

Lake DeSmet Advisory Board Meeting
November 19, 2104
3PM

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

Operating Department Personnel Present: Rande Money, Harvey Crowe, Cheryl Benner

Public in attendance: Jill Morrison, Cynthia Gray

Press present

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 by Chairman Whitaker.

Chairman Whitaker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Rolston moved and Mr. Kalus seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Mr. Money updated the Board on activities that had occurred since the last meeting. Updates included:

1. Gates at the Piney Creek Diversion Dam have been adjusted.
2. Erosion mitigation work needs to be completed on the south dam. Johnson County Road and Bridge will place rocks there to help with the problem. In order to complete the work, the Road and Bridge Supervisor requested that the level of the lake be dropped approximately half a foot. Water was released from the 973 permit starting October 31 and ending on November 14.
3. Operating Department staff will go to the lake on December 1 or 2 to take the current elevation of the lake.
4. Mr. Crowe asked that the board discuss what their thoughts were on what the target should be for the maximum elevation of the lake. In spring of 2014 it was filled to 4612.8, and Mr. Crowe felt that it should be closer to 4612. Mr. Mavrakis asked what the benefits were if it is filled over 4610. Mr. Crowe didn't think there were significant benefits, and that recreation would be better and there may be fewer erosion problems at the 4610 to 4612 level. Mr. Mavrakis stated that the island by the Monument is more of a boating hazard at higher elevations. Mr. Crowe also felt that the rock outcropping by Barkey Draw is an issue for boaters when the level is lower.

Commissioner Hicks had requested that the board consider partnering with the Kaycee/Buffalo/Johnson County Joint Powers Economic Development Board for marketing the water in the lake. Mr. Jellison wondered that since the Advisory Board is a more diverse group than the Economic Development Board, perhaps there should be some public meetings and input before the Advisory Board makes a decision on the matter. Since neither Commissioner Hicks nor Mr. Simonsen from the KJB JPB were able to attend, that matter will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Draft bylaws were reviewed. Chairman Whitaker suggested drawing for terms at the next meeting. Mr. Mavrakis questions the wording for the frequency of meetings, which will be

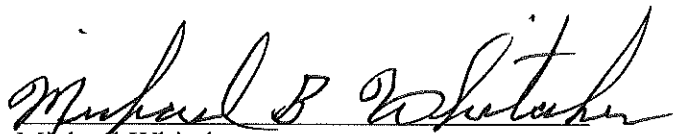
changed to read that the board will meet at least twice annually. Mr. Kalus moved to approve the bylaws as amended. Mr. Fennema seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Fennema updated the board on the Leiter Ditch rehab. He stated that AVI finished the survey on the Leiter Ditch and will work on plans based on that survey over the winter in preparation for meetings next spring. Head gate on Pratt and Farris ditch #3 has been completed. LCCID hopes to do repair work on the Pratt and Farris ditch #2 next fall. Mr. Fennema thanked the Lake DeSmet Operating Department for working with the LCCID to lower the level of Piney Creek during while the work was being done.

Mr. Mavrakis suggested that the Advisory Board invite HKM from Sheridan to do a presentation for the board at the next meeting to help the Board and the two new Johnson County Commissioners understand the dynamics of the lake a little better. HKM will be invited to the next meeting in January. Commissioner Rolston would also like to have a public meeting to update interested parties on how things are going at the lake, and have presentations regarding the recreation, agricultural and industrial value of the lake. Mr. Jellison thought this would be a good time to do this as currently there are no companies interested in the water for industrial uses and there are no time constraints to gather and assess information.

The next meeting will be January 21 at 3 PM at the Johnson County Road and Bridge meeting room.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.


Michael Whitaker