



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS STUDY

FINAL INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX J: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

OMAHA DISTRICT
NORTHWESTERN DIVISION

July 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	3
2.0 SCOPING PROCESS	5
2.1 OCTOBER 2022 LANDOWNER INFORMATIONAL MEETING	5
2.2 JANUARY 2023 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING	7
2.3 SCOPING SURVEY	9
2.4 SUMMARY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS IDENTIFIED DURING SCOPING	12
3.0 PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT	13
3.1 PUBLIC MEETING ON DRAFT REPORT	13
3.2 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD SUMMARY	13
4.0 City Council Meetings	16
5.0 CONCLUSION	17
5.0 REFERENCES	18

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Public Scoping Meeting Comments & Sign-In Sheet

Attachment 2 Draft Feasibility Report Public Meeting Comments & Sign-In Sheet

1.0 INTRODUCTION

According to Engineering Pamphlet 1105-2-57 (dated March 1, 2019), “Stakeholder Engagement, Collaboration and Coordination,” the goal of stakeholder engagement, to include Tribal and public coordination, is to give full consideration to all views and information, improve the quality of decision-making, and increase the legitimacy of the decision reached by establishing and maintaining channels of communication with stakeholders throughout the planning process. The result is a better recommendation, alternative, strategy, or potential list of additional projects that is implementable and sustainable.

When comments are received, the team integrates input from the public, tribes, and other agencies with the six-step planning process. Typically, a minimum of two public meetings are held, but more may be held as needed to communicate the measures development, alternative evaluation, plan selection, and obtain input from the public. The first public meeting is generally referred to as a scoping meeting, which is held early in the study to gather input on the existing challenges, project opportunities and objectives, and to brainstorm potential measures. Scoping meetings are an important part of the NEPA process. NEPA outlines that the intent of scoping meetings is to help highlight significant issues and frame the scope of the study by involving stakeholders. When the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) is anticipated, a formal scoping meeting is not required but could be beneficial if there is high public interest in the project. The second public meeting typically occurs during the evaluation of plans, coinciding with the release of the Draft Feasibility Report and EA.

In an effort to engage interested parties early in the planning process, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps) study team in cooperation with the non-federal sponsor, the City of Watertown, provided numerous opportunities for the general public to offer input regarding the Watertown Flood Risk Management General Investigations (GI) study. These opportunities included two public scoping meetings, a preliminary alternatives City Council/public meeting, and a draft feasibility report public meeting.

A brief summary of the major coordination and outreach events that have occurred throughout the Watertown Flood Risk Management GI study process is as follows:

- Landowner Informational Meeting10/19/2022
- Public Scoping Meeting01/31/2023
- Postcard Scoping Survey12/29/2023
- Draft Feasibility Report Public Meeting09/17/2024

Additional details regarding specific strategies used by the USACE study team and the non-federal sponsor to engage the public are detailed in further sections of this appendix, including pertinent city council meetings.

This appendix focuses on public involvement efforts for the broader community, recognizing the importance of engaging residents, local governments, and other stakeholders in the flood risk management process. While tribes are valued partners in this effort, we acknowledge that they have unique priorities, needs, and historical considerations that require a tailored approach. To ensure meaningful engagement compliant with all laws and regulations, tribal involvement is addressed separately through a dedicated process that respects their specific circumstances. Our commitment to collaboration remains strong, and we will continue working closely with tribes through ongoing government-to-government consultation and direct engagement. For

information regarding the Tribal outreach and coordination that occurred, please visit Appendix K (Tribal and Agency Engagement).

Personally identifiable information, including names, mailing addresses, email addresses, and other contact information was redacted from reproduced public comments upon request of the commenter where indicated on submitted comment forms. For comments submitted outside of the standard comment form process, contact information and detailed addresses were redacted, as appropriate, to protect personal privacy while maintaining the substance of the comments received.

2.0 SCOPING PROCESS

The goal of the Watertown GI study is to address flood risk issues in the Big Sioux River basin in order to reduce flood risk. In addition to using the six-step planning process to formulate alternatives, the study team considered Tribal and public input gathered throughout the scoping process in the development of the Draft Feasibility Report, Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment.

Per the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended (Public Law 91-90), scoping is a required early and open process for Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) and may be conducted at the agency's discretion for Environmental Assessments to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and identify significant issues related to the proposed action. When conducted, the following should be accomplished:

- Invite the participation of affected federal, state, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribes, the proponent of the action, and other interested persons.
- Determine the scope and significant issues to be analyzed in depth.
- Identify and eliminate from detailed study, the issues which are not significant, or which have been covered by prior environmental review, narrowing the discussion of these issues in the statement to a brief presentation of why they will not have a significant effect on the human environment or providing a reference to their coverage elsewhere.

This section describes the variety of efforts undertaken to better understand the existing conditions and beliefs held by the community as part of the feasibility scoping phase.

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (SWO) Tribe (Lake Traverse Reservation) is also located to the north of the Watertown community (triangular land area shown in figure 1). The SWO Tribal Representatives were met with separately during this scoping period, more information on this scoping meeting can be found in Appendix K (Tribal and Agency Engagement).

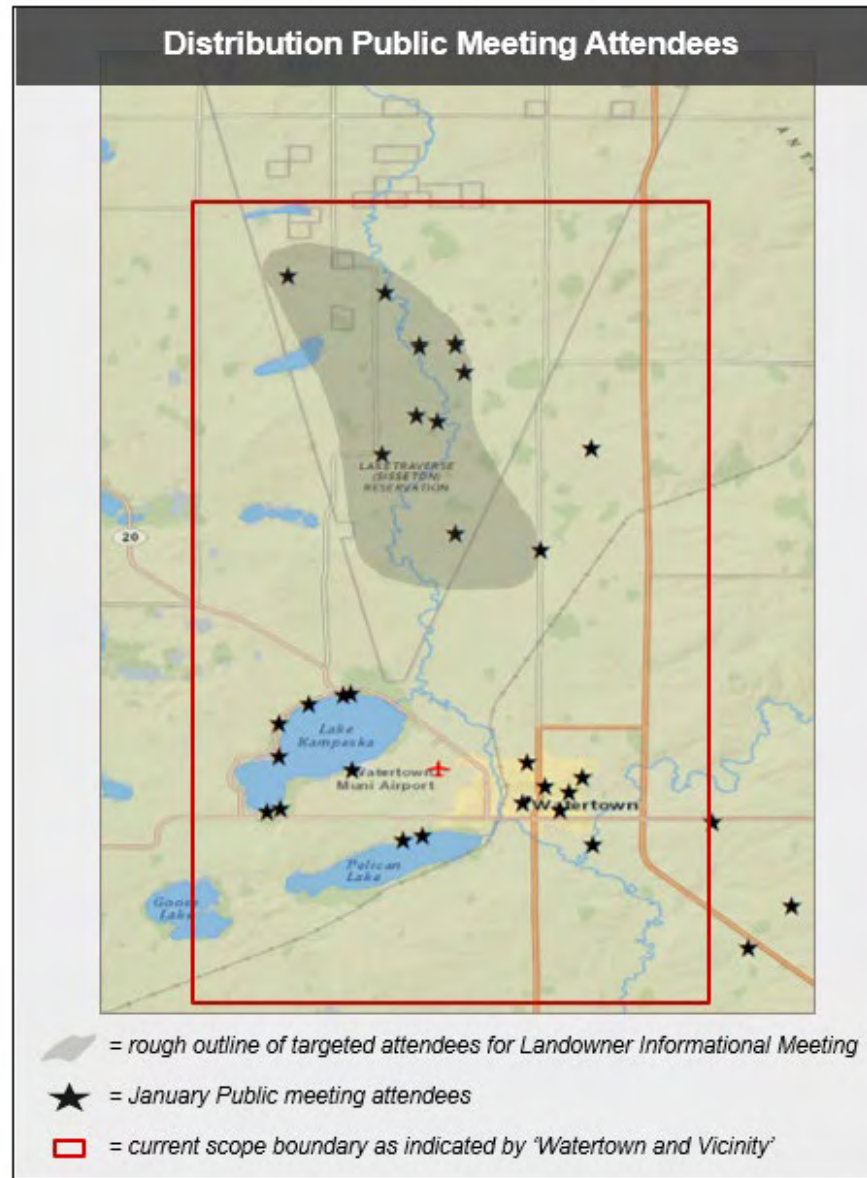
2.1 OCTOBER 2022 LANDOWNER INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Date: October 10, 2022

Location: Ramkota Event Center at 1901 9th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201

Purpose: Informational meeting for the local landowners to notify the public of a new study, and address misconceptions regarding the scope. The targeted area for this meeting included landowners to the north of the City of Watertown, where alternatives have been proposed in previous studies. The intent of this initial meeting was to let community members know that USACE will be evaluating flood risk management measures in the Watertown vicinity in partnership with the City. Participants were informed during this meeting that USACE will be evaluating new alternatives not presented in previous studies, as well as alternatives previously considered to determine the most beneficial and cost-effective solution.

Format: The format of this public engagement included a brief presentation with Q&A opportunity at the end.



- PowerPoint Presentation shared by the City of Watertown:
<https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll11/id/7457>

Comments Received: No written comments were received during this engagement. Verbal comments and feedback received in previous studies regarding the dry dams indicated that landowners are strongly opposed to this alternative due to the potential impacts to their livelihoods. In the hypothetical event the dry dams were constructed, during flood events floodwaters from the BSR would be contained within the typically-dry reservoir area. Given that many floods experienced by the community typically occur in the spring, standing water entrapped in this area would pose potentially serious implications for agricultural activities taking place during that time of year.

2.2 JANUARY 2023 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Date: January 31, 2023

Location: Ramkota Event Center at 1901 9th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201

Purpose: The purpose of the public scoping meeting held in January 2023 for the Watertown Flood Risk Management Study was to gather early input from the community on local flooding concerns, priorities, and potential solutions before developing detailed alternatives. The meeting provided an opportunity for residents, stakeholders, and local officials to share ideas, raise issues, and help shape the focus of the study.

Public Notification:

- Public Notice: <https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Releases/Article/3251913/public-meeting-scheduled-for-watertown-flood-risk-management-feasibility-study/>

Format: The format of this meeting included a brief 30 minute presentation for an overview of the project, followed by an open house session for attendees to talk with PDT members and have their questions answered.

Materials shared:

- PowerPoint: <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll11/id/6076>
- Posters: <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll11/id/6074>

At the public meeting, a sign in sheet was utilized to gauge participation and interest in the project across the community. Approximately 50 members of the public were present at this public meeting. In figure 1, each star on the map represents one line from the sign in sheet collected at the public meeting. Each star may represent an individual or family present at the January 2023 public meeting, however, a small percentage of attendees opted not to sign in.

Comments Received: Comments received during this public engagement broadly fit within four categories:

1. Scope:

Questions regarding how the study boundary was determined and concern that they pothole lanes to the north should also be considered.

2. North of Watertown & Mahoney Creek Dam:

Strong feelings of opposition for any alternatives in this area (including Mahoney Creek Dry Dam). Residents have expressed they feel this project will likely not benefit them.

3. Floodplain Development & City of Watertown Government:

Criticisms of the local government mostly concerning historic development within the floodplain. Complaints regarding flood insurance (including cost and necessity).

4. Funding:

Questions regarding how much the study will cost and how much a potential project could cost. Additional questions/concerns regarding how the City of Watertown will pay to construct the proposed project.

2.3 SCOPING SURVEY

In the winter of 2023, the City of Watertown sent out postcards in an effort to reach members of the public who were not able to attend the public scoping meeting. Postcards were developed with a quick response (QR) code directing interested members of the public to a voluntary, anonymous online survey. Approximately 1200 postcards were sent out to community members with physical addresses within the floodplain and study area. Duplicate addresses and landowners were removed from the list (as to not receive multiple postcards). The public was given approximately three months before the survey was closed. During this time, 115 responses were collected. The questions and results from this survey are compiled below.

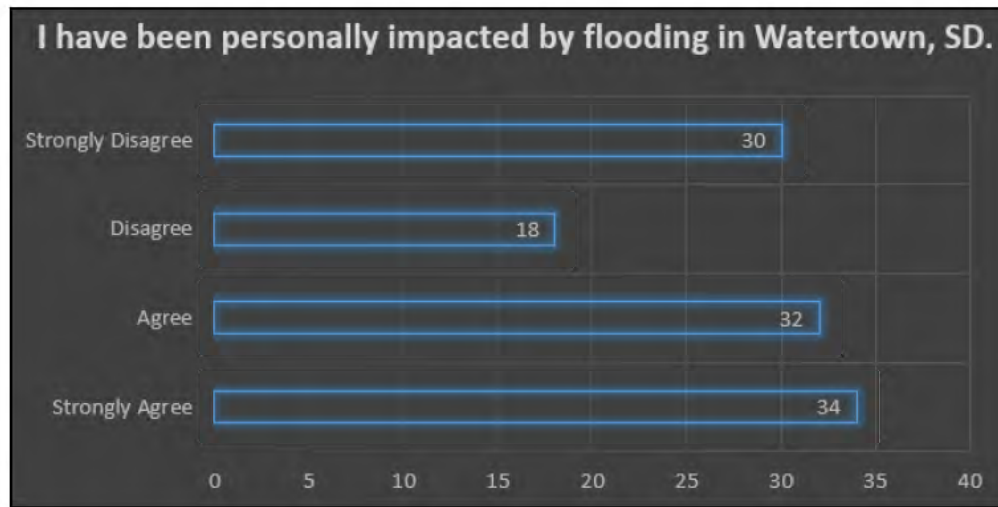


Figure 2. Question 1: "I have been personally impacted by flooding in Watertown, SD."

Question 1: "I have been personally impacted by flooding in Watertown, SD." Possible answers to this question included:

- a) Strongly Disagree
- b) Disagree
- c) Neutral
- d) Agree
- e) Strongly Agree

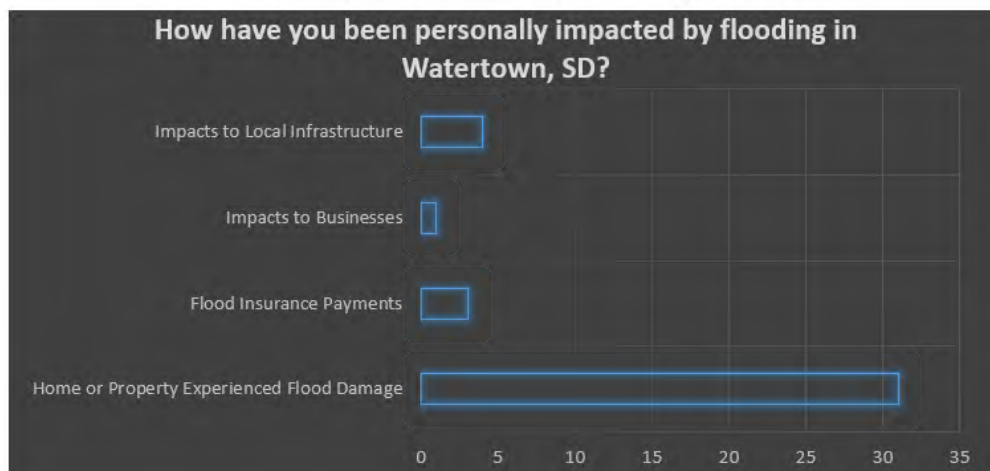


Figure 3. Question 1a: "How have you been personally impacted by flooding in Watertown, SD?"

Question 1a: If participants answered “agree” or “strongly agree” to question 1, respondents were directed to this question, “How have you been personally impacted by flooding in Watertown, SD?” Possible answers to this question included:

- a) My personal or business use vehicle(s) has been damaged.
- b) My home or property has been damaged.
- c) I have been injured due to flooding.
- d) Other (please specify): [FILL IN THE BLANK]

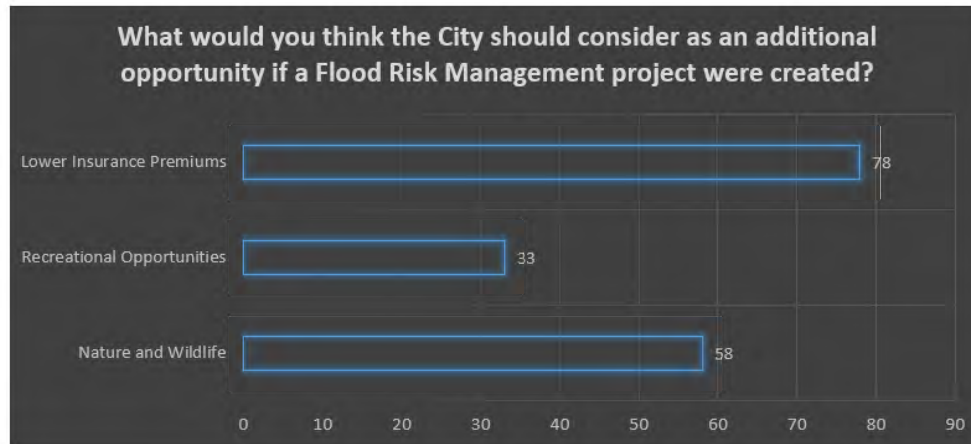


Figure 4. Question 2: "What would you like the City to prioritize if a Flood Risk Management study or project were created? Choose two."

Question 2: “What would you like the City to prioritize if a Flood Risk Management study or project were created? Choose two.” Possible answers to this question included:

- a) Recreational Opportunities
- b) Nature and Wildlife
- c) Lower Insurance Premiums
- d) Other (please specify): [FILL IN THE BLANK]

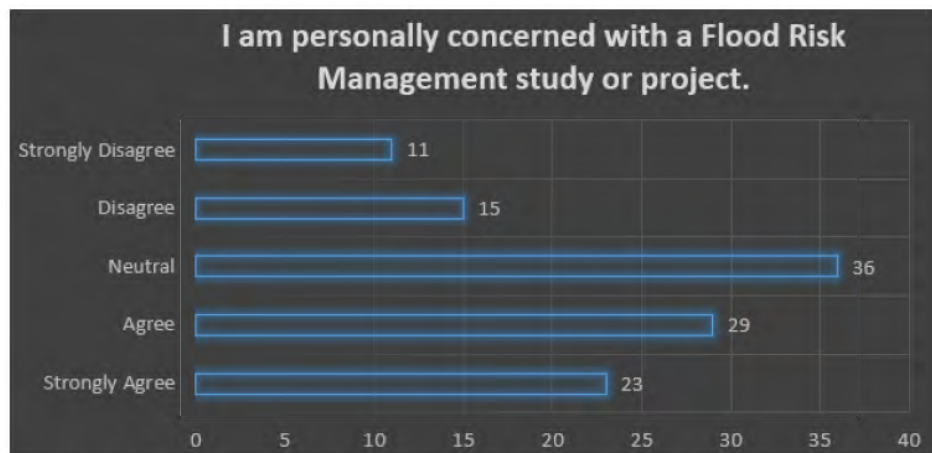


Figure 5. Question 3: "I am personally concerned with a Flood Risk Management study or project."

Question 3: “I am personally concerned with a Flood Risk Management study or project.”

Possible answers to this question included:

- a) Strongly Disagree
- b) Disagree
- c) Neutral
- d) Agree
- e) Strongly Agree

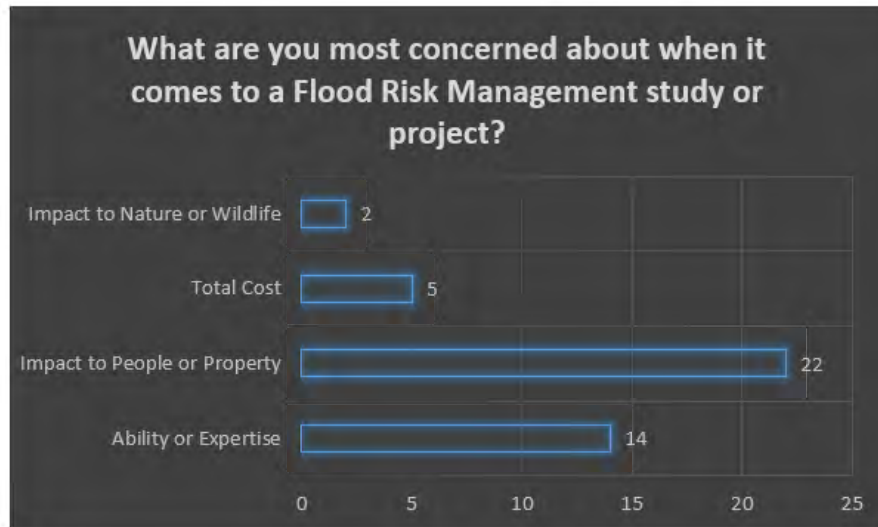


Figure 6. Question 3a: "What are you most concerned about when it comes to a Flood Risk Management study or project? Choose one."

Question 3a: If participants answered “agree” or “strongly agree” to question 3, respondents were directed to this question, “What are you most concerned about when it comes to a Flood Risk Management study or project? Choose one.” Possible answers to this question included:

- a) Total Cost
- b) Impact to Nature or Wildlife
- c) Impact to People
- d) Ability or Expertise
- e) Other (please specify): [FILL IN THE BLANK]

Below includes comprehensive list of “other” or fill in the blank responses we received to question 3a:

- “Why do we keep spending money on studies but take no action?”
- “Protection of lakeshore and river properties”
- “Remove areas that have not flooded in years”
- “Water quality improvement – eradication of AIS”

- “The flood impact on the lake and the amount of drainage into it during flooding years”
- “Dredging and creating an island”
- “Shoreline stabilization”
- “Build berms to eliminate flood risk”
- “Not affecting current LOMA holders”
- “Dredging the rivers and other body of waters”
- “Solution for constant sump pump”
- “Areas currently in flood zones actual risk of flooding”
- “Don’t build in the sloughs”
- “Do whatever needs to be done to stop siltation of Lake Kampeska from the Big Sioux river”
- “Higher property values”
- “City should fix problem areas with culverts, berms, diversions, deeper ditches, better runoff, etc.”
- “Protection of shoreline”
- “Common sense, adjust the flow of water coming into Lake Kampeska. Put an outlet to drain the lake – common sense. Put dams on the river – eminent domain to protect thousands of properties at risk rather than minimal wasted floodplain pastures up north.”
- “Should really try to get something done. This has been dragging on for 25 to 30 years with no results. Maybe longer.”
- “Toby’s Slough”
- “Development on lake (hotel, motel, convenience store, etc.)”
- “Remove areas that haven’t had flooding from flood zones.”

2.4 SUMMARY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS IDENTIFIED DURING SCOPING

Due to the ongoing partnership between the City of Watertown and USACE, as well as the area’s history of flooding, the greater Watertown public is accustomed to seeing studies conducted on the Big Sioux River (BSR) by both entities. Periodic flooding has impacted residents within incorporated areas of the City of Watertown as well as those who live outside the city limits. It is assumed that periodic flooding will continue to plague portions of the river and damage property in the floodplain. Economic revitalization activities along the Big Sioux River will likewise degrade due to nonsocial interaction with this important river and the floodplain development restrictions that currently exist. This has serious implications on both public and private sectors, causing impacts to the regional economy.

3.0 PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT

The public was encouraged to submit both written and verbal comments regarding the Draft FR/EA within the 30-day comment period ending October 9, 2024. This meeting was attended by over 175 interested members of the public. The comments received during this meeting are attached described in section 3.2 below.

3.1 PUBLIC MEETING ON DRAFT REPORT

Date: September 17, 2024

Location: Ramkota Event Center at 1901 9th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201

Purpose: The purpose of this meeting was to announce the release of the Draft Feasibility Report and integrated Environmental Assessment (FR/EA). The informational materials developed for public notification include details regarding the public meeting, relevant project background information, and instructions on how to view the FR/EA and how to submit comments.

Public Notification:

- Public Notice: <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll15/id/6565>
- Informational Flyer: <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll15/id/6737>. The informational flyer was developed to advertise the meeting. This flyer was mailed to over 1200 local residents living within the floodplain as well as interested members of the public who signed in and recorded their address during recent public meetings.
- Press release: The press release was transmitted to 94 Watertown local media outlets.

Format: The format of the meeting included a short presentation at the beginning of the meeting, followed by a poster open house session. The presentation allowed the City of Watertown and USACE representatives to give an update on the Feasibility Study and describe the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). During the poster open house portion, the public had the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with both USACE and City of Watertown representatives to have questions answered and learn more about the TSP.

Materials shared:

- PowerPoint: <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll15/id/7024>
- Posters: <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll15/id/9400>

3.2 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD SUMMARY

During the 30-day public comment period, 34 written comments were received via email and public comment forms. Comments received during this public comment period were largely opposed to the TSP citing an array of concerns. These concerns were categorized below based on common themes. The PDT took the time to understand each of these concerns and considered each during the refinement of the recommended plan.

During and following the public meeting, attendees provided a range of feedback primarily focused on the proposed flood risk management alternatives and their potential impact on Lake Kampeska. Several property owners voiced concerns about the operational aspects of lowering lake levels, particularly regarding the timing in late September or early October when boats and docks are typically removed. They expressed apprehension about difficulties this could cause and the potential for additional disruption if water levels remained low into the following spring.

Multiple comments questioned the overall flood mitigation benefits of lowering Lake Kampeska, with some attendees citing a lack of convincing data to support the effectiveness of this measure. A recurring request was for greater clarity and transparency from both the City Council and project team regarding the level of official support for the lake-lowering component and whether reservations exist within decision-making bodies.

Additionally, some commenters urged for continued coordination with local stakeholders and suggested that alternative approaches should be considered that minimize negative impacts on recreational use and property access while still achieving flood risk management objectives.

A complete list of comments from this public engagement can be found in attachment 2.

Total Comments Received: 34

Overall Tone:

- Opposing: 28
- Supportive 2
- Neutral/Inquisitive: 4

Primary Comment Locations:

- Lake Kampeska residents
- 6th Street Circle townhome owners
- Local advocacy groups (Izaak Walton League, Kampeska Water Project District)

Themes in Public Comments:

1. Lake Kampeska Impacts:

Concerns about seasonal lowering causing water quality degradation, increased weed growth, sedimentation, aquatic habitat impacts, recreational disruption, and devaluation of lakeshore property.

2. Flood Mitigation Efficacy

Many questioned whether the proposed plan meaningfully addresses flooding, particularly for Lake Kampeska residents, citing doubts about the storage benefit and effectiveness during major events.

3. Big Sioux River Widening

Widespread opposition from 6th Street Circle homeowners and others. Concerns included loss of recreational amenities, natural habitat, and property value impacts. Suggested the river rarely floods their homes and widening would create a “mud flat.”

4. Mahoney Creek Dam Preferences

Several commenters voiced regret that this more permanent solution was dismissed. Some expressed support for it over the current proposal. However, a few commenters specifically stated they were relieved the dam was no longer part of the plan.

5. Sediment and Water Quality Management

Concerns over increased sedimentation in Lake Kampeska, impacts of drawing down the lake, and lack of pollutant mitigation. Some requested further study and alternative sediment solutions.

6. Process & Transparency Issues

Notable frustration from townhome residents and others about lack of notification and involvement in the public meeting process.

7. Alternative Solutions Requested

Comments advocated for improved upstream management (Mud Creek diversion, Sioux Conifer Road bottleneck), better modeling, or water diversion strategies instead of or in addition to lake drawdown.

Notable highlights & insights:

- Strong organized opposition from the 6th Street Circle Association, multiple individual comments and a formal letter.
- Izaak Walton League unanimously opposed the plan, urging reconsideration of Mahoney Creek Dam.
- Lake Kampeska Water Project District commissioned RESPEC to independently review the Draft Report.

Consultant Report Summary (RESPEC for Kampeska Water Project District)

Overall Position: Opposed to Alternative 8's seasonal lowering of Lake Kampeska.

Key Concerns:

- Impracticality of lowering lake to 1,718.0 ft – analysis shows a 30-40% probability of success; potential for ice jams and aquifer discharge complicated reliability
- No thorough study of water quality impacts – predicted increased pollutant loading from floodwaters replacing clean lake water; calls for detailed modeling.
- Unaccounted costs- legal, operational, and structural changes (to river weir and permitting) were not included in cost-benefit analysis.
- Flawed hydrologic assumptions – simultaneous 100-year peak flow modeling for Big Sioux, Mud Creek, and tributaries lacks historic support.
- Suggested alternatives – noted the potential of upstream management and questioned omission of previous Mahoney Dam rationale.

Conclusion: RESPEC recommends reevaluation and likely removal of the seasonal drawdown component from the final FRM plan due to impracticality, cost, and risk of harm to the lake ecosystem.

4.0 City Council Meetings

The USACE team met with the Watertown City Council multiple times throughout the study, often alongside representatives from local organizations, state and county agencies, and other stakeholders. These meetings served as opportunities to share study updates, review technical information, discuss community priorities, and support informed decision-making as the project advanced. A summary of these engagements is included below.

1. June 2024 City Council Meeting

- a. Purpose: Review TSP and discuss what will be documented in the draft report.
- b. Outcomes: The team needs to better explain key talking points and provide more information on the background and how alternatives were screened.

2. September 2024 City Council Meeting

- a. Purpose: Review presentation and plan for upcoming public meeting.
- b. Outcomes: Incorporate additional information received to date from local entities. Make sure to identify costs that the City has spent to date on flood fighting. Also make sure to explain how team got to the TSP.

3. June 2025 City Council Meeting

- a. Purpose: Review the recommended plan including key features, project costs and potential cost share.
- b. Outcomes: If Alternative 8 was recommended then sediment removal would need to be a part of the project mitigation. It was discussed where sediment removal could occur in Lake Kampeska to be most effective.

5.0 CONCLUSION

USACE is committed to working with the city of Watertown as the local sponsor to ensure meaningful involvement with the local public.

Interested members of the community are encouraged to visit the project website for regular updates: <https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Planning/Planning-Projects/Watertown-SD/>

To submit a comment, please email: CENWO-CW-PlanningOutreach@usace.army.mil

Or mail to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Watertown)

1616 Capitol Ave

Omaha, NE 68102

5.0 REFERENCES

Engineering Pamphlet 1105-2-57 (dated March 1, 2019)

ATTACHMENT 1

Public Scoping Meeting: Comments & Sign-In Sheet

January 31, 2023

Watertown, South Dakota
Flood Risk Management | General Investigations Study



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Scoping Meeting

January 31st, 2023

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
11	Myron Johnson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
12	Merlin Bunde	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
13	LaVonne Rose Schmeig	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
14	Lynn Johnson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
15	Greg Bero	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
16	Kelan Birnbaum	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
17	Laura Goehr	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
18	Fred Borns	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
19	John Strandell	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
20	Jeff + Julie Renum	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Scoping Meeting

January 31st, 2023

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
21	Bob Waite	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
22	Ron DeVill	[REDACTED]	
23	Matt S Kray		
24	Kenny & Elaine Bunde		
25	Heath Younge		
26	Jim & Darla Vilham		
27	Courtney Livingston		[REDACTED]
28	Josephine Maag	[REDACTED]	
29	Elff Spreker		
30	Bill & Jeanette Towle	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]



January 31st, 2023

[illegible]



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Scoping Meeting

January 31st, 2023

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
31	Randy Typper		
32	Andrew Delgado		
33	Grant Titze		
34	Dallas Meseberg		
35	BERT MAGSTADT		
36	Caitlin Riley		
37	Brandi Hanten		
38	Tony Meyer		
39	Vicky Maaq		
40	James Mavis Benson		



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Scoping Meeting

January 31st, 2023

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
41	DENNIS MURPHY		
42	Mike Lawrence		
43	Phoebe Joan Thompson		
44	Rick Holten		
45	Kip + Nicole Bunde		



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Scoping Meeting

January 31st, 2023

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
1	Randy Schween		
2	BRUCE BUTLER		
3	Robert Reiter		
4	Randy Walford		
5	JIM WALTER		
6	Doug Alvine		
7	Mike Danforth		
8	Maclyn Kemp		
9	Sarah Caron		
10	Brenda Hanton		



US Army Corps
of Engineers *
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Scoping Meeting | 1/31/2023 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota

Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by March 3, 2023.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

① Please list any requests from the city itself ~~for~~ for projects within the city limits to protect its people and its property. (to the ACE)

② You speak of benefits to the community and down stream - what benefits can the upstream community expect

③ If a project or group of projects is deemed an effective measure but not the least expensive would it be considered if it has less devastation to the northern watershed area (farms + acreages)

Contact Information:

Name: Vicky Maag

Street Address: 16081 454th Ave

City: Watertown State: SD Zip Code: 57201

Organization/Tribe Represented: _____

E-mail: Vmaager@live.com

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Scoping Meeting | 1/31/2023 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota

Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by March 3, 2023.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

I'M A COUNTY COMMISSIONER FROM DAY COUNTY YOUR NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH AND THE LITTLE SIOUX RIVER WATER SHED. IN DAY CO. WE HAVE BEEN IN DISCUSSIONS IN LOWERING BITTER LAKE WITH A (CONTROLLED STRUCTURE) TO SEND THE WATER TO THE LITTLE SIOUX RIVER, WHICH RUNS INTO THE BIG SIOUX RIVER. THIS IS A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO A POSSIBILITY MAJOR WATER BREACH. THAT WOULD FIND ITS WAY TO WATER TOWN. BITTER LAKE ONLY NEEDS TO RISE 3 FT. AND THIS MAJOR WATER BREACH IS VERY POSSIBLE.

Contact Information:

Name: JIM WALTER
Street Address: 14353 429TH AVE.
City: WEBSTER State: SD Zip Code: 57274
Organization/Tribe Represented: COUNTY COMMISSIONER
E-mail: SDHUNTFISH56@GMAIL.COM

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Scoping Meeting | 1/31/2023 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota

Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by March 3, 2023.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

Do NOT do Mahoney Creek Dam!

Put a Dam on Kampeska, lower lake in Fall

Contact Information:

Name:

Karen Brakke

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Organization/Tribe Represented:

E-mail:

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Scoping Meeting | 1/31/2023 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota

Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by March 3, 2023.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

Who will pay for the maintenance
of the project chosen in the
future?

Contact Information:

Name: Dallas Meseberg

Street Address: 606 4th Ave NE

City: Wtn State: S.D. Zip Code: 57201

Organization/Tribe Represented: landowner

E-mail: Woody.duck@hotmail.com

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.

ATTACHMENT 2

Draft Feasibility Report Public Meeting: Comments & Sign-In Sheet

September 17, 2024

Watertown, South Dakota
Flood Risk Management | General Investigations Study

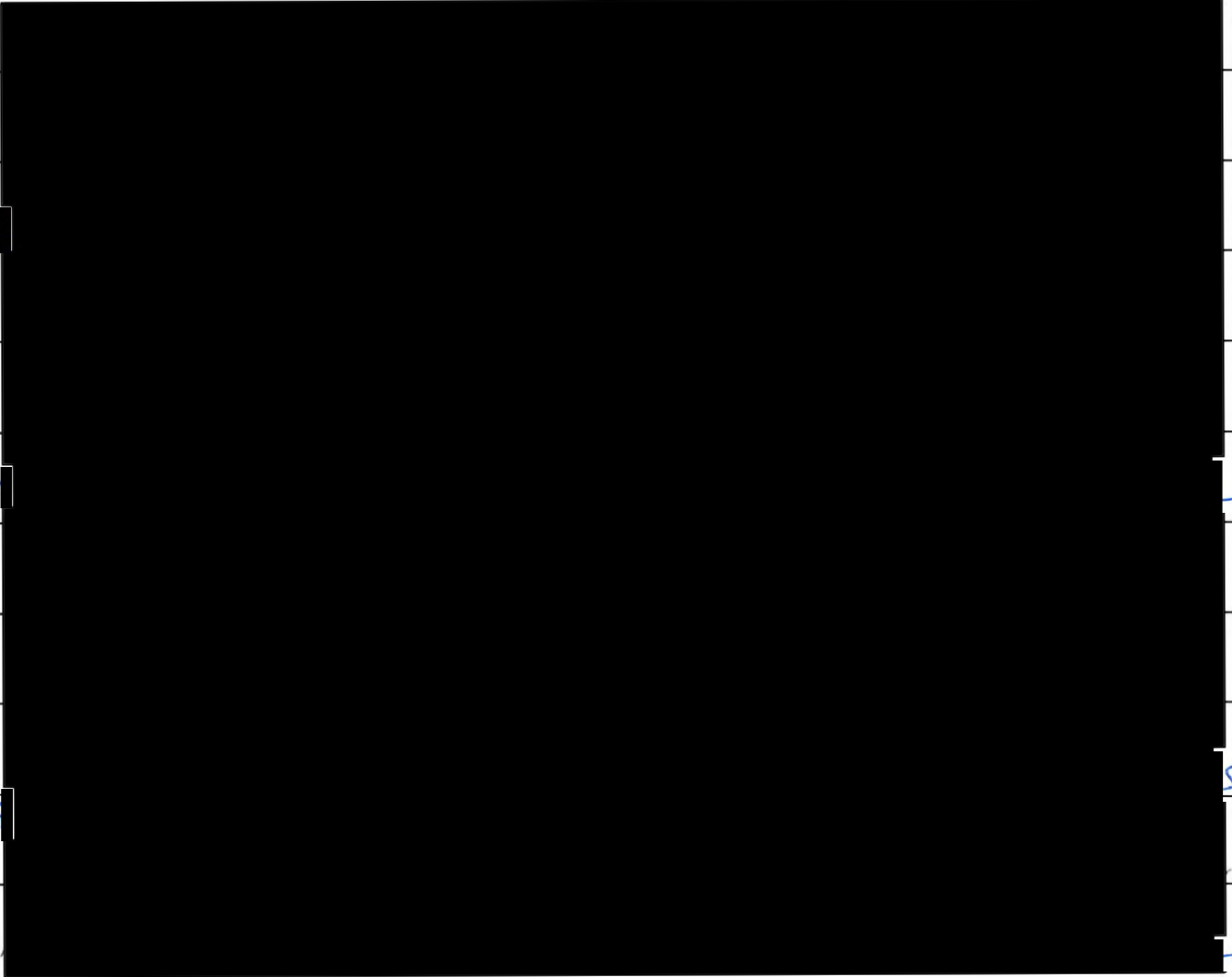


US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Meeting - 9/17/2024

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
	Dave & Sarah Crawford		
	Angie & Will Olligson		
	Alan & Sue Pearson		
	Eric Struckman		
	Tom McAnaney		
	Randy Tapper		
	Mark Fleming		
	Paul & Julie Smith		
	Dan Sternhagen		
	Mike Knutson		

John STRANDER



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Meeting - 9/17/2024

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
	Alison Birnbaum		
	Dean & Diane		
	Dang H. Luoc		
	Dan & Michelle Schutte		
	James Kellogg		
	Steve Hornung		
	Susan Knrady		
	DOUGLAS FEDT		
	Kyle Johnson		
	Jay Gilbertson		
	Carol Mead		
	Casey & Alli Pratt		

Donlynn & Pat Riese
Lauri Burrell



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Meeting - 9/17/2024

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
2	KRIS WEIX		
	Roger Winkler		
	STEVEN FOST		
	Dick J. Fiedl		
	Jim Bassingthwaite		
	Cliff Gombosi		
	Genius Rieber		
	Larry Endres		
	Christie Woskey		
	Heidi Durcich		
	Roger Johnson		
	Grant Trapp		
	Glenn Vilhauer		



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Meeting - 9/17/2024

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
	RICH KOEHN		
	Lori Koehn		
	Olaine Bunde		
	Brad Johnson		
	Dave Heister		
	B. Drake		
	HAROLD GOEPFERD		
	Jim Hieb		
	Merlin Bunde		
	Dorsey & Betty Tellekson		

Russ Ronke
Dave Petersen
Matt Roby

com



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Meeting - 9/17/2024

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
	Jerry Biewer		
	Becky McGilivray		
	Kraig Haan		
	Daniel Beary		
	Bert MA GEMERT		com
	Darby Barker		
	Katie Warner		
	John Johnson		
	Ray Johnson		com
	Gene and Kathy Bierscheid		
	Todd & LeAnn Swenson		com
	Rob Goens.		
	Sander W. Swa		
	Herb Wiswa		
	Chuck Engels		



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Meeting - 9/17/2024

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
	Mary Newell		
	Anna Sigman		
	Vicky Maag		
	J. Strierson		
	RITA WISHARD		
	Monte & Michele Hopp		
	Mike Gortney		
	Bob Waiter		
	Travis Lonke		
	Leona Sheila Maag		

Dustin & McKenzie
Al + Belinda Molth

.com



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Meeting - 9/17/2024

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
	Jeff & Amy K. Hoff		
	Jeff and Julie Rarum		
	Ben Borch		
	Tim MOES		
	Lance Dedrick	3	
	Ronda Kobay	3	
	David F. Hickey	4	
	Lee Schull	3	
	Brian Bradstreet	7	
	Ron Renelt	13	

Ann Weckwerth
+ GARY

SUSAN : Tim Jones



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Meeting - 9/17/2024

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
	Kirk Ellis		
	Jon Quiatt		
	Bill & Sue Crawford		
	Myron Johnson		
	Dennis Card		
	BRAD FISITMAN		
	Jon Bratke		
	Randy Pickrel		
	MARK ROBY		
	Conda S. Williams		
	Tom & Sue		
	Beaudry		
	Steve & Jackie		
	Dunca		



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Meeting - 9/17/2024

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
	Robt Stindal		
	Barbara		
	Therese		
	Jon Keszler		
	Matthew Miller		
	Kay + Dennis Saeb		
	Chir Martinsen		
	Deb Arbogast		
	Miranda Patek		
	Margaret Brickett		
	John + Joan Loh		
	Heath Deten		
	Randy Hartley		

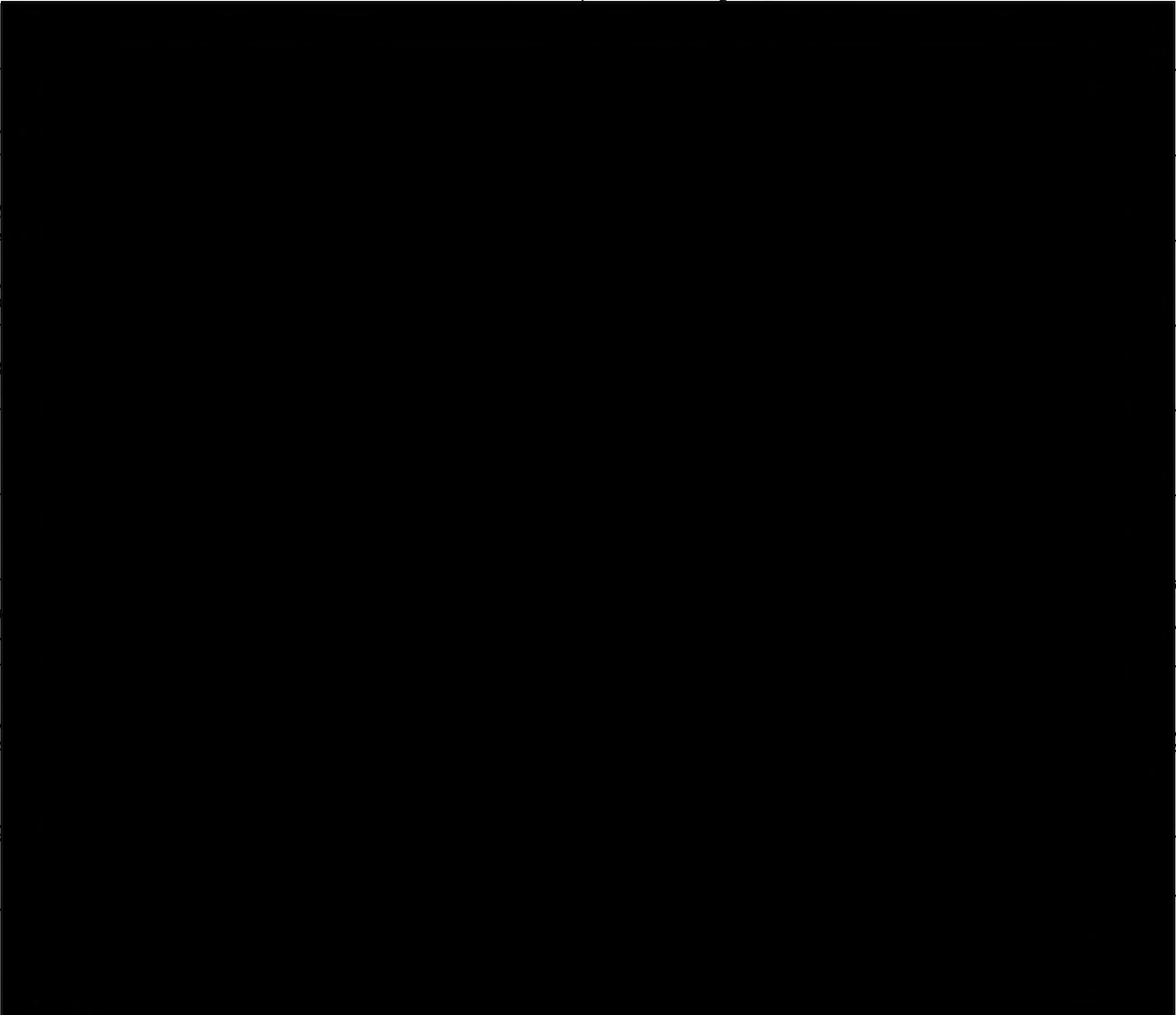


US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Sign-In: Public Meeting - 9/17/2024

Watertown – General Investigations Study



#	NAME	ADDRESS (optional)	EMAIL
	FRED BORNS		
	Don Roby		
	Ken Madison		
	Brunick- Claudia Spraker		
	Robb Peterson		
	LeAnne Endres		
	DENNIS MURPHY		
	GARY WICKUMPT		
	Brian R. Hish		
	Lezy Duck Inn		
	Dan Gabriel		
	Dan Crause		
	Nancy YORK		

NAME

ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)

EMAIL

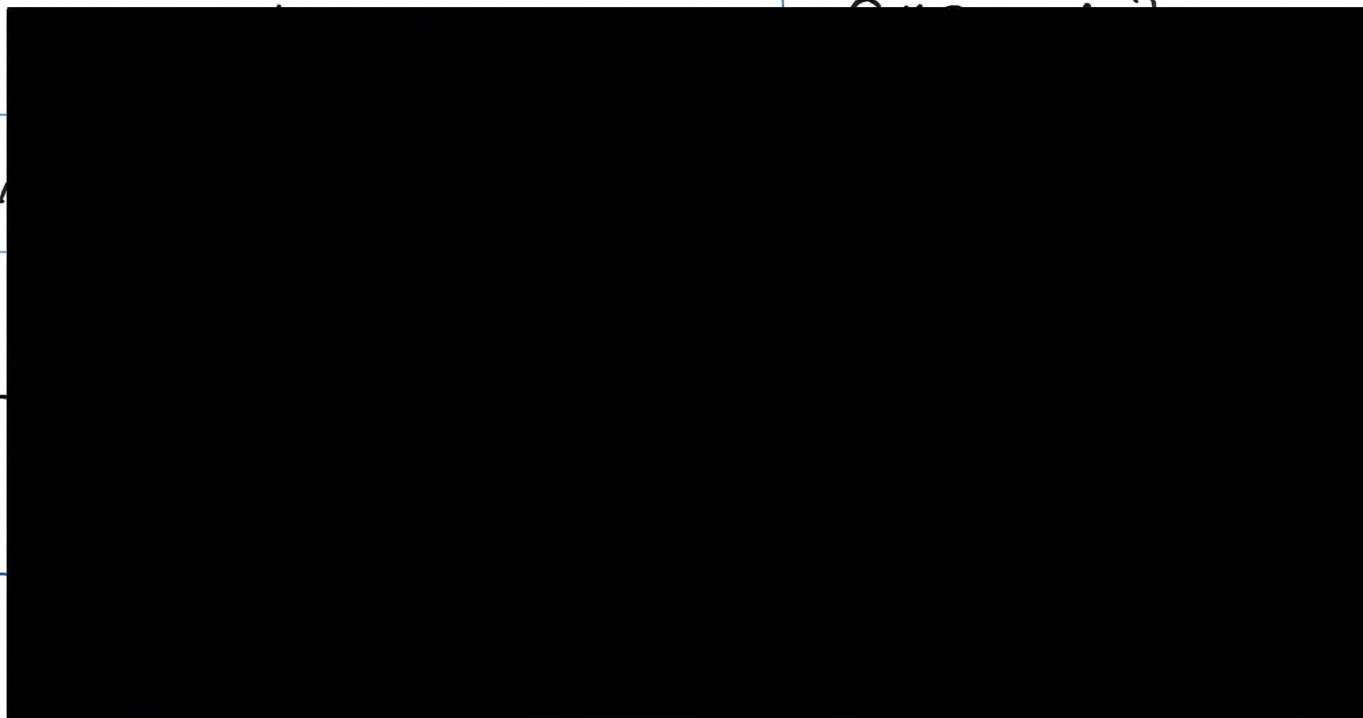
Wendell Falk

Terry Fjeldheim

Jack Rasmussen

Bret Holien

Paul Herberger



NAME

Address

Email

Jennifer vanLaacke

Doug & Jackie Lage

Charlie Ewalt

Bruce, Colleen & Jennifer
Hestad

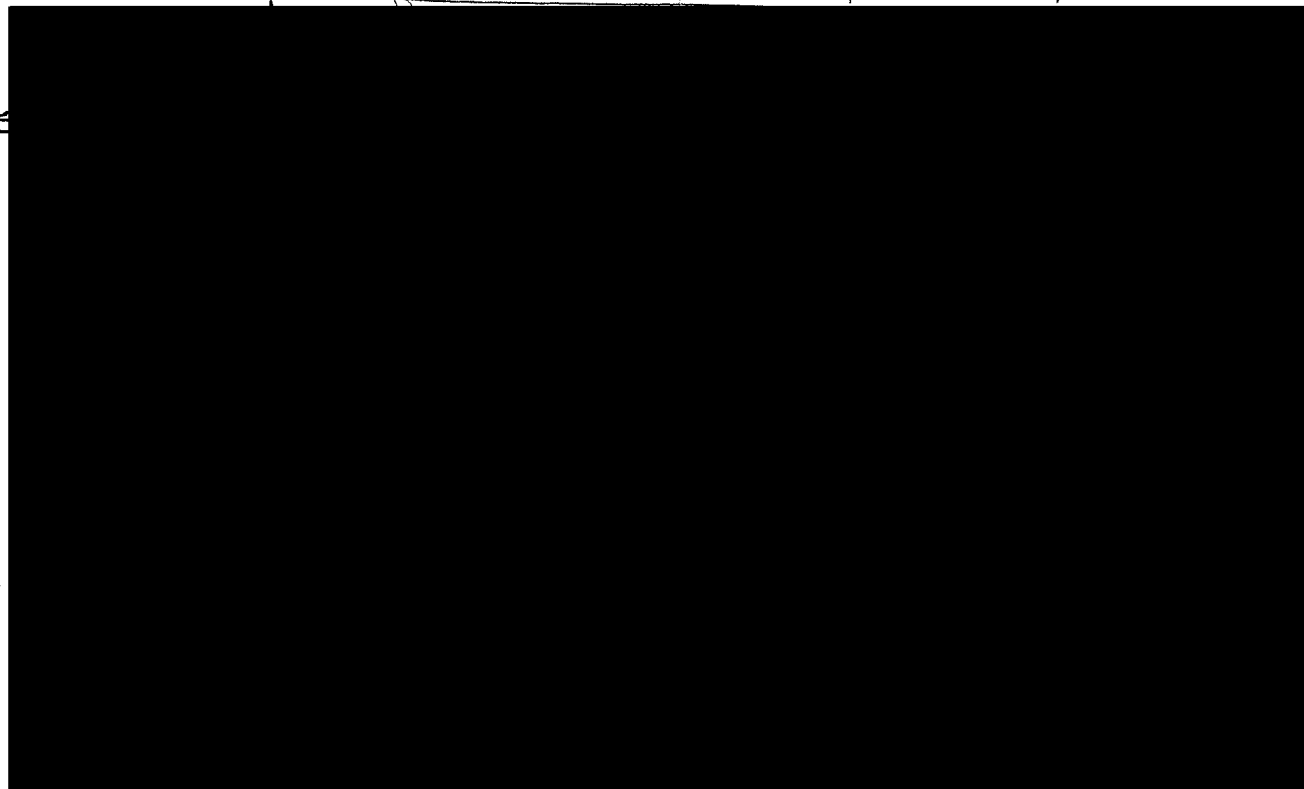
Jo & Herb Niles

Lori Frisk

Nancy Oriatt Titze

Dennis Molengraaf

Chris CLIFTON



Name

Address (Optional)

Email

Waneen Folk
Chris Carter

Mike Dimpfle

Jeff O'Connell

Karen Lieb

Crane Swathout

Rick Holten

[Redacted Address and Email Information]

[Redacted Address Line]

NAME

ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)

EMAIL

Scott NELSON

Candice Wmlyl

Aaron Pickrel
&
Kristen Pickrel

Terry Schmidt

R. Krupp

Brendon Kraus

Lynn Turner

Milt Carter

Aaron Hansen
Charlie Waterman

Daryl Tapio

NAME

Address

Email

Andrew Delgado

BRUCE BUTLER

Michele Sturdevant

Mark & Melody Kerkvliet

Benjamin Ready



USACE Omaha district, attn: Sarah Miller

This letter is about the proposed Big Sioux River flood plan, Watertown, SD. I am opposed to the USACE plan to widen the river by my house which is one of 30 condos along the river. It would widen the river by 30 feet on each side and take out grass and trees in front of our houses and a wildlife habitat across the river which has deer. Ducks, geese, herons, turtles, muskrat, mink and shore birds. It would also take out part of the parks along the river. Widening the river would make it shallower and make it become mud with a small stream in the center. It does have a spring runoff which has never effected any of our condos including the flood year of 1997. There would be no kayaks, canoes or fishing for kids. The value of our homes would go down.

Sincerely,

10/3/24

Barbara Lundgaard



October 4, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I have serious concerns about the Army Corps of Engineer's recent plan for the flood control along the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska in Watertown, SD.

The idea of widening the Sioux River channel by 50 feet on each side of the river seems like an unnecessary and extreme expense to the Corps and the city of Watertown. This "solution" will also diminish the aesthetic, recreational and wildlife benefits of the river and Lake Kampeska and also decrease the value of all our properties.

There must be a better solution for flood control without compromising the quality of Lake Kampeska and widening the Big Sioux River. Retaining the integrity of the Big Sioux River, as it exists, is very important to us so we can keep enjoying our lakes and river and our city as we know and love it.

Pam Junso



Barb Lunzman



USACE Omaha District, ATTN: Sarah Miller
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Sarah Miller:

My husband and I live in a town home along the Big Sioux River in Watertown, SD. This week, we heard for the first time that your group had recently presented plans to make changes to the river here for purposes of flood control. We were surprised that land owners along the river were not made aware of the meeting or of the plans – since the plan has the potential to affect the value of our property. And we were further surprised by what our new newspaper reported was in your project plan.

Are you really proposing that you will widen the channel of the river by 50 feet on both sides of the river? I am looking out at the river as I write. Never very deep, the river in Watertown has little flow in it after the spring run-off and spring rains. If this shallow, slow-moving water is spread out in a channel that is 100 feet wider...all through Watertown, we will be left with a wide, muddy swamp area – full of cattails and weeds that will hide whatever river is left. This will be bad for the frequent kayakers; bad for the geese and ducks that nest on the river banks; bad for the deer that wander through the trees on the other side of the river; and bad for anyone who likes to look at a river.

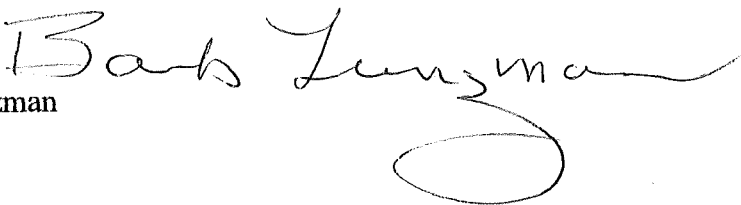
As long as we've lived along the river, flood waters/spring run-offs have never threatened our home. The land between our property and the east side of the river – and the land on the west side of the river – is public park land. We have seen high water gather in this park land during some spring events, but the water soon goes back into the river channel and leaves the park area looking much as it did before the water came over the bank.

We are definitely opposed to the plan of widening the river channel. This is interfering with the river's natural course and will change the nature of the river itself.

The expense of widening the river channel is certainly not worth the harm that it will do to us and to anyone else in Watertown who appreciates having a river meander through town.

Sincerely,

Barb Lunzman



30 September 2024

USACE Omaha District
ATTN Sarah Miller
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha Nebraska 68102

RE Widening Big Sioux River Channel

Dear Sarah

Let me introduce myself. I am Mary Langenfeld Wrage born and raised in Watertown, South Dakota.

I am one of 30 homeowners living on the Big Sioux River just short of 22 years.

It is extremely frightening to me of your plan to widen the Big Sioux River. My lot line to the River is 75 feet. I prefer to live on the river and not in it! The City of Watertown own the land (Park Area) adjacent to the River. Our 6th Street Circle Association has a legal and binding contract with the City of Watertown dating back several years so a road does not go through in front of the River. We have spent thousands of dollars over the years manicuring the Park Area which we want to preserve the serenity of "our back yard" protecting our waterfowl and animals.

Thank you for your consideration.



Mary Langenfeld Wrage



CC: Representative Dusty Johnson; Senator John Thune; Senator Milke Rounds;
Mayor Ried Holien; Amanda Mack, City Manager; Dan Schutte, Ward C Council Member;
Randy Tupper, Council At Large

Joan McCarthy

October 2, 2024

Sarah Miller
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha NE 68102

Dear Sarah Miller:

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control proposal for the city of Watertown. There are multiple flaws with this proposal, so I urge you reconsider and offer the citizens of Watertown a proposal worthy of a community aptly named "Watertown."

As a longtime resident of Watertown, I frequently enjoy our beautiful parks. I often take walks at Riverside Park, Lions Park, and McKinley Park. During these walks I encounter people of all ages enjoying the beautiful riverside environment. I've watched people fish and kayak. I witness the changing of seasons as the migratory birds come and go. The river is a valuable resource for our entire community, and the flood control proposal would diminish this resource significantly.

Over the years, I've supported the investments and improvements in our parks. For example, I'm delighted that we have a place where kayaks can launch for a float down the river. Expanding the riverbed would take away the river's current, shortening the kayak season considerably. The McKinley Park playground equipment was only purchased a few years ago, and it is used by so many local children.

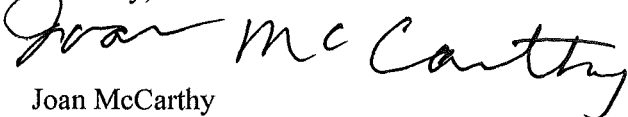
The flood control proposal is a disappointment for residents who live both on and off Lake Kampeska. For the residents who live on the lake, this proposal goes against the Lake Kampeska Master Plan as posted on:

<https://www.watertownsd.us/DocumentCenter/View/862/Lake-Kampeska-Master-Plan-2019?bidId=>. "Lake Kampeska aspires to be a premier regional destination for water recreation promoting lake front amenities and a revitalized fishery. To accomplish this, the City of Watertown, along with the residents and stakeholders of Lake Kampeska will work through the short and long term recommendations presented herein to improve the lake and associated wetlands, providing a better habitat for wildlife and improved recreation opportunities for the community and tourists." There is no way shedding fresh, clean lake water in the fall and replacing it with water that has harsh farm chemical runoff will provide a better habitat for wildlife and wetlands.

Furthermore, this proposal doesn't even meet our flood mitigation needs. It provides room for 3,300-acre feet of floodwater storage, less than 3.3% of what we needed in 1997 when we experienced more than 100,000-acre feet of floodwater. Look at the city of Watertown logo, the waves in the logo are important to us. Take a look at the lake and riverfronts in Terry Redlin's artwork. Perhaps his artwork shows exactly how crucial the water is to our quality of life. Don't turn our portion of the Big Sioux River into a muddy creek for the summer months.

I urge you to come up with a flood control proposal that recognizes and protects the core of what makes Watertown special.

Sincerely,



Joan McCarthy

October 3, 2024

Dear Sarah, + USACE

I am in complete opposition to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers flood risk plan for Watertown, South Dakota.

The solution appears to be very extreme to solve a situation that exists every one hundred years and it obviously would not take care of that!

I appreciate that the "Corps will listen to the concerns and act appropriately".

Clearly the town population, Lake Kampeska residents, the Lake Kampeska Water Project District, the Home Owners Association of Sixth Street Circle, the city of Watertown, etc, etc, etc, are opposed to the plan!!!!

There seems NO justification NOW or IN THE FUTURE for lowering the levels of Lake Kampeska. The variables are too great and unpredictable.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING to the concern and ACT APPROPRIATELY!

Most Sincerely,


Joyce Skelton





US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

Our family owns a lake home at 386 Catts Ave on the north side of Lake Kampeska in Watertown, SD since 1943. The

writer has personally observed the conditions described at #1 below.

(1) During our period of ownership there have been at least two or three years when you had to walk one or two city blocks to reach the water's edge. Once that water level is reached the lake floats out for several more blocks.

(2) My parents advised me that in the 1930s you had to walk a quarter of a mile to reach water's edge.

After this dry spell an unusually large rain ~~fall~~ or snow fall in the drainage area would bring the water level back to an often normal level.

Contact Information:

[See back side for addition to my comments]

Name: J. Douglas Austin

Street Address: 14-10th Ave NE

City: Watertown State: SD Zip Code: 57201

Organization/Tribe Represented: self

E-mail: doug@austinfamily.com

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.

10-3-24



USACE Omaha district, attn: Sarah Miller

This letter is about the proposed Big Sioux River flood plan, Watertown, SD. I am opposed to the USACE plan to widen the river by my house which is one of 30 condos along the river. It would widen the river by 30 feet on each side and take out grass and trees in front of our houses and a wildlife habitat across the river which has deer. Ducks, geese, herons, turtles, muskrat, mink and shore birds. It would also take out part of the parks along the river. Widening the river would make it shallower and make it become mud with a small stream in the center. It does have a spring runoff which has never effected any of our condos including the flood year of 1997. There would be no kayaks, canoes or fishing for kids. The value of our homes would go down.

Sincerely,

Veronica Nelson

September 25, 2024

US Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District
ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller)
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102-4901

Sincerely,



Milt & Chris Carter

To whom it may concern:

Chris and I are residents of Watertown, SD who have lived on Lake Kampeska for the last 40 years. We have been through several floods, the first of which did significant damage to our lake frontage.

Lake Kampeska is a critical asset for the future of the City of Watertown. The lake needs both flood mitigation and water quality improvements. Unfortunately, the project proposed by the Corps does not do anything for flood mitigation, and it undoubtedly would further damage water quality.

On years when the lake level is reduced by 0.8 feet and there is a flood in the spring, we will be trading up to 3,300 acre-feet of relatively clean water in the fall for the same amount of dirty flood water in the spring.

The results of the hydrology model that the Corps is using do not make common sense, and its results need to be cross-checked with the model developed by RESPEC Engineering. Among other things, the Corps model shows a simultaneous peak Gravel Creek and Big Sioux River flow. This conclusion is not supported by reality and historical information – Gravel Creek water typically comes first because it is at a lower elevation and melts first. Likewise, the Corps model assumes a significantly higher flow rate than has ever been observed in the past.

The cost benefit analysis is also questionable, as it assumes that lowering the lake level is a “no cost” option. As mentioned above, that option will cause significant degradation in lake water quality with associated costs. In addition, it will require approval by the South Dakota water management board process, which will require expenditures for legal and consulting support.

There is no consideration to modify and improve water flow along and under the Sioux Conifer Road. The \$1 million Big Sioux River flow model, commissioned by the state of South Dakota and built by RESPEC Engineering, shows the Sioux Conifer Road is one of the biggest bottlenecks to Big Sioux River flow through the system. In fact, much of the water “back-up” and flooding at Kampeska comes from the bottleneck at Sioux Conifer Road.

We are interested in hearing more about a discussed Mud Creek diversion project, which would divert Mud Creek flows downstream prior to flowing into Lake Kampeska. If this is workable, we hope this will become a part of any final plan.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

As a Lake Kampeska resident it is very disappointing to hear there is no flood mitigation for our area. As always it seems we are being ^{mis}treated. Our taxes are much higher, however we don't receive the attention we deserve. If Lake Kampeska is the Town Jewel why not treat it as such? Regarding Alternative 8... I think it is a waste of money. And it seems not only will it not help Lake residents it ~~it~~ could be very harmful to water quality. This does not seem to be a good plan for all.

Contact Information:

Name: Christie Wookey
Street Address: 440 N Lake Dr
City: Watertown State: SD Zip Code: 57201
Or cost effective.

Organization/Tribe Represented: _____

E-mail: Christie Wookey @ gmail . com.

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

Why spend so much \$ to have such little effect?

Has no benefit for lake residents.

Artificial lake lowering could have unforeseen consequences.

No mitigation for pollution. Levee at W. Kemp (Riverside Park)

Will this back up flood waters? How far North will have increased flooding?

* History: Lake Kampeska for decades was the city of Watertown's sole source of water. The Lake was approx 40 feet deep at the time. Their studies showed on ly 10% of water in Lake was from the river. In the drought of the 1930's the city dug the connection to river to increase avail. water. Since 1930's the lake has gone from 40ft deep to ~14 ft at the deepest.

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: W _____

Organization: _____

E-mail: _____

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here ☒.

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.

that is 26 ft. of sedimentation in 90 years. At this rate the lake will be completely filled in in 40 years. Where is your storage then??



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

Has there been any consideration/analysis about the net effect of the nutrient loading in Lake Karpeska? In my opinion, because of nutrient capture by aquatic life, would we be releasing cleaner water in regards to suspended nutrient and replacing it with water that is more nutrient laden, resulting in a net loss of water quality?

Contact Information:

Name: Jon Keszler
Street Address: 8938 S Lake Dr
City: Watertown State: SD Zip Code: 57201
Organization/Tribe Represented: _____
E-mail: jonkeszler@gmail.com

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

I was employed most of my career by the SD DENR (DANR now). I worked out of the Watertown Regional Office and was the Project Officer for a large number of lake and watershed projects throughout eastern S.D. I did diagnostic/feasibility studies on Lake Kamperka, Pelican Lake, and the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed. Through my studies I documented quantities of sediment and nutrients coming into the lakes, especially with initial spring flows. My main concern is that the proposed alternative will not exacerbate the existing problems. Thank you for your interest and concerns for our local lakes.

Contact Information:

Name:

Street:

City:

Organization:

E-mail:

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here ☒.

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

Requested email of website link

- Ar

Contact Information:

Name: Michele Sturdevant

Street Address: 658 S Lake Dr.

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Organization/Tribe Represented: _____

E-mail: shel2@sio.midco.net

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

Sediment - will the lower allow more sediment into Lake

We sincerely hope that additional sediment into lake is not allowed by this plan -

Poor request by city that didn't include flood management of the lake

Contact Information:

Name: *Nancy Beasley*

Street Address: *275 E. Skyline Dr.*

City: *Granite Falls* State: *MN* Zip Code: *56241*

Organization/Tribe Represented: _____

E-mail: _____

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers -
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

This plan uses the lake ~~as~~ as a "Storage Facility" and does not consider the lake as an "asset" to be protected and cleaned up.

I oppose this plan entirely. This is a waste of money for the sake of doing "something" as opposed to nothing. This plan is flawed at its core. Start over! We need a large dam!

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

Organization: _____

E-mail: _____

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here ☒.

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

I oppose the proposal. I understood that the modeling & cost-benefit analysis was performed using ~~the~~ assumptions of water flow ~~at~~ significantly higher than what we saw in 1997. Drawing down the lake seems to expose more "beach" to be eroded to the center of the lake, reducing lake depth. We are already experiencing increased vegetation due to the depth of the lake & invasion of zebra mussels. The vegetation impacts the enjoyment of the lake as it tangles on the prop & kids don't want to swim in the "seaweed."

Contact Information:

Name:

Street Address:

City:

Organization:

E-mail:

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here ☒.

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

I oppose manipulating the levels of Lake Kempesta because the proposed benefits are not worth the damage it will do to the lake in sediment deposits, winter kills, spring ice damage.

Part of my concern is that when the malfunctioning laster in 1997, the lake was often well below full, and we worked for years to get that fixed. It did not appear to have significant impact in 1997.

The benefits computations for 1718 need to be reviewed for the actual full height of the lake. It is rarely 1718.8 in the fall.

Contact Information:

Name: Mike Cartney

Street Address: 300 S Lake Dr

City: Watertown State: SD Zip Code: 57201

Organization/Tribe Represented: Self

E-mail: cartneym@lakeareatech.edu

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

Let them be allowed to
widen the river, dumping
the sediment on the side and
plant it to grass, like they did
by 4th Ave.

Contact Information:

Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Organization/Tribe Represented:

E-mail:

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

I'm relieved that the
Mahnay Creek Dam option will
not be pursued.

Contact Information:

Name:

Karen Brakke

Street Address:

15751 451st Ave

City:

South Shore

State:

SD

Zip Code:

57263

Organization/Tribe Represented:

E-mail:

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

- ① My concern is still with the extreme dry years & how much that will affect the depth of my marina which already cost me \$3.5M. Hidden Valley would have the same issue. If this causes issues - this has a huge cost - it equals a "fatality"
- ② I understand the sediment port would help on the ^{sediment} ~~port~~ ^{which} has already killed the lake to a depth of 12-14 from a depth of 35-40 deep. I am opposed to anything that fills that lake anymore.
- ③ I think diversifying through the lake and down to other lakes deserves more study.

Contact Information:

Name: Bob Drake

Street Address: 724 Stony Pt Trail Unit 41

City: Watertown State: SD Zip Code: 57201

Organization/Tribe Represented: Lake Businesses; St Pt Inv; St Pt Marina; Princess of the Point; Bobby D's; Kampin by 20; Kampin @ St Pt; Sandbar...

E-mail: bob@mcpleeg.com

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

I agree that the Mahoney Creek Dam is a bad idea. Glad that is off the table

I like the idea of widening the river

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Organization/Tribe Represented: _____

E-mail: _____

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Watertown – General Investigations Study

Public Meeting | 9/17/2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Watertown, South Dakota



Comment Form

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, would like your input on the Watertown General Investigations Study and the content presented at today's public meeting. Please complete this form and drop it off at the public meeting or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller), 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-4901. **Comments must be received or postmarked by October 9, 2024.**

Comments Regarding the Watertown General Investigations Study:

When (what date) would you lower the
level of Kampeška? Same date each year
Oct 1? mid Sept?

Contact Information:

Name: Dan Crouse

Street Address: 236 S. 4th Dr.

City: Wtn State: SD Zip Code: 57201

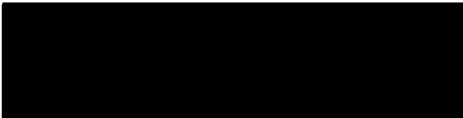
Organization/Tribe Represented: _____

E-mail: crouseback@gmail.com

If you do not want your name and address to be available to the public, check here [☐].

Submission of comments, including personal information, is voluntary. Providing personal information, including name, address and contact information, will allow Corps personnel to follow up on and/or clarify comments and may put ambiguous comments into context. All comments will be included in the record and considered. Personal information may be included in the public record or may be excluded upon request.

Jane Miner



USACE Omaha District, ATTN: Sarah Miller
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Sarah Miller:

I am an officer for the Sixth Street Circle Association, a homeowners association of 30 townhomes which border a public park area along the Big Sioux River in southwest Watertown, SD. We probably live closer to the river than almost anyone else in town, so I wanted to participate in the public discussion.

Those who live here feel that the very greatest asset of our homes and of our property is being part of the Sioux River "neighborhood." We look out onto large, old-growth trees on our side of the river – trees that shade the park area, house the many squirrels and birds, and provide a beautiful, natural setting. On the other side of the river, the trees and shrubs that line the river provide a perfect sanctuary for the deer that move up and down the river, and this natural foliage also obscures the not-so-beautiful sight of a trailer court on the west side of the park area. The river itself, although not a very big waterway in Watertown, is a popular gathering site for nesting geese and ducks and a popular paddling place for both kayakers and pelicans.

When we heard (after the fact) of a meeting your group had in Watertown last month, presenting a flood prevention plan that would affect our properties, we were surprised that we had not been made aware of the meeting ahead of time. We were also surprised at your group's plan for the river – as reported in our new newspaper in town, the *Watertown Current*.

From the paper's brief description, perhaps we misunderstood the plan. But the idea of widening the river channel by 50 feet on each side of the river seems like a very unnecessary expense that may do more harm than good.

Here are our two main concerns:

1) Is flooding along the Sioux River in Watertown a problem that needs engineering to solve it?

Those of us living here have seen occasional spring flooding as the river overflows into the park areas. But flood waters have not reached our homes, and the water in the park areas is gone in a relatively short time, leaving behind the same attractive green spaces of trees and grass that was lining the river before the water overflowed its banks. New berms have also been added up and down the river – on the outer edges of the parks - to keep flood waters contained in the public park areas.

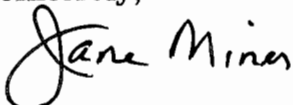
2) Is the plan of widening the river channel by 100 feet (50 feet on each side) a benefit to the Sioux River and its natural environment – or will it do more harm than good?

For most of the summer, the river in Watertown is shallow and slow moving. Widening the channel seems counter-productive to the health of the river. What will the extra 50 feet on either side of the river look like during hot summer days? Making the river wider won't give it more water. The river water will just spread out more, evaporate faster, and create muddy, unattractive and inaccessible river banks.

For these reasons, our group is opposed to the plan that would widen the channel of the Big Sioux River in Watertown, SD. If more parks or public green spaces are need along the river to temporarily hold flood waters – this, rather than widening the channel, would be a more cost-efficient flood plan and wouldn't destroy the natural course and natural beauty of the river.

Thank you for letting me express my opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Miner".

Jane Miner, Treasurer
Sixth Street Circle Association

10-3-2024

USACE Omaha district, attn: Sarah Miller

This letter is about the proposed Big Sioux River flood plan, Watertown, SD. I am opposed to the USACE plan to widen the river by my house which is one of 30 condos along the river. It would widen the river by 30 feet on each side and take out grass and trees in front of our houses and a wildlife habitat across the river which has deer. Ducks, geese, herons, turtles, muskrat, mink and shore birds. It would also take out part of the parks along the river. Widening the river would make it shallower and make it become mud with a small stream in the center. It does have a spring runoff which has never effected any of our condos including the flood year of 1997. There would be no kayaks, canoes or fishing for kids. The value of our homes would go down.

Sincerely,

Wilma Olson



OWEN COMPANIES, INC.

COMMERCIAL AND INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE, NATIONWIDE.

Sept. 12, 2024

USACE

Attn: Sarah Miller
Omaha District Office

Re: Lake Kampeska DFR and TSP

Dear Ms. Miller,

Thank you for inviting us to attend the TSP presentation scheduled for September 17thth, 2024, in Watertown, SD. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend. However, please accept this as my public comment for your consideration.

We live on Lake Kampeska and over the years, I've watched it die a slow and horrible death. During the WWII era, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lengthened the N/S runway at our airport to accommodate military aircraft. In doing so, they inadvertently closed off the natural drainage-way that allowed the Big Sioux waters draining into the lake from the north to follow their natural drainage path which emptied to the SE into Lake Pelican and then back into the river. This natural process enabled the silt that was in those spring-time high water inflows to be carried away and downstream.

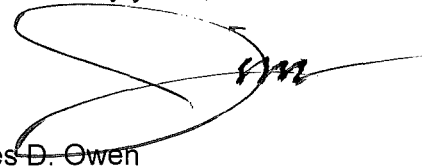
Now, without that natural outlet, the water comes in from the north, swirls around in Lake Kampeska until it loses it's momentum, allowing the silt to then drift down to the bottom where it builds up and continues to "choke off" our lake.

When my Dad was a kid, eighty years ago, Lake Kampeska was 41' deep; now, it's closer to 12' and most of the summer season it fills up with seaweed and moss that continues to strangle the clarity of what was once one of South Dakota's most beautiful glacial lakes.

I'm writing to create awareness and ask if there's not some way the Corps could come back and install a large pipe / culvert in the path of the former natural drainageway to once again, enable our lake to "breathe" and restore it's historic pristine beauty (please see attached sketches of my proposal). Even if this were to take place, the river flooding problem may still be there but at least we won't lose our beautiful lake. WWII is over; the USACE should return and rectify the damage to our lake.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Most Sincerely yours,



James D. Owen

Encl.

From: [Dick J Reddy](#)
To: [CENWO-CW-PlanningOutreach](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Watertown Meeting
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 2:15:59 PM

1-As members of the Lake Kampeska Water Project District (LKWPD) we do not agree with their position opposing this process.

2-We fully agree that Lake Kampeska needs "revitalization" having been property owners on the lake since 1936. Your 'Flood Risk Management Study' was requested by the City of Watertown for Flood Risk. And while we do not want a Flood Risk plan to negatively affect the quality of the lake; revitalization was/is not the focus point of the study.

3-Please do not overwhelm us with details in a Powerpoint presentation. 'Transparency' does not require the audience to see every 't' crossed.

Thank you.

--

Dick J Reddy / Dr. Nancy L Reddy

From: [H.G0](#)
To: [CENWO-CW-PlanningOutreach](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] comment for Watertown General Investigations Study
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 4:28:17 PM

I am a property owner on Lake Kampeska and attended the information meeting in Watertown on September 17. I remove my boat, lift and dock late September or early October. My concern is that if the preferred alternative goes into effect and the lake is being lowered in September or early October, I will have trouble getting my boat off the lift. Also, if we don't get enough rain and snowmelt throughout the winter and spring I will end up moving my lift when the rain comes in June and July.

During the meeting someone said the weir next to the lake was not to be adjusted. I was not clear on how the water was to be lowered to 1718 without lowering that weir.

Thanks for the information.

Harold W Goepferd

From: [Jonathan Oviatt](#)
To: [CENWO-CW-PlanningOutreach](#); rhollen@watertownsd.us
Cc: [Jonathan Oviatt](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] DRAFT EA/FR AND FONSI COMMENTS
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 10:33:01 PM

Dear Mayor Holien and US Army Corps of Engineers Staff,

I appreciate your work to address flood control issues in Watertown; however, I strongly object to the current draft of the Tentatively Selected Plan with respect to its detrimental impact on Lake Kampeska.

My family has owned property on Lake Kampeska for 104 years, I have enjoyed 70 years on Lake Kampeska, and my primary residence is on the Lake.

While I support flood mitigation in portions of Watertown subject to flooding, I object to the TSP plan for lowering Lake Kampeska levels for the following reasons:

1. The Assistant City Manager, the Corps presenters, and the Flood Risk Management Study itself state that the TSP (presumably including the Lake Kampeska component) has the “full support” of the City of Watertown. I understand that the City Council approved proceeding with the Study but I also understand that most if not all members of the City Council have serious reservations about the Lake Kampeska component. I suggest it is important for the City Council to clarify whether it has given “full support” to the Lake Kampeska component or whether members of the Council have reservations or outright oppose the Lake Kampeska component. Any subsequent report and City statements about the Study should be clear in that regard.
2. On a scientific and “straight-face” test level, the Flood Risk Management Study simply does not prove or convince me that the lowering of Lake Kampeska produces any significant flood reduction benefit. During the public hearing, the Assistant City Manager gave contradictory and simply implausible answers to specific questions in that regard. I feel confident that the Lake Kampeska Water Project District’s separate engineering studies will further demonstrate that the Lake Kampeska lowering has minimal flood control benefit while causing serious negative impacts to the Lake, its residents, and its users. I assume turning Lake Kampeska into a reservoir is part of the project because it is relatively inexpensive and therefore helps meet some cost/benefit ratio that will aid funding approval of the Project. That might be acceptable if it were not for the clear and certain detrimental impacts the TSP will have on Lake Kampeska water levels, water quality, weed growth and property values.
3. I was shocked to hear Corps and City representatives at the Public Meeting state that studying the impact to Lake Kampeska was “not within the scope of the Flood Risk Management Study”. The Assistant City Manager’s off-the-cuff attempt—without any evidence whatsoever—to surmise that there would not be any damage to Lake water

quality and that the Project would actually improve Lake water quality was embarrassingly weak and undercut credibility of the Study. The fact is that neither the Corps nor the City has taken into account the impact the TSP will have on Lake Kampeska. To the extent that the TSP lowers Lake Kampeska levels, an increase in the volume of farm-waste nutrients in Lake Kampeska is inevitable which will degrade water quality and magnify the increasing weed growth. Perhaps expanding the Study scope to include a detailed study of impacts on Lake Kampeska will better inform us on this issue, but the current Study is entirely inadequate in that regard. Specifically, the Study should assess impacts on water quality, weed growth, sedimentation, channels and slips, public and private ramps and recreational equipment sensitive to lake levels, property values, and tax revenues. If the Corps is unable or unwilling to add impacts on Lake Kampeska to the scope then the City Council must take on that responsibility. Lake Kampeska is one of Watertown's best assets and it just seems inconceivable that our leadership would propose turning the Lake into a reservoir without assessing the full impact of those proposed changes.

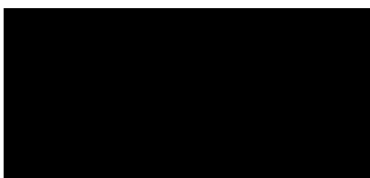
4. Long-time lake residents know that the levels of Lake Kampeska have and will fluctuate greatly over time. For extended periods, the lake has been at very low levels. Removing relatively clean lake water in the fall will contribute to lower long-term lake levels since it is unrealistic to expect the lake to refill every spring. Furthermore, to the extent it does refill, it will have increased farm waste pollutants and nutrients that will exacerbate weed growth and water quality issues.

5. Politically, the City Council of Watertown and the Corps will be blamed for all future issues at Lake Kampeska if the TSP proceeds. Maintaining the quality and usability of Lake Kampeska is a complex and evolving set of issues, but—fair or not—the City Council and the Corps will be blamed for degrading the Lake in the future if the current TSP proceeds. I suggest that the City Council direct the Corps to address both the impacts of the Project on Lake Kampeska and also address an alternative TSP that deletes the Lake Kampeska component.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide an honest reaction to the Study and Public Meeting.

Very truly yours,

Jonathan J. Oviatt



TO: US Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District
ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller)
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4901

From: South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
603 Lakeshore Drive
McCook Lake, South Dakota 57049

Re: City of Watertown, Army CoE Flood Control Project

Dear Corps representative,

It has come to our attention that the Army Corps of Engineers (CoE) has abandoned any further action regarding the Mahoney Creek Retention Dam Project for the City of Watertown, SD and is now proposing a lesser project based on establishing flood storage capacity, that will entail 1) annual lowering of the level of Lake Kampeska and 2) the widening and lowering of the Big Sioux River (BSR) channel through Watertown.

We are sure you will agree that the only real answer to preventing flooding of the City of Watertown is the Mahoney Creek Retention Dam. Whether or not the project meets your cost benefit ratio or has political opposition, it would have provided a permanent solution to flooding damage to Watertown.

The current proposal has serious flaws which we would like to point out and does not have the ability to provide the City the protection it needs in a serious flood. The Corps may be able to justify the cost benefit on an annual basis when considering no or minimal flooding events, but when a substantial flood event, such as the one in 1997 occurs the 26-million-dollar storage project you are proposing will be obliterated in a matter of minutes.

- 1) Your proposal to lower the level of Lake Kampeska by 8 tenths of a foot on an annual fall basis will have long term consequences not recognized in your study.

History: *The Upper Big Sioux Water Shed, once a branch of the City of Watertown, spent upwards of 8 million dollars to help establish best management projects in the water shed. Those practices are keeping some of the agricultural pollution from entering the Big Sioux River and ultimately Lake Kampeska. The Lake Kampeska Water Project District financed the weir at the inlet of Lake Kampeska. The weir is designed to keep initial flows of sediment laden water from entering the Lake. Both projects have been working and water quality in Lake Kampeska has been improving. That said the work done in the past will not be negated but the prospects for additional best management practices will be diminished knowing the City is not willing to protect its most valuable water resource.*

The Corps proposal to lower the level of Lake Kampeska by .8 feet or 4000 acre feet of capacity, will subject the lake to an equivalent amount of more pollutant laden water in years of heavier flooding. Those polluted runoff waters will add more sediment and nutrients to an already degraded water body.

Lake Kampeska sits in the Big Sioux Aquifer and is being constantly replenished with spring water from that aquifer. In years when the aquifer is high and Lake recharge is greatest, we question if the Lake can be lowered without weir manipulation or costly pumping. Lastly, in regard to the Lake in years when the aquifer is low, and recharge is lessened we have concerns about potential winter kill. The presence of Zebra Mussels has resulted in very clear water that is producing extensive aquatic plant growth. In the winter when that vegetation dies, oxygen will be depleted and the shallower the water the more likely is the potential for a fish kill.

- 2) The primary bottleneck of the BSR is in the area of the Sioux Conifer Road and your proposal has ignored that for whatever reason.
- 3) The CoE's proposal for 2 miles of channelization through Watertown, in order to provide additional storage for a flood event, has totally escaped our thought processes. The capacity that you hope to gain after removing trees and structures on either or both sides of the river will provide almost no additional capacity when compared to the volume of water that will be transported in a serious flood. Any depth to the channel will already be filled the minute you excavate it and the additional width then needed to make a difference would have to be far in excess of your proposal. Water will flow best where there is least resistance, so the area of the existing channel will still be the fastest flowing water, the outer edges, the area you will be excavating will be slower moving and sediments will quickly drop out creating a huge mud flat that will need to be dredged periodically in order to maintain the intended storage capacity. Who will pay for the dredging? Will the public get more enjoyment from stumbling around in a mud flat than walking through a tree filled grassy park?
- 4) A study done decades ago indicates that the area below St. Anne's Hill, West of where the hospital is located, has a substrate layer (likely clay) that is acting as a dam for water flowing out of Lake Kampeska. Any attempts to lower and possibly widen the Big Sioux River could result in lowering or draining of Lake Kampeska. Has the CoE reviewed this report and have independent studies been performed or planned to substantiate this possibility?
- 5) The CFS flow during the 1997 flood would have filled your proposed storage capacity in lake Kampeska in 5 minutes. The storage capacity you propose through Watertown will be filled in less time. Spending 26 million dollars for less than 10 minutes of flood protection does not, in our estimation, meet a reasonable cost/benefit ratio.

The Izaak Walton League at its meeting on October 5th, 2024 voted unanimously to oppose this project and to request that the Corps reconsider the Mahoney Creek Retention Dam project.

Sincerely,



Kelly Kistner, Division President of the IWLA
Cell No. [REDACTED]

Cc: City of Watertown
Attn: Reid Holien, Mayor
23 Second St.
Watertown, South Dakota 57201

From: [Dorothy Connelley](#)
To: [CENWO-CW-PlanningOutreach](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Sioux river flood plan, Watertown, SD
Date: Sunday, October 6, 2024 12:47:50 PM

I am opposed to the planned changes to the Sioux River in Watertown. I live in the townhouse complex just to the east of the river.

As far as I can tell, nothing would be gained by this action.

Thank you .

Dorothy Connelley



-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@dma.mil <noreply@dma.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 3:09 PM

To: DLL-CENWO-WEB-ODPROJECT-OTH <DLL-CENWO-WEB-ODPROJECT-OTH@usace.army.mil>

Subject: Omaha District Contact Form: Lake Kampeska

CAUTION: Your email client may display clickable links. The data in this email is provided without modification, as the user entered it. Before you click or use any link provided in this email, please confirm the authenticity of the link.

This message was sent from the Omaha District website.

Message From: Doug Modica

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone:

Location (City, State, Zip):

Response requested: Yes

Message:

I've been a resident of Watertown, SD at 786 N Lake Drive on Lake Kampeska for the past 27 years and have been impacted 3 times by flooding of the lake.

The recent plan for flood "mitigation" may protect the town residents but most likely will NOT protect us lake residents.

1. There's no guarantee the lake can be lowered as planned. The level is more controlled by the aquifer's hydrological water table than river flow into it. And there's been no analysis of lowering it in time for spring flooding.
2. Even if lowered in time, past floods still rose above the existing weir and would still flood most lake residents. And the western town would still suffer damaging flooding as in the past. Hence, flooding is NOT "mitigated."
3. Also, the north Sioux Conifer Road dams Sioux River flood water and floods it into the lake. This problem was ignored.
4. And an ignored Mud Creek diversion plan would also reduce flooding the lake.
5. Please pass all this on to Sarah Miller.



USACE FEASIBILITY DRAFT REPORT REVIEW COMMENTS

To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
Attention: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller)
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102

cc: The City of Watertown
23 2nd Street NE
Watertown, SD 57201

From: Peter Rausch, PE, CFM
Watershed Program Manager
RESPEC
3824 Jet Drive
Rapid City, SD 57703

Date: October 14, 2024

Subject: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment – Lake Kampeska Water Project District Comments

This memorandum serves as a formal response on behalf of the Lake Kampeska Water Project District (District) within the Public Comment period for the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (Draft FR/EA) and the pending Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) published by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on September 9, 2024. This memorandum is being submitted by RESPEC Company, LLC (RESPEC) to both the USACE as the author of the report and the City of Watertown as the Project Sponsor.

SUMMARY

The District has significant concerns about the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), Alternative 8, specifically regarding the proposed seasonal lowering of Lake Kampeska elevation from 1,718.8 feet to 1,718.0 feet (North American Vertical Datum of 1988 [NAVD 88]¹). Points of concern include:

1. Impracticability of seasonally lowering the lake elevation to 1,718.0 feet as proposed,
2. Potential adverse impacts to Lake Kampeska if seasonal lowering is successfully implemented.

¹ All elevation references are in NAVD 88 datum unless noted otherwise.

3824 JET DRIVE
RAPID CITY, SD 57703
P.O. BOX 725 // RAPID CITY, SD 57709
605.394.6400

3. Neglected potential costs of implementing the seasonal lowering.
4. Appropriateness of hydrologic and hydraulic modeling assumptions.

In developing this response on behalf of the District, past USACE reports, technical memoranda, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SD GFP) Vested Water Right No. 890-3², and Flood Control Permits FC-3³ and FC29-3⁴ were reviewed in consideration of the identified concerns. Basic analyses were also performed regarding the existing Lake Kampeska sediment diversion structure (sediment diversion), the Big Sioux River weir (river weir), and past river flow and lake elevation data to evaluate and support the District's concerns.

BACKGROUND

Prior Recommended Plan. Significant work has been undertaken over the last few decades by the District, the City of Watertown, and by USACE to evaluate flood mitigation options. Before the current Flood Risk Management Study (FRM) and Draft FR/EA, the construction of Mahoney Creek Dam was the USACE's recommended plan, providing flood protection to both Lake Kampeska and the City.

Tribal Opposition. As identified in the Draft FR/EA [USACE, 2024], challenges have prevented the implementation of the Mahoney Creek Dam alternative. The current study ultimately dismisses Mahoney Creek Dam, placing particular emphasis on Tribal and related USACE Environmental Justice policies for justification; however, the Draft FR/EA notes that the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Council adopted a resolution, sent to USACE on November 8, 2023, stating, "**the Tribe supports only the No Action Alternative and opposes the proposed Watertown FRM project**" [USACE, 2024].

USACE does not provide clear explanation as to how remaining alternatives, each of which include seasonal changes to the elevation of Lake Kampeska and waters outside the lake within Tribal boundaries, are not subject to similar policies regarding the apparent Tribal opposition to the FRM project as a whole.

Tentatively Selected Plan. The components of the TSP, Alternative 8, include a combination of seasonally lowering Lake Kampeska, constructing levees, and widening the Big Sioux River channel. The District is primarily concerned with the seasonal lowering of the lake. The Draft FR/EA [USACE, 2024] states:

"This alternative would utilize the existing low flow gates to lower Lake Kampeska. The Big Sioux River channel weir operation would need to be modified to draw the elevation down to 1718 ft which includes changing the portion of the existing weir where the flashboards are located."

RESPEC assumes that the "low flow gates" are the sluice gates in the sediment diversion structure; however, the changes that are being proposed to the river weir where the flashboards (stop logs) are located are unclear. Furthermore, the Draft FR/EA does not acknowledge that both weir structures and their respective operating criteria are governed by Flood Control Permits FC-3 and FC-29, and does not provide detail regarding required changes in operation for the TSP to function as proposed.

The stated purpose of the sediment diversion weir is to reduce sediment deposition into Lake Kampeska by keeping first flushes and low flows within the Big Sioux River, while the river weir controls

² https://danr.sd.gov/wrimage/wrinfo/wr_div3/890-3.pdf

³ https://danr.sd.gov/wrimage/wrinfo/wr_div3/FC-3.pdf

⁴ https://danr.sd.gov/wrimage/wrinfo/wr_div3/FC29-3.pdf

and maintains the level of Lake Kampeska [HDR, 2000]. Any changes made to the weirs and their operation could jeopardize their effectiveness and the original purposes for which they were constructed. Points of concern are further described in the following sections.

POINTS OF CONCERN

1. IMPRACTICALITY OF SEASONALLY LOWERING LAKE KAMPESKA ELEVATION AS PROPOSED

The existing river weir was (re)constructed in 2002 with the purpose of controlling and maintaining the level of Lake Kampeska. Stamped plans for the project are found in the documentation for FC29-3, produced by HDR and dated April 2001. According to the plans, the river weir has a crest elevation of 1,718.8 feet and includes a stop log structure through the weir with a bottom elevation of 1,717.8 feet (the total depth of the stop log structure is 1.0 foot). The stop log structure itself consists of two sets of 5-foot stop logs adjacent to one another, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 (note elevations in Figure 2 are in the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 [NGVD29] datum). According to District representatives, repairs and improvements have since been made to the river weir to prevent the Big Sioux River from bypassing the structure.

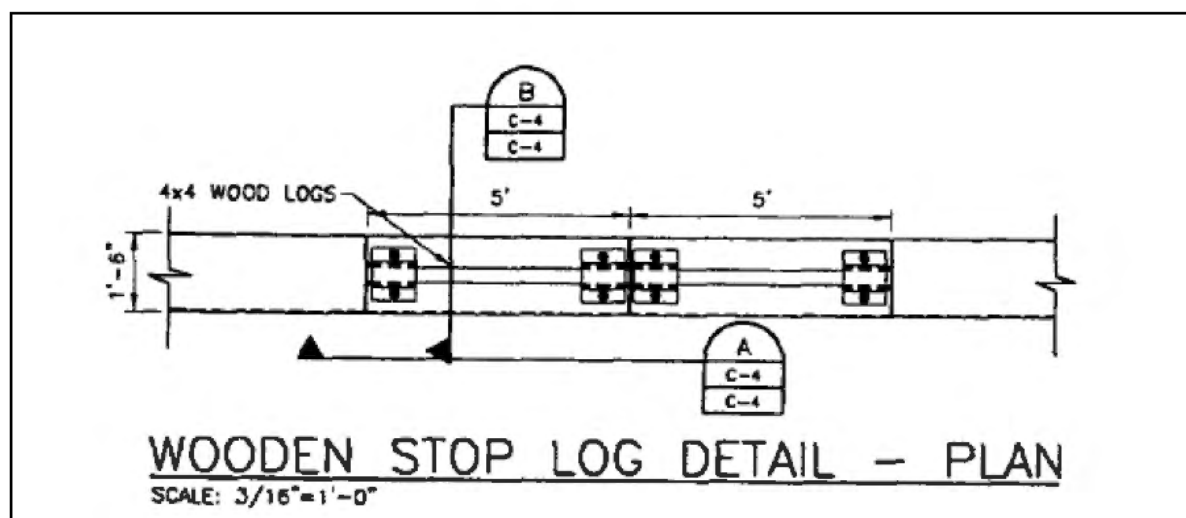


Figure 1. River Weir Wooden Stop Log Plan View [HDR, 2001].

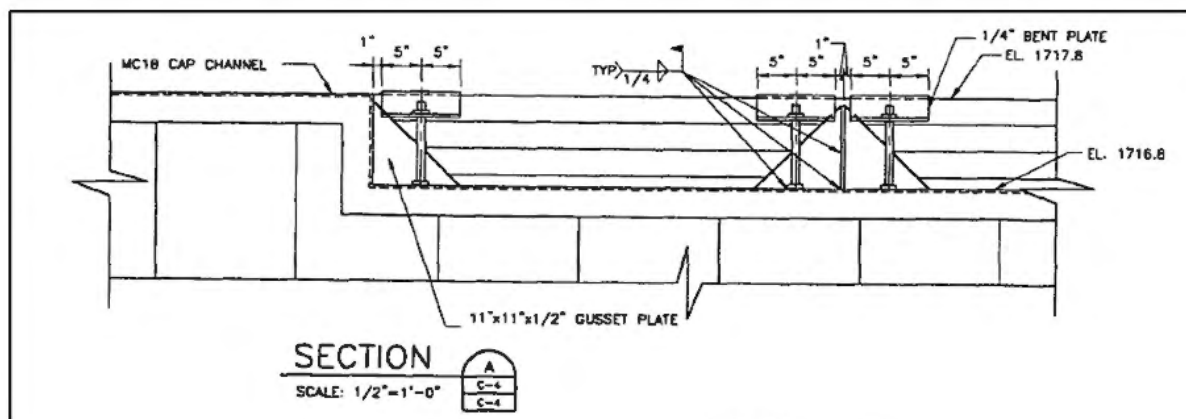


Figure 2. River Weir Wooden Stop Log Section. Elevations in the figure are in the NGVD 29 Datum (add 1.0 foot for NAVD 88 datum).

The Draft FR/EA [USACE, 2024] assumes that, under existing conditions, the elevation of Lake Kampeska is typically full prior to spring runoff, at 1,718.8 feet. Analysis of past Lake Kampeska daily elevation data from 2001 to 2024 indicates that median elevation in February and March ranges from 1,718.7 to 1,718.9 feet, and thus an assumed elevation of 1,718.8 feet seems reasonable. The Draft FR/EA states that the TSP will include removing stop logs in the fall to lower the lake elevation through the fall and winter. The assumption is that the lake elevation will reliably drop to elevation 1,718.0 feet before spring runoff and provide an additional 3,300 acre-feet of flood storage in Lake Kampeska compared to existing conditions. The stop logs would then be put back in place after spring runoff to set the lake elevation back to 1,718.8 feet.

RESPEC assumes that flow through the stop log structure will determine lake elevation, based on the structure's elevation-discharge relationship. A basic elevation-discharge rating curve was estimated for the stop log structure, shown in Figure 3, using equations to represent two trapezoidal weirs based on the stop log structure geometry.

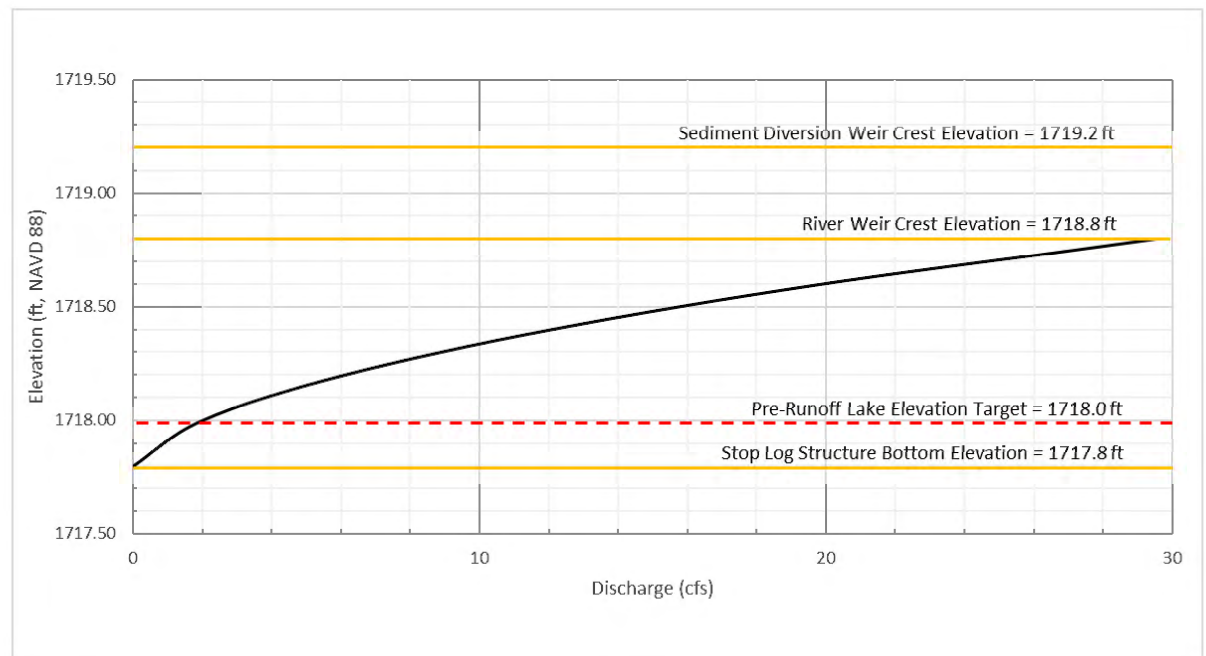


Figure 3. Estimated Elevation-Discharge Rating Curve for the Stop Log Structure.

This estimated rating curve for the stop log structure suggests that the desired pre-runoff water surface elevation of 1,718.0 feet corresponds with a flow rate of about 2 cubic feet per second (cfs) on the Big Sioux River at the river weir. This further suggests that flow in excess of 2 cfs during the lowering period from fall until spring runoff could prevent achieving the desired lake elevation of 1,718.0 feet.

The Big Sioux River at Watertown gage (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] Gage 6479500) is assumed to be a fair representation of likely Big Sioux River flow to be expected at the river weir. However, a more thorough analysis would be needed to determine potential additional flow contributions from lake and aquifer discharge if the sediment diversion gates are open and the lake is being lowered. Daily flow data at the gage from October 1999 through September 2024 were analyzed to determine flow exceedance probabilities. The analysis indicates that 2 cfs of Big Sioux River flow is equaled or exceeded 60 to 70 percent of the time during October through February, which would imply that achieving the desired lake elevation of 1,718.0 feet (and additional flood storage capacity of 3,330 acre-feet) before spring



runoff (i.e., March) has a success probability of only 30 to 40 percent. However, this analysis neglects the potential for ice buildup through the winter months at the stop log structure, which would likely reduce its discharge capacity and lower the success probability even further. Again, the analysis also neglects potential additional flow contribution from lake and aquifer discharge while draining the lake.

The results of this analysis suggest that the seasonal lowering of Lake Kampeska is impracticable as proposed (simply removing stop logs) and unable to reliably provide 3,300 acre-feet of additional flood storage from year to year as compared to existing conditions. Factoring in an initial lake elevation based on this analysis for proposed conditions in the hydraulic model would seem appropriate; in essence, the assumed initial lake elevation should be higher than 1,718.0 feet for this alternative as proposed, which would ultimately reduce the calculated benefit of the alternative, lowering the benefit-cost ratio (BCR). Alternatively, structural modifications to the river weir would be needed to reliably implement seasonal lowering, which would come with significant additional costs and challenges for implementing, also lowering the BCR.

2. POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS TO LAKE KAMPESKA IF SEASONAL LOWERING IS SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED

The Draft FR/EA provided little discussion on the potential adverse impacts that may result at Lake Kampeska if the lake elevation were to be seasonally lowered. One concern is the potential to cause an increase in annual pollutant loading to Lake Kampeska if seasonally lowering the lake can be successfully implemented and provide the target additional flood storage in Lake Kampeska.

The Draft FR/EA states: “Negligible effects to water quality [are expected] from the seasonal lowering of Lake Kampeska as the target surface water elevation is within its normal band of operations” [USACE, 2024]. If this logic would hold true regarding changes to pollutant loading, it would have to apply to the potential effect on flood mitigation—negligible because the lake elevation will be within its normal band of operations. As described in the previous point, the proposed seasonal lowering of the lake to elevation 1,718.0 feet by removing stop logs does seem to have low probability of success from year to year. Either the proposal to seasonally lower Lake Kampeska will provide effective flood mitigation through increased storage, and thus increase annual pollutant loading to the lake beyond a negligible amount, or it will not provide effective flood mitigation through additional storage beyond existing conditions, and thus will not significantly increase pollutant loading from existing conditions.

If the lake can be successfully lowered, any flow event on the Big Sioux River that overtops the sediment diversion weir has the potential to contribute greater pollutant load than without the lake lowered. The annual effect from the proposed changes depends on the frequency, magnitude, and corresponding pollutant loading of overtopping events over time. These are complicated relationships for this complex system. A thorough study of potential water quality impacts is recommended using an appropriate time series hydrologic and pollutant transport modeling platform.

Regarding the frequency of overtopping events, seasonally removing the stop logs has been suggested to possibly have a net benefit on lake water quality by increasing the flow and pollutants that would bypass the lake. This suggestion can be considered at a basic level by evaluating the increase in discharge capacity at the river weir relative to the flow rate that overtops the sediment diversion weir, and the corresponding change in exceedance probability of that overtopping flow rate.

As reported by HDR in the *Amendment and Executive Summary for Technical Memorandum No. 1*, which addressed permitting concerns with the original FC29-3 Flood Control Application, the river weir as designed would cause flows higher than 400 cfs to begin overtopping the Lake Kampeska sediment diversion weir (assuming that diversion gates are closed) [HDR, 2000]. This would indicate that the river

weir would discharge 400 cfs at a water elevation of 1,719.2 feet, just before overtopping into the lake. As described in the previous point, the stop log structure has an estimated capacity of about 30 cfs flowing full at elevation 1,718.8 feet, as shown in Figure 3. To consider the increased capacity in a simple manner, the removal of the stop logs may increase the river weir discharge capacity from 400 cfs to about 430 cfs at an elevation of 1,719.2 feet, just before overtopping the sediment diversion weir. However, a high potential for the stop log structure to be blocked in part or in whole by ice floes or debris during spring runoff seems to exist. Ice jams are a common occurrence along this segment of the Big Sioux River during early spring runoff. Ice jams and debris would reduce or even eliminate the potential increased capacity through the river weir from removing stop logs during the proposed timeframe.

To consider the corresponding change in frequency of overtopping events, we turn back to the flow exceedance probability analysis at the Big Sioux River at Watertown gage (USGS Gage 6479500) described under the previous point. The change only applies during the time of spring runoff, before stop logs are intended to be replaced. The timing is not specifically described in the Draft FR/EA, but RESPEC assumes stop logs would be replaced near the end of April. Accordingly, during March and April, a flow rate of 400 cfs has 7 and 19 percent probabilities of being equaled or exceeded, respectively. To neglect potential blockage of the stop log structure, an increased overtopping flow rate of 430 cfs would have probabilities of 5 and 18 percent in March and April, respectively. This suggests that the probability of Big Sioux River flow overtopping the sediment diversion weir would be reduced by 1 to 2 percent during spring runoff while stop logs are removed. Again, to really understand how the proposed changes would affect water quality in Lake Kampeska, performing time series hydrologic and pollutant transport modeling would be appropriate. The study should determine the net change in annual pollutant loading from existing conditions, and determine appropriate mitigation measures and associated costs.

Another concern about impacts from the proposed plan is the potential to affect normal lake elevation and the established ordinary high water mark (OHWM). Potential changes that could be caused by the successful implementation of the proposed seasonal lowering of the lake do not seem to have been meaningfully considered, and the potential effects have been deemed negligible. Questions have been raised regarding impacts on recreation, habitat, and wetlands. Additionally, the SD GFP vested water right on Lake Kampeska is based on the OHWM of 1,719.3 feet, established in 1981. The long-term effect of successfully lowering Lake Kampeska on a seasonal basis could again be evaluated with an appropriate time series hydrologic model.

3. NEGLECTED POTENTIAL COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE SEASONAL LOWERING

The presentation from the September 17, 2024, Public Meeting stated that seasonally lowering the lake elevation by using the existing stop log structure would have no associated costs, and the BCR was determined accordingly. RESPEC argues this is a flawed assumption and that the following costs should be considered for seasonally lowering the lake elevation as proposed.

Flood Control Permitting. The river weir is governed by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resource's [SD DANR] FC-3 and the sediment diversion is governed by the SD DANR's FC29-3. Based on South Dakota Codified Law 46-2A-11 and 46-5-47, it is likely that either the existing flood control permits will need to be amended, or a new flood control permit will be required for the proposed TSP to be implemented. FC29-3 mandates the operating criteria for the Lake Kampeska sediment diversion gates. The proposed plan will require changes to these operating requirements that may incur costs to the City of Watertown, which is responsible for operating and maintaining the sediment diversion and the river weir. Costs associated with amending or applying for a new flood control permit



include administrative costs, additional engineering analyses, and attorney fees to take the proposed project through the permitting process with the SD DANR. It should be considered that the District currently intends to contest this process for the TSP as proposed. In addition, potential costs for implementing the proposed changes, if permitting is successful, should be identified and considered.

Water Rights Assessment. The SD GFP holds Vested Water Right Permit No. 890-3, claiming approximately 15,850 acre-feet of water in Lake Kampeska, based on the established OHWM of 1,719.3 feet, for recreational purposes. The cost for further engineering analysis of potential changes to the OHWM, assessment of impacts on other water users, negotiations with the SD GFP, and permit administration should be identified and considered for the TSP.

Structural Changes. The Draft FR/EA states that modifications to the river weir are required to lower the lake elevation to 1,718.0 feet [USACE, 2024]. However, proposed “modifications” beyond operation of stop logs have not been identified or accounted in costs for the BCR. As described in the first point of concern, the desired seasonal lowering of Lake Kampeska through operation of the existing stop log structure has a low probability of successful implementation. If the proposed TSP requires structural changes to the river weir, these changes must be explicitly identified for permitting and public consideration, and costs must be determined for BCR analysis.

Water Quality Assessment. As previously stated, an appropriate time series hydrologic and pollutant transport modeling platform should be used to determine the net change in annual pollutant loading from existing conditions from the TSP, and determine appropriate mitigation measures and associated costs. A Hydrologic Simulation Program – FORTTRAN (HSPF) model for the full Big Sioux River Watershed has been developed for the SD DANR’s South Dakota Flood Information System (SDFIS) and calibrated for hydrology. The model could be used to facilitate an appropriate study of water quality effects on Lake Kampeska, but water quality parameters would need to be incorporated and calibrated, and the model may need to be paired with a lake water quality modeling platform.

4. APPROPRIATENESS OF HYDROLOGIC AND HYDRAULIC MODELING ASSUMPTIONS

Appendix B of the Draft FR/EA [USACE, 2024] states various hydrological and hydraulic assumptions that were used in the development of the HEC-RAS model to analyze existing and proposed conditions.

Initial Lake Kampeska elevation. As stated in Appendix B of the Draft FR/EA, an initial lake elevation of 1,718.0 feet was used for proposed conditions [USACE, 2024]. A basic analysis of Lake Kampeska elevation data was performed to understand typical lake elevations and flows during certain months of the year.

Daily stage gage data were downloaded from September 28, 2001, to August 27, 2024, from the Lake Kampeska at Water Plant at Watertown, SD gage (USGS Gage 06479449). These data were then separated into each month and statistics were calculated from the daily data. The median lake elevation for the month of February was assumed to represent typical conditions just before spring flood events, and was calculated to be 1,718.7 feet. The median lake elevation for the month of March, likely influenced by spring runoff, was calculated to be 1,718.9 feet. This suggests that the model assumption using a starting lake elevation of 1,718.8 feet for existing conditions seems reasonable.

Our analysis of proposed conditions assumes that starting lake elevation will be determined by flow through the existing stop log structure. As described in the first point of concern, a flow rate of 2 cfs through the stop log structure would set the lake elevation at 1,718.0, neglecting potential ice buildup at the structure. The flow frequency analysis indicates that 2 cfs at the river weir is equaled or exceeded

60 to 70 percent of the time during October through February, neglecting potential additional flow contributions from proposed operational changes. The results suggest that the seasonal lowering of Lake Kampeska is impracticable as proposed and would not reliably provide 3,300 acre-feet of additional flood storage. Using 1,718.0 feet for the initial Lake Kampeska elevation for proposed conditions is not appropriate, and further analysis should be performed to determine a reasonable starting elevation, higher than 1,718.0, that could be justified as representing typical conditions expected year to year from the TSP.

Coincidental Peak Flows. The Draft FR/EA modeling for the 1 percent annual chance event applied coincident 100-year peak flow events for the Big Sioux River, Mud Creek, and the Mud Creek tributary for existing and proposed conditions [USACE, 2024]. This combination includes 11,700 cfs from the Big Sioux River and 3,980 cfs from Mud Creek and its tributary modeled coincidentally, resulting in a total flow of 15,680 cfs on the Big Sioux River at Lake Kampeska. The annual probability of these three combined 100-year events occurring and peaking at the same should be analyzed further to evaluate the appropriateness of using coincidental 100-year peak flow events.

To understand the potential for coincident peaks from past events, a simple comparison was made analyzing the timing of peak flow events at the Big Sioux River near Watertown, SD gage (USGS Gage 06479438) and Mud Creek near Rauville, SD gage (USGS Gage 06479490), from 1998 to 2023. Both gages are located about 5 miles upstream of the Big Sioux/Mud Creek confluence near Lake Kampeska, so it is assumed that travel times to the lake are similar. Table 1 compares the recorded peak flow (and peak stage) events for the two gages; some of the pairs do not apparently represent the same flood event. Based on these data, Mud Creek peak flow regularly occurs 1 day before the Big Sioux River peak flow. Of the 25 recorded events, 7 of the events had less than a day difference. The remaining peak flow events differed by 1 day or more. Without specific times being recorded up until 2018, peak flow events recorded on consecutive days were assumed to occur a full 24 hours apart.

The *Upper Big Sioux River Hydrology* report [Little, 1998] provides a detailed account of the 1997 flood event, including specific timing of peak flows on Mud Creek and the Big Sioux River. After the rain event, Mud Creek peaked at an estimated 3,600 cfs "the evening of" April 5, 1997. The Big Sioux River near Watertown gage peaked at a flow of 7,820 cfs "near midnight" that night. It is not clear how many hours separated the two peaks, but these past observations should be considered regarding coincidental events, and a coincident frequency analysis should be performed to determine the appropriateness of modeling the Big Sioux River and Mud Creek with coincident 100-year peak flow events. An offset in peak timing and subsequent reduction in combined peak flow rate at Lake Kampeska could reduce the required extent of flood mitigation measures. This could reduce the TSP's dependence on lowering Lake Kampeska for successful implementation.

Table 1. Timing Comparison of Mud Creek and Big Sioux River Peak Flow Events

USGS Gage 06479490 MUD CREEK NEAR RAUVILLE, SD			USGS Gage 06479438 BIG SIOUX RIVER NEAR WATERTOWN, SD			Timing Difference
Date of Peak Flow Event	Time of Peak Flow	Peak Flow Value (cfs)	Date of Peak Flow Event	Time of Peak Flow	Peak Flow Value (cfs)	
10/17/1998		47	10/17/1998		946	< 1 day
3/8/2000		1.7	3/1/2000		Stage Only*	NA
4/7/2001		850	4/7/2001		8,000	< 1 day
3/28/2002		600	3/29/2002		800	1 day
3/16/2003		10	3/17/2003		250	1 day
2004		No Data	6/2/2004		75	NA
6/14/2005		200	6/14/2005		565	< 1 day
3/30/2006		200	3/31/2006		554	1 day
3/21/2007		300	3/22/2007		1,950	1 day
6/12/2008		185	6/13/2008		809	1 day
3/16/2009		Stage Only*	3/17/2009		Stage Only*	1 day
3/23/2009		742	3/23/2009		2,400	< 1 day
3/14/2010		190	3/15/2010		Stage Only*	1 day
4/3/2011		448	4/4/2011		2,380	1 day
3/12/2012		113	3/13/2012		267	1 day
4/28/2013		240	4/28/2013		1,050	< 1 day
6/19/2014		160	6/19/2014		1,950	< 1 day
3/9/2015		Stage Only*	3/10/2015		Stage Only*	1 day
4/25/2016		3	4/27/2016		89	2 days
2/20/2017		10	2/19/2017		Stage Only*	1 day
4/22/2018	1:30	697	4/22/2018	7:00	2,090	5.5 hours
3/23/2019	13:00	Stage Only*	3/28/2019	4:30	3,390	NA
8/8/2021	19:00	8	4/10/2021		402	NA
5/30/2022	20:37	773	5/31/2022	7:00	2,080	10 hours
4/11/2023	23:00	1,910	4/13/2023	8:15	6,450	34 hours

* Indicates occurrence of peak stage impacted by backwater



CONCLUSION

Based on RESPEC's review and analysis, we recommend that the City of Watertown and USACE reevaluate and reconsider the proposed seasonal lowering of Lake Kampeska to 1,718.0 feet as part of the TSP for the following reasons:

- / Reliably lowering the lake to an elevation of 1,718.0 as proposed is impracticable.
- / No serious analysis of the potential for adverse water quality impacts to Lake Kampeska has been performed.
- / Considerable costs are associated with this plan that have not been accounted for.
- / Assumptions used for hydrologic and hydraulic modeling appear to be flawed.

REFERENCES

HDR, 2000. *Amendment and Executive Summary for Technical Memorandum No. 1, Diversion Structure Project*, prepared by HDR Engineering, Sioux Falls, SD, for Lake Kampeska Water Project District, Watertown, SD, and The City of Watertown South Dakota, Watertown, SD.

HDR, 2001. *Document Set #10*, City of Watertown, South Dakota, Lake Kampeska and Big Sioux River Water Quality Diversion Weir Project, HDR Project No. 08080-007-135, Watertown Project #2001-24 prepared by HDR Engineering, Sioux Falls, SD.

Little, J. R., 1998. *Upper Big Sioux River Hydrology*, prepared by John R. Little, in cooperation with the Lake Kampeska Water Project District, Watertown, SD.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2024. *Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment*, Watertown, South Dakota Flood Risk Management General Investigations Study, prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District Northwestern Division, Omaha, NE, in partnership with the City of Watertown, Watertown, SD.