

Dear Lake Kampeska Property Owners:

Your Lake Kampeska Water Project District (LKWPD) Board of Directors was delighted with the Kampeska property owner turnout Tuesday at the US Army Corps of Engineers/City Flood Control Update meeting at the Watertown Event Center.

As was noted at the meeting, the LKWPD Board voted unanimously to oppose the plan presented Tuesday night.

We have engaged an engineering firm (RESPEC out of Rapid City) to assist our efforts in the technical review of the Flood Control plan as proposed.

The 30-day comment period began on September 9, 2024 whereby organizations (e.g., LKWPD) and citizens (you) can provide comments - feedback - on the matter discussed Tuesday night. We encourage as many comments from as many of you as possible, to insure our collective voices are heard.

We would also recommend you contact our city council. While all council members should be concerned with what happens to our inside-the-city-limits lake, three members, in particular, are voted on by Kampeska residents:

- Our Mayor, Ried Holien
- Our Ward E council member, Lynn Jurrens
- Our At-Large council member, Randy Tupper

Contact information can be found here: <https://sd-watertown3.civicplus.com/Directory.aspx?did=41>

The LKWPD board will provide written comments to go along with our comments made at multiple meetings to-date, including comments made at Tuesday night's meeting. Here are our key points on the proposal:

1- There is no hydrological justification in the report for lowering the levels of Lake Kampeska to 1718' in the late summer/fall.

2- There is little to no analysis as to whether it is even possible to lower the lake in the time frame as presented, as there is no indication of accounting for rain events, the condition (and level) of the aquifer, etc.

3- Unlike as reported Tuesday night, lowering the lake level is NOT a "no cost" alternative - there are costs:

A) costs to go through the (South Dakota) water management board process to change the operations of the weir(s);

B) costs from increased sedimentation in the lake;

C) costs from increased phosphorous (our lake weeds love phosphorous) and other chemical pollutant loading in the lake; It is the responsibility of the Corps and the city to prove there is no damage in the scope of the plan area. We see significant damage to Lake Kampeska.

4- The Corps models show 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.

5- The Spring Flush/Flood event as noted in the plan, will harm water quality in Lake Kampeska; we understand that it will take all of a few minutes for the Big Sioux River flood event to overcome the lowered Weir dam, and we reject the comments made by the city at the meeting that this all by itself will provide adequate protection (for water quality) during the *initial* flooding.

6- 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, if not THE biggest, bottlenecks to Big Sioux River flowing through the system; in fact, much of the water “back-up” and flooding at Kampeska comes from the bottleneck at Sioux Conifer Road.

6- We remain interested in hearing more about a discussed Mud Creek diversion project, which will divert Mud Creek flows downstream, prior to flowing into Lake Kampeska, and would hope this would become a part of any final plan.

Your LKWPD will continue to engage our engineering consultants to clearly articulate these concerns, based on models that we have far more confidence in, than what was presented Tuesday night.

Written comments can be sent to (please include your name, address and email):
US Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District
ATTN: CENWO-PMA-A (Sarah Miller)
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102-4901

For the LKWPD Board,

Greg Blow, Chairman

Watertown SD Flood Project website: <https://shorturl.at/bVwnh>