

Lake level & Ice – Winter 2014

Since Keuka Lake is just about totally covered in ice this year, there is growing concern by many about potential ice damage to shoreline assets. Depending where you are located on lake, dealing with ice may be an annual event, or for the more Southern residents, much more infrequent. Unfortunately, potential ice damage is a concern for just about all shoreline property owners this year.

The lake level is controlled by the Keuka Lake Outlet Compact (KLOC), whose primary mission is flood control, with the objectives of maintaining the level within defined parameters, depending on date. As shown on the lake level chart on the KLA web site (http://www.keukalakeassociation.org/charts/keuka_lake_level.php), the current level is right where it is supposed to be. KLOC currently has no plans to purposely lower the lake level from the current objectives, in an attempt to reduce potential ice damage. In reality, it is highly unlikely that this would be a benefit, and if a drier than normal spring were to happen this year, the lake level could end up being below the desired level during the early summer season (as experienced in 2012). Depending on what Mother Nature provides, with the resulting precipitation and temperatures, will determine what KLOC needs to do to stay within the defined lake level objectives.

Unfortunately, the best defenses against potential ice damage are proactive efforts like removing all assets from areas which ice could reach, or for fixed items like permanent docks or seawalls, using bubblers to prevent any ice buildup and installing ice breakers to protect against winds blowing in large foreign ice sheets.

Let's keep our fingers crossed, and hope that all shoreline property owners experience little or no ice damage.

Best Regards
Wayne Hand
KLA Lake Level Chairperson