

Lake DeSmet Advisory Board Meeting
February 18, 2015
3PM

Board Members Present: Mike Whitaker, Commissioner Bob Rolston, Bert Jellison, Joe Kalus, Paul Mavrakis, Dave Belus

Operating Department Personnel Present: Commissioner Jim Hicks, Rande Money, Cheryl Benner

Public in attendance: Kim Kimble, Scott Pehringer, Commissioner Linda Greenough, Jim Seeman, Shannon Anderson, Dave Simonsen, Kevin Michelena, Ken Reid

Press was in attendance

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 by Chairman Whitaker. Chairman Whitaker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Rolston moved and Mr. Belus seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Mr. Money reported that operations the level of the lake was at 4610.64 on February 1, 2015. He submitted the annual report to the State Board of Control, which was accepted by the Board.


Dave Simonsen, CEO of the KBJ Economic Development Joint Powers Board met with the Advisory Board to discuss marketing water from the lake. After a discussion with the board about the general operations of the lake, it was decided the Mr. Simonsen would meet with Mr. Money to gain a better understanding of the lake operations, water rights, and water available to be utilized by industry. If Mr. Simonsen becomes aware of a party that is interested in purchasing water, he will contact the Operating Department, who will advise the Advisory Board of the situation. Chairman Whitaker thanked Mr. Simonsen for attending the meeting.

Kim Kimble, President of the Lower Piney Creek Users Association, requested advice from the board on how to keep an adequate water flow for fisheries in Piney Creek during the fall and winter months. He stated he was pleased to hear that the Lake DeSmet Operating Department was interested in protecting the integrity of the creek. Numerous options were discussed, and Mr. Money stated that it would be very difficult for Johnson County to enter into a long term agreement with the Association to address the issue. The board agreed with that position. Mr. Kimble will visit with the staff at the State Engineer's office in Sheridan for further information.

The most recent version of the Shoreline Regulations were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Money explained that after the Advisory Board review, the regulations would go back to the Operating Department for any edits. After edits are completed, the Operating Department will present them to the Johnson County Commissioners, who have the authority to enact regulations. The Commissioners must advertise the regulations and accept public comment for 45 days. After the comment period the Commissioners can decide if they will approve the regulations. Several edits were suggested. Mr. Mavrakis moved to forward the Shoreline Regulations to the Commissioners with the edits discussed. Commissioner Rolston seconded the motion which carried.

A tentative date of May 20 at 3 PM at the Johnson County Road and Bridge meeting room was set for the next meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM with a motion from Mr. Belus and a second from Mr. Kalus. Motion carried.


Michael Whitaker