

LAKE FACTS AS OF AUGUST 22, 2026

By Mike Backus

Rain

We are having a DRY season! Since April 24th the area had 10.6" of rain compared to 21.46" in 2025 and 25.52" in 2024.

Lake Level

Since April 17th the lake has not gone higher than what it started at. It is currently DOWN 10.5" since April 17th. The lowest was down 11.5" early this week.

Water Clarity

My concern early in the season was that the water clarity looked 'cloudy'. It improved some during the season but the readings continue to show it is 1 to 2 feet below past seasons. The best reading thus far was 14' on June 23rd. On the 14th of August it was 11'. Readings were conducted 11 times so far.

Water Temps

Surface water temps did not rise very fast in early Spring but hit a high of 82.9 degrees on July 13th.

Chemical Testing

Testing for Chlorophyll and Phosphorus were completed in June and July with the August test scheduled for next week. The Madison analysis shows no significant changes.

Clean Boats/Clean Water

Volunteer monitoring by residents is at an all time low. The boat landing was monitored only 2 times for a total of 4 hours. Kyle Cassel and Tim Pyburn being the only 2 to volunteer. Sad!

Private Well Testing

I took advantage of having my well tested as part of an Adams Co and Town of Jackson program. The full test covered: Bacteria; Coliform Bacteria-E.Coli; Hardness; Alkalinity; Conductivity; ph; Saturation index; Nitrogen-Nitrate/Nitrite and Chloride. An education session after we got the results back was offered by a scientist from Steven Point Water and Environment Analysis Lab.

Most of the soil in Adams Co is sandstone and sand allowing nitrates in fertilizers and pesticides to reach the aquifer (that supplies our wells) very fast in terms of filtering. They recommend a simple test for bacteria every few years.

Boater Safety

For this topic, I want you to look at me as your neighbor not as a Board member.

Let's first talk about the Town of Jackson Ordinance for Jordan.

Boat traffic is to travel counter-clockwise. Why? None of us were around when this passed so my guess is that those who came before us felt it would be safer. Usually less serious accidents happen if everyone is going the same direction. We understand that from car driving.

No wake before 11am and after 5:30pm. Why? Again, my guess is that they wanted this slice of heaven to be quiet at times. Maybe those early folks were city dwellers who wanted to invest in the lake to get away from the city noise! Don't your guests say they sleep better at the lake?

On the other hand, maybe they just respected that the lake should be used for all kinds of activities. Might they have anticipated that there would be sailing; faster power boats even wake boats or PWC's; paddleboats or paddleboards, kayaks, canoes or row boats? In any case this part of the Ordinance makes this a multi-purpose lake.

Basic DNR Rules

Life jackets-required on all watercraft

Jumping a wake-illegal if the vessel is towing a person on skis, in inner tubes or on wakeboards.

Vessel operation- illegal to be closer than 100' from shore or pier or raft.

No wake- speed at which a vessel moves as slow as possible while still maintaining steering control.