

Lake DeSmet Advisory Board Meeting  
September 17, 2104  
3PM

Board Members Present: Mike Whitaker, Jim Fennema, Commissioner Bob Rolston, Dave Belus, Bert Jellison, Joe Kalus, Paul Mavrakis  
Operating Department Personnel Present: Commissioner Jim Hicks, Cheryl Benner  
Public in attendance: Ken Reid, Kevin Michelena, Scott Williams

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 by Chairman Whitaker.

Chairman Whitaker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Rolston moved and Mr. Belus seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hicks updated the Board on activities that had occurred since the last meeting. Updates included:

1. Enlargement permits have been approved as required by the Game and Fish lease. There will be no loss of priority on current leases.
2. If the advisory board will give an outline of what they would like the Shoreline Management Regulations (SMR) to look like to the Operating Department, the department personnel will finalize, return it to the Advisory Board for review and edits. The Operating Department will then submit the SMR to the Johnson County Commissioners for review, public comment, revision and approval.
3. A strategic plan will be completed by the Operating Department with input from the Johnson County Commissioners. The Advisory Board will be asked to review the document and offer input.
4. Elevation of the lake on September 1 was 4611.76. All irrigation will be done as of Friday, September 19. Mr. Fennema commented that everything went well, but would like to review and potentially revise the process for placing orders on Fridays.

Chairman Whitaker opened the discussion regarding the shoreline management plan and reminded the board that there were several unanswered questions from the last meeting. This is a unique situation since most reservoirs owned by public entities have no private ownership around them. After discussion and minor edits, Mr. Belus moved to approve the Shoreline Management Regulations as edited and to pass it onto the Lake DeSmet Operating Board. Mr. Kalus seconded the motion, which carried.

Chairman Whitaker reminded the board that the discussion about private docks was tabled until the discussion on the Shoreline Management Regulations was finished. He opened the floor to discussion on this matter. After discussion, Mr. Kalus moved to advise the Lake DeSmet Operating Board that the Lake DeSmet Advisory Board does not oppose docks on the lake for adjacent private landowners. Commissioner Rolston seconded the motion, which carried.

Chairman Whitaker then began discussion about the strategic plan. Commissioner Hicks asked the Advisory Board to make a list, if any, of the issues they wish to have addressed in the strategic plan. He also stated that the Lake DeSmet Operating Department would draft bylaws.

Mr. Fennema updated the board on the Leiter Ditch rehab. He stated that it is a Phase II study funded through the WWDC that is looking at the positive and negatives of a pipeline. Mr. Fennema also stated that the LCCID was working on refurbishing headgates on diversions at the Pratt and Farris ditches. He requested that water be diverted into the lake for a week or so. Chairman Whitaker advised speaking to the State Engineers Office prior to doing so. Mr. Williams will also work with the county and state to lower the level of Clear Creek by diverting water into Healy if it is helpful.

Mr. Mavrakis asked if the Operating Department would fill the lake this winter. Commissioner Hicks stated that since the level was so high this fall, the department personnel would probably wait until next spring to fill. Mr. Mavrakis also questioned the construction of a fence at the Mikesell-Potts Recreation Area. Commissioner Hicks stated it was constructed as a safety precaution.

The next meeting will be set when the Lake DeSmet Operating Department has issues or documents to present to the board.

Mr. Hicks expressed the gratitude of the Johnson County Commissioners for the Advisory Board members' time and expertise.

As there was no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Rolston moved the meeting be adjourned at 4:50. After a second by Mr. Kalus the motion carried.

  
Michael Whitaker