In summary, the RLIA supports the **local voice, local control, and local action** of matters regarding the management of Rock Lake and all Wisconsin Lakes. We will advocate for actions that remove water policy from the budget process so that local voices are heard. We will advocate for the restoration of local discretion for shoreland zoning standards for local control, and we will advocate for the restoration of capacity building grants to organizations like Wisconsin Lakes to help promote local conservation actions.

The RLIA asks that you support us in these efforts, and if you are willing, to help advocate for the above changes. The health and quality of Rock Lake may depend on it.

Sincerely,

Rock Lake Improvement Association Board of Directors