

Lake DeSmet Advisory Board Meeting
April 19, 2017
3PM

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

Operating Department Personnel Present: Cheryl Benner, Linda Greenough

Public in attendance: Scott Pehringer, Dave Pelloux, Dayton Alsaker, Jordon Roberts, John Piotrowski, Jim Seeman, Bill Dooley, Rob Davidson, Dick Hall, Dave Perry

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 by Chairman Whitaker. After introductions, Chairman Whitaker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting. Mr. Belus moved and Commissioner Rolston seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Ms. Benner submitted a department report.

- The elevation of the lake on April 1, 2017 was 4608.10. The tunnel was opened on March 22. BOC estimates that the appropriations will be filled May 15-May 20.
- Commissioner Linda Greenough was appointed to the Lake DeSmet Operating Department to replace outgoing Commissioner Jim Hicks.
- WYDOT's contract for water on the road to Story project runs through this summer.
- Budgets are due in May. No major maintenance is anticipated for the coming fiscal year.
- Johnson County Road and Bridge completed dredging the main boat dock bay in early March. The project went very well and will make accessing the boat dock much safer. Dredged materials will be used by Game & Fish and by the Mikesell-Potts recreation area.
- Piney Creek Land Company, owner of Shores of Lake DeSmet subdivision, has agreed to submit semi-annual water usage reports. They had not been submitting reports up to this point.
- All county emails for Lake DeSmet Advisory Board members were deactivated.

Board member terms were discussed. The terms of Commissioner Rolston, Mr. Jellison, and Mr. Kalus end this spring. Commissioner Rolston and Mr. Jellison are willing to continue. Mr. Belus moved to approve the members of the Lake DeSmet Advisory Board for two years. With a second from Mr. Fennema the motion carried. Ms. Benner will ask Mr. Kalus if he is willing to continue serving.

Dave Perry, Chairman of the Lower Clear Creek Irrigation District, updated the board on the Leiter Ditch project. The process was delayed pending questions from the Attorney General's office, which have now been answered. The LCCID will be using a firm from Cheyenne to engineer and oversee the project. They are anticipating construction will begin in 2018. The new WWDC liaison for the project is Ken Hamilton.

Ms. Benner informed the group on the status of the State of Wyoming purchasing SASOL water rights in Lake DeSmet. Ultimately the Senate killed the bill to fund the purchase as they felt no

authorization was necessary for WWDC to proceed with negotiations. WWDC will communicate with the Governor's office on how to proceed.

A request was submitted by two individuals from Sheridan to have a single sailboat mooring in Barkey Draw. Mr. Jellison had moored a sailboat there in the past, and shared the issues he encountered. Ms. Benner stated that she had spoken with the current Mikesell-Potts Supervisor and a previous supervisor and both expressed concerns about safety due to heavy congestion with people loading and unloading boats in Barkey Draw. It was suggested that information be passed along to the applicants about private storage available at the Lake Stop. The consensus of the group was that there were more negative than positive aspects involved.

Leased water pricing was discussed. It appears that the current prices being charged of \$15/af for agricultural and \$3 per 1,000 gallons for industrial water is appropriate.

Mr. Jellison told the board that there was a bill introduced in the legislature to allow temporary change of use for fisheries. The bill received unanimous support from the ag committee, but was killed in the Senate.

Mr. Belus commended Johnson County Road and Bridge on the dredging that was completed. He also was happy to see that the material had a beneficial use for the Mikesell-Potts Recreation Area and for Game and Fish.

Mr. Pelloux advised the group Gordon Sawyer, water commissioner for the Lake DeSmet area, resigned. John Mum from Division 1 will fill that position and start in early May.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM with a motion from Mr. Belus and a second from Commissioner Rolston. Motion carried.


Michael Whitaker, Chairman