



Lows tonight 60 to 65. Highs Friday 80 to 85.

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# WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION

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## Combination of factors worry lake residents

By JASON WILLIAMS  
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LAKE WATERS ARE not the only thing murky about Lake Kampeska's flooding situation.

Some lakefront residences are bracing for flooding that could be caused by a combination of the high water level at the lake, forecasted rains and high winds.

But confusing dialogue between county officials and some lake residents on the cost of sandbags has stirred controversy.

Sandbags will only be distributed free of charge when a government agency agrees to pay the cost, according to Bob Taken, Codington County Civil Defense director. The federal government is picking up the tab on many relief efforts in other parts of the Midwest because of a presidential disaster declaration, he said.

But county governments can also purchase sandbags to give to residents that are in jeopardy of being flooded, Taken said. As of Thursday, the county was still charging 20 cents per bag to cover some of their purchase and shipping costs.

"BROWN COUNTY IS charging 40 cents a bag," Taken said. "Until the commissioners change the county ordinance we're not going to give away sandbags."

But some Kampeska residents feel their homes are being jeopardized by high water, and that the county should be doing more to help protect lake homes.

"Their making an issue out of 20 cents a bag; it's not a matter of the money. We're not getting assistance from anybody," said Jim Tillman, a Kampeska property owner. "Why am I paying taxes if the county's not protecting me?"

Taken surveyed homes around the lake last night, and Tillman said Taken told him that indeed there was "definitely a problem." But Taken said he cannot proceed with any official actions to provide sandbags or riprapping materials.

"I can go out and see the situation and talk with people," Taken said. "I then advise them (Codington County Commissioners) on the situation. That's all I can do."

TILLMAN SAID HE talked with several lake residents last night who were frustrated by the county's decision not to provide any precautionary flooding measures.

"Everybody I talked to can't believe

### KAMPESKA Lake reaches 28 inches over



Overflowing aquifers and rivers continue to push Kampeska's water level higher. Kampeska is the highest it has ever been in July since record keeping began. Listed below are the highest readings ever for the lake.

1943	42.5"
1969	37.5"
1952	36.87"
1986	36"
1979	30"
<b>1993</b>	<b>28"</b>
1937	22.37"

that we're not in an emergency situation," Tillman said.

Three boy scout troops volunteered to help build a 450 feet long by 2-1/2 feet high wall of heavy plastic and sand bags on and adjacent to Tillman's home on South Lake Drive Tuesday night.

Taken said he worked until 11 p.m. last night selling sand bags to residents.

Forecasters are predicting a 60 percent chance of rain for tonight and a 30 percent chance for showers tomorrow. Lake Kampeska was 28 inches above full this morning.

"We're real anxious. A front's supposed to come through that's supposed to bring the winds back from the north," Tillman said. "I just hope then that the wall holds up."