Illinois Department of
Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

To: Director Colleen Callahan

From: Joe Morelock, OLE

Date: April 30th, 2020

Subject: Conditions on the Fox River from the mouth of the Fox River at Pistakee Lake south to the Bridge Street Bridge (Millington) in Lake, McHenry, Kane, and Kendall Counties.

Northeast Zone Commander Jed Whitchurch, District 2 Sergeant Eric Schreiber, and District 3 Sergeant Dave Wollgast advises that high water levels, swift current, floating debris, submerged structures, and piers have created conditions significantly hazardous to navigation on the Fox River from the mouth of the Fox River at Pistakee Lake, south to the Bridge Street Bridge (Millington) in Lake, McHenry, Kane, and Kendall Counties. The conditions are also treacherous for emergency service personnel called upon to rescue persons involved in boating mishaps. Lake County Marine Unit Lieutenant Lou Kent, McHenry County Marine Unit Sergeant Alan Sabol, Kane County EMA Director Sean Madison, and Kendall County Sheriff Dwight Baird concur with the assessment.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has authorization to designate Restricted Boating Areas when navigation is significantly dangerous.

Section 2030.80 Hazardous Navigation Conditions - Designated Restricted Boating Areas

In the event that the Department of Natural Resources determines the presence of conditions that make navigation of a body of water significantly dangerous to the public, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources may, in coordination with the federal government, designate Restricted Boating Areas on any affected body of water within the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois. This designation shall be made by public announcement in local media and by posting at local public boat launches and marinas, and the restricted area shall be physically marked by buoys, signs, manned watercraft or yellow police tape. This designation will remain in effect until the Director of the Department of Natural Resources determines that navigation is no longer significantly dangerous to the public, but in no case shall the designation remain in effect longer than 90 days. Recision of the Restricted Boating Area designation shall be publicly announced in local media and posted at local public boat launches and marinas and any markings shall be removed.

(Source: Added at 29 Ill. Reg. 15550, effective September 27, 2005)

I recommend a Restricted Boating Area (no recreational boating) be implemented on the Fox River from the mouth of the Fox River at Pistakee Lake, south to the Bridge Street Bridge (Millington) effective at 4:00 pm on April 30th, 2020. If you approve, please sign below and the Office of Law Enforcement will coordinate the implementation of the Restricted Boating Area designation with the United States Coast Guard and local authorities.

Colleen Callahan 4-30-20

Approved By Director Colleen Callahan Date