

# End of Dock Monitoring

Lake Wissota Stewardship Project

## Instructions

Complete this from the end of your dock each week. It should only take 5-10 minutes. It's okay if you vary by a couple days or miss some time.

1. Open your monitoring form.
  - a. If submitting online, [open JotForm](#) from your phone, tablet, or laptop and enter today's date and your location.
  - b. If submitting a paper copy, bring it with you and find the current week.
2. Walk out to the end of your dock.
3. Fill in the observation parameters using the legend key for guidance.
4. If you have a Secchi disk, follow the instructions and record your 2 depths. The form will automatically calculate the average.
5. Submit your form.
  - a. For the online JotForm, click "Submit" when you're finished. This will send us a notification that you've completed the monitoring.
  - b. For the paper copy, safely store it in a spot you will remember.
    - i. When you pull out your dock, you can mail it in to the Land Conservation and Forest Management office at the address on the form.



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **Do I have to submit my JotForm weekly?**

No, you do not have to submit your JotForm weekly. You are welcome to record the information on a hard copy and submit them in a batch when you have time.

However, we do hope to use this information in an online application to provide lake users with weekly lake conditions. Submitting your data weekly will help us provide more accurate and up to date information. The hard copy data will be used to calculate swimmable/boatable days.

If you do decide to submit a batch, ensure you record the accurate monitoring date for each session. Each submission counts for 1 monitoring session, so you will need to submit a new JotForm for each day of monitoring.

### **What is a Secchi Disk?**

A Secchi Disk is a weighted, round disk with an alternating black and white pattern on it. This disk is attached to a rope which allows a user to descend it into the water and then pull it back up. It is often used in studies of water clarity. By determining how many feet it takes before the disk is no longer visible, we get numeric data that can be tracked over time to understand trends of how clear the water is.

### **Why are we using Secchi Disks?**

Up till now, our end of dock monitoring is based on visual observation which, while useful from a day-to-day basis, can't be used to make scientific observations on water quality. Adding Secchi Disk measurements provides quantifiable lake clarity data that we can compare over time. This will help us understand and monitor how other projects we're doing impact the lake.

### **When will you send out Secchi disks to volunteers?**

We are using this signup to determine how many Secchi disks to purchase. Once we have secured them, we will reach out to those interested on how to check them out for the summer. In the meantime, if you already have a Secchi disk, you are welcome to begin using it for your submissions. We will be using these disks: [Sabary 7.87 In/20 cm.](#)

### **How will this information be used?**

The goal of the end of dock monitoring project is to build an interactive, online tool where lake users could go to learn what the current lake conditions are. By submitting data weekly, we'll have mostly up-to-date information on lake quality, as well as community observations on whether it would be a good week to plan a recreation trip.

# How to Use JotForm

Link: <https://form.jotform.com/260816334204046>

When you click on the JotForm link, it will bring you to a page that looks like this:

**End of Dock Monitoring**  
Thank you for your efforts in helping us protect and maintain Lake Wissota's water quality.

**Name \***  
Name:   
Le.) John Smith

**Date \***  
Date:   
Select the date of monitoring.

**Address \***  
Address:   
Le.) 711 N Bridge St, Chippewa Falls, WI, 54729

**Appearance \***  
Appearance:   
1 = Clear, 2 = Murky

**Lake Level \***  
Lake Level:   
1 = High, 2 = Normal, 3 = Low

**Water Color \***  
Water Color:

**Wind Direction \***  
Wind Direction:

Each field of the form will have an explanation in small font beneath it. For required information, the question will have a red asterisk (\*) beside it. These have to be filled in order to submit the form.

Date \* ←

Select the date of monitoring. ←

Addresses are being collected so we know where on the lake this data is coming from. Addresses will not be displayed on the map, and symbology will be used to indicate the data was taken in this area, not specifically at the end of your dock.

If you click on a required field then click off it without entering information, JotForm will let you know using a red banner. If you click on “See Errors” it will bring you to the unanswered question, which will be highlighted in red.

There is 1 error on this page. Please correct it before moving on. See Errors

**Water Color \***  
Water Color:   
1 = Blue, 2 = Green, 3 = Brown, 4 = Red, 5 = Yellow

**Wind Direction \***  
Wind Direction:   
This field is required.

**Perception \***  
Perception:

**Secchi Depth**  
Drop your Secchi disk into the water. Record the depth when the disk fades from view. This is Depth 1. Drop your Secchi disk into the water again, this time until it vanishes completely. Now,

To fill in a field, click on it and type your answer.

Once all required fields are complete, hit “Submit”.

**Secchi Depth**  
Drop your Secchi disk into the water. Record the depth when the disk fades from view. This is Depth 1. Drop your Secchi disk into the water again, this time until it vanishes completely. Now, pull it up slowly. Record the depth when the Secchi disk returns to view. This is Depth 2.

Secchi Depth 1  Record to nearest foot.

Secchi Depth 2  Record to nearest foot.

Average Depth

This field is filled automatically when Depth 1 and Depth 2 are recorded above.

←

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If you have any questions, please reach out to the Lake Wissota Stewardship Project.

711 N Bridge St., Room 011  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Phone: (725) 726-7920

Email: [lwsp@chippewacountywi.gov](mailto:lwsp@chippewacountywi.gov)