

Appendix G

Agency Scoping Comments

Agency Scoping Workshop Notes, Worksheets, Priorities Exercise
Agency Comments

Table Rock Lake Agency Meeting

Question & Answer Period

Q – There is a disconnect between property owners, dock owners, and the Corps. I would encourage a engaging a stakeholder focus group process in the MP revision so that those that live on the lake can be involved.

A – There was a discussion of including focus groups and we will do our best to include the public in all aspects of the Master Plan

Q – Where can we find the current Master Plan?

A – The Corps is in the process of adding this to the website. The new version will be electronically available.

Q – Is there a reason why the Master Plan is only updated every so many years?

A – The plan is reviewed every 5 years, but a full revision is contingent on funding

Q – Can the community provide funding?

A – We are looking into this, but there are some legislative obstacles that have only been resolved in the past year. Part of the Master Plan process is to identify funding sources and stakeholders.

Q – Can we find out trends in comments at the public meetings?

A – CDM Smith will prepare a publically available scoping report which will contain a summary of these comments.

Q – How does this fit with the Master Planning of Beaver Lake, Bull Shoals, etc? Have you considered doing a White River System Master Plan?

A – We currently only have funding for Table Rock Lake. We realize other lakes' plans need to be updated, but we need funding for that to happen

Q – Are the current Master Plans for those lakes available?

A – That is an excellent idea and we can work to make those electronically available.

Q – Is there an estimate of what it might cost for a White River Master Plan?

A – There would be a lot of hydraulic analyses involved in such a plan. There are many interests involved and this could cost over 20 million dollars.

Q – Is there a way that the Corps can meet with counties, cities, etc. to encourage planning that would benefit the natural resources of the lake? For example, encouragement of pervious areas in adjacent developments.

A – There are programs including Silver Jackets that are currently working towards this goal of flood plain management for small communities. We hope to include information in the Master Plan that helps us to address neighboring communities and how they can help with the overall vision of the lake.

Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision and Environmental Assessment



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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? Less encroachment of housing and development. Leave it as natural as possible.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? Improving roadway & access to lakes. Several areas of county roads have to be closed during flood stage.

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? Control pollutants entering the lake system.

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied: Improving areas that are prone to flooding when lake is at flood stage. Particular areas of concern, Dale Ave, Graham Clark Rd., Cleverger Cove Rd, and Happy Hollow Rd.

Comments may be submitted via mail, email, fax with attention to Dana Coburn, Chief, Environmental Branch, Planning and Environmental, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203, Fax: (501) 324-5605, Email: M4TRMP@usace.army.mil, Website: <http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/tablerock/trmasterplan.htm>. Written comments must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by December 14, 2012.

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? clear to 20 ft., productive
for good fisheries, no major blooms of cyanobacteria, much of
the shoreline secluded from development. Good buffer areas between
development, communities & the lake.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? clean water to swim &
fish in. The beauty of the lake needs to be preserved through
maintenance of a quality buffer. Vegetation should be mixed
trees, shrubs and plants, limited mowing, less cedar trees.

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? Improve or replace outdated
and non-existent onsite wastewater systems, especially in older
subdivisions, & resorts. Better regulations on all areas of the lake
to catch systems that need to be replaced as property changes hands.

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied: _____

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? Clean + Clear,
I would like to see development managed in such a way that we don't end up like Lake of the Ozarks. I would like to see water trails and other eco-tourism incorporated. Minimal impact hiking trails would be nice.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? The water quality!
This lake needs to be usable & accessible for people to enjoy, but kept clean.

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? Think about the watershed, erosion control + how development impacts flooding + water quality

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied: _____

How development impacts the lake:
erosion, run off, & impervious surface
These effect flooding as well as water quality. Can the corps have discussions with city and county officials to discuss planning?

* Noise limitations. Limit loud boats.

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

Having master plans of all lakes with similar objectives/purpose

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you?

- Benefits not detriments to the watershed/water quality

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake?

Entire watershed hydrology management to better mimic a natural system as done on Reliance of Bagwell Dam on Lower USAGE River

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied:

- The Lake & its management with its potential affects on existing aquatic & terrestrial wildlife populations
- Aquatic Invasive Species prevention/Concerns
- Sustainability for water resources w/ people/wildlife
- Affects on downstream Resources
- Managed with all resources considered equally with understanding that lot of tourism driven politics and involved
- Education potential of future resource issues to the public to help instill watershed stewardship

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? _____

Continued asset economically, recreationally, and as a natural resource to our region.

Important to balance: economics, recreation, and natural resource (protection of)

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? _____

- water quality
- watershed health

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? Greater understanding & focus of its watershed. We need to accept and understand the importance of the watershed approach. Recognizing the importance of looking at the lake to include its watershed.

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied: _____

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? Open with little additional restrictions to recreational use, recreation should be considered equal, at the least to the authorized flood control & hydropower.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? Recreational Use

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? Cease closures of the primitive "unauthorized" accesses at the ends of county roads. These provide shoreline access to those who can't afford the day use fees. They disperse swimming, fishing etc AWAY FROM developed sites improving those sites as well.

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied:
I believe the recreational study should be continued beyond the first phase which was done. Need a better handle on recreational use from MARINAS + private boat docks AS WELL AS the completed public area use.

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? _____

I would like to see a lake that provides high quality water for recreational, municipal and private use.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? _____

Table Rock Lake is important because it impacts the socio-economic health of its entire watershed.

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? _____

One thing would be to focus some effort and resources to off-site issues such as protection of riparian zones in the major & minor tributaries.

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied: _____

The Corps should investigate partnership with watershed groups throughout the lake basin.

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? Continued growth in public recreation areas, ~~but~~ while protecting the natural + cultural resources of the area. Adequate shoreline protection to protect the watershed and aesthetics of the lake.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? Water quality + shoreline protection.

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? Improve drainage into the lake. Septic systems, particularly lot filtration etc.

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

- more public sewers to eliminate waste in lake
- continuation of shore line cleanup and possibly enlarge to include "all shore lines"
- Continue encouragement of recreation and regulations
- More communication of flood control for other affected lakes.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you?

Clean and beautiful for all residents and visitors to continue to enjoy for many reasons, (fishing, swimming, boating, recreation, camping, etc)

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake?

Improve private septic systems - by removing or connecting to public sewers.

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

Controlled growth that maximizes the enjoyment of the lake + shoreline while taking into consideration the needs + desires of the public, the adjacent land owners + the businesses that depend on the lake + all the while protecting the lakes water quality

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you?

Water quality and protection of the environment

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake?

Better communication process between stakeholders - adjacent land owners + businesses - and Corps decision makers

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied:

There is a "disconnect" between land owners + dock slip owners + the Corps. There is no group that has no more of a direct stake in the future of the lake, than those that have an economic interest (property values) and they are the group that could work the hardest to protect the lake.

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

- Clean and environmentally safe for humans and animals.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you?

Beauty

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake?

Keep it clean & safe.

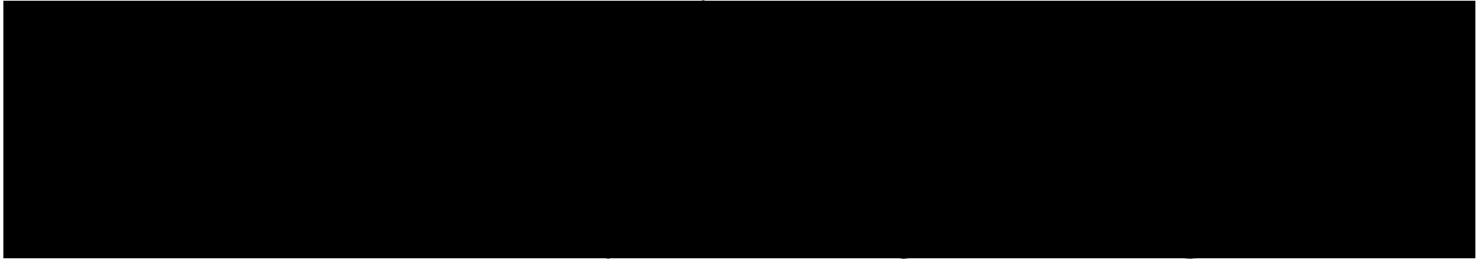
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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? *Clean, clear water supporting fish, wildlife & rec. Consider limits on high hp boats (restrict to certain areas? Restrict HP?) Family friendly - not a party lake.*

Contained & expanded shoreline nat of vegetation, i.e., leave existing vegetation or replace w/natives if needed. This aids water quality. More trails, well publicized

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? *Water quality & recreation -*

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? *Lots of trails, well publicized*

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? About the same, but with a more stabilized water level, with designated (and enforced) ³no wake zones around recreational areas such as Beaver Town, RV and Camping Park - which under lease from the Corps of Engineers. ⁴Noise control (noisy boats and noisy motorcycles) would be desirable, but difficult.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? ¹Water quality, enhanced by ²controlling emissions/pollutants from power boats, ³controlling/providing resources for septic tank management in this rocky karst topography.

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? ³Stabilize the lake level, within a reasonable band of water levels.

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied:

Wild swings in lake levels (presently between ~~935~~ 935 ft MSL to 900 ft MSL) produce great disruptions. Floods of normally dry, productive land areas - such as Beaver Town Park - require missing revenues for an entire season (\$35,000) that are not compensated by either FEMA or the Corps of Engineers, and require currently about \$30,000 for immediate.

BEAVER PARK SHOULD BE HIGH DENSITY, NO WAKE AREA

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT BASICALLY THE SAME AS IT IS NOW. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT PRESERVED. I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THE SHORELINE LINED WITH CONDOS. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT MADE SAFER.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? THE PRIVILEGE OF HUNTING DURING SEASON ~~AROUND~~ AROUND AND IN THE CORPS PROPERTY.

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? DO A STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFECT OF 2-STROKE MOTORS ON THE LAKE. RESTRICT THE USE OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS BY CONDOS THAT ARE NEAR THE LAKE.

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied:

DO A STUDY OF HOW THE LAKE WOULD BE AFFECTED IF THE CORPS REMOVED OBSTACLES AND TREES THAT ARE DANGEROUS IE. AROUND PT. 7. WHAT WOULD IT HURT TO REMOVE THOSE TREES? I DON'T THINK IT WOULD AFFECT THE FISHING. AROUND PT. 1, IT IS A SHALLOWS POINT. WHY NOT PUT MORE BUOYS OR LIGHTS OR BOTH, TO MAKE IT SAFER.

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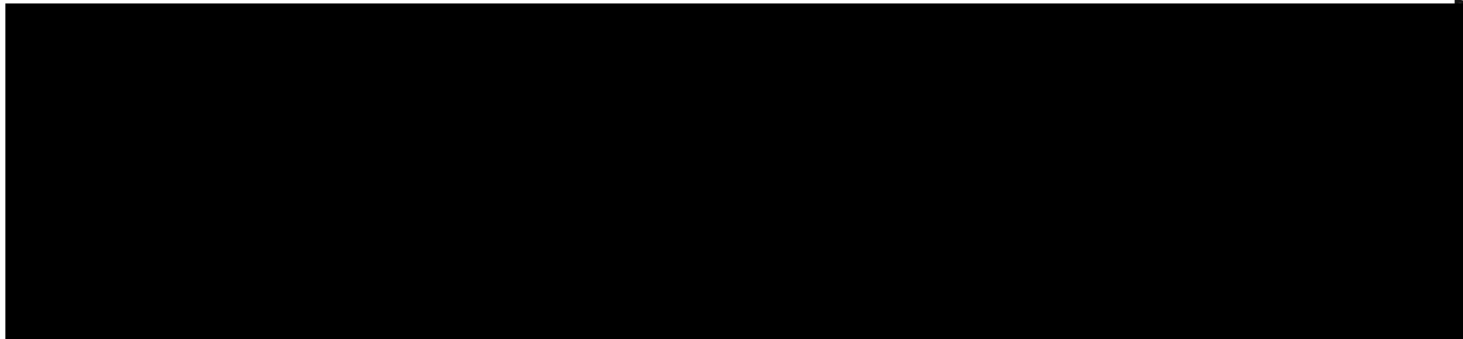
Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision
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July 11, 2012
Comments
Submitted



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Little Rock District

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

TO BE KNOWN AS AMERICA'S PREMIER
CONSERVATION LAKE, OUTDOOR RECREATION
LAKE AND THE CLEAN WATER LAKE.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you?

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION
(BOATING, FISHING, WILDLIFE VIEWING,
HIKING ETC)

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake?

TO CREATE A DYNAMIC MASTER PLAN
& VISION FOR THE FUTURE.

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied:

CONCERNED ABOUT THE VISION OF
THE MASTER PLAN. IT NEEDS TO BE
MORE EXCITING AND MORE OF A
DREAM --- LIKE

TABLE ROCK WILL BE AMERICA'S PREMIER
CONSERVATION, OUTDOOR RECREATION
AND CLEAN WATER LAKE.

James River Basin Partnership, Ozark Watershed Watchmen

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? _____

- Safety
- Clean

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? _____

- Cleanliness
- Family oriented
- NOT a party lake

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? _____

- allow cities more control of shoreline - within the city limits

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years? Clear, clean water and a wide variety of recreational opportunities available at a reasonable cost to the public. Continue to limit private dock permits. Controlled, environmentally responsible development should be encouraged.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you? Water quality improve fishing habitat and recreational opportunities

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake? more controlled environmentally responsible development giving the public access to public venues by boat

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied:
Master Planning should be done every 7-10 years at a minimum, more flexibility on development decisions at local project level

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How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

I would like to see the lake operation be more open and supportive of the tourism industry.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you?

Clean water

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake?

Better communication to the public, even if it was not the official message of the Corp

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Agency Question # 1

- Water Quality (6)
- Recreation (3)
- Fishing (2)
- Safety
- Clean Water (8)
- Eliminate Private Sewers
- Balance Economics, Recreation, and Natural Resources
- No Walk Zone
- Noise Control (8)
- Limit Boat Size (13)
- Limit Growth (2)

Agency Question # 2

- Control Emissions
- Clean Water (9)
- Keep It Beautiful (4)
- No Party Lake (2)
- Fish Habitat (3)
- Keep It Safe (2)
- Water Quality (8)
- Water Shed Health
- Economic Engine
- Hunting
- Develop Responsibly (6)
- Limit Members And Dock Size
- Control Environment

Agency Question # 3

- Shoreline Control (2)
- Improve Regulations
- Preserve Older Plants
- Replace Older Septic Systems (3)
- Watershed Filters (2)
- Parking Lot filters
- Water Trails (2)
- Hiking Trails (3)
- Water Quality (10)
- Control Pollutants
- Better Communication With Stakeholders
- Stabilize Lake Levels (3)
- Condos
- Recreation (3)
- More Flexibility on Development at Local Levels
- Safety (7)
- Large Dock and Vessel Restrictions (2)
- Erosion Control
- More Access

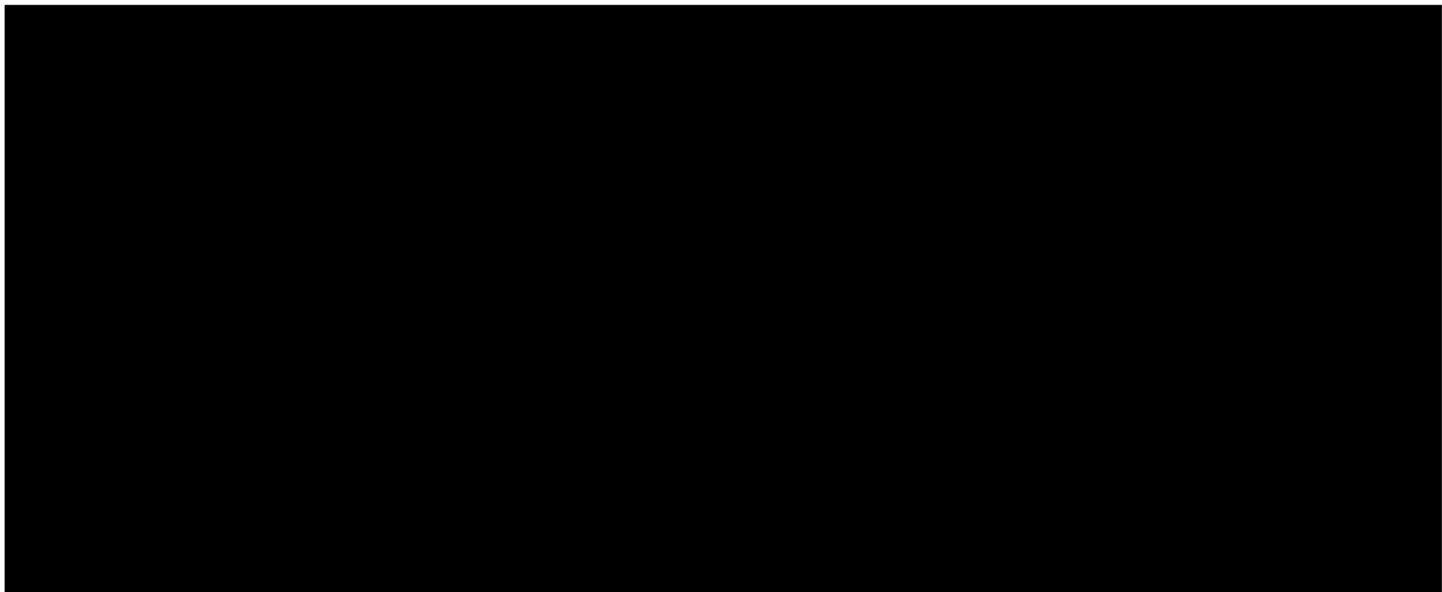
Coburn, Dana O SWL

From: Coburn, Dana O SWL
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 8:54 AM
To: CESWL-TR Master Plan SWL
Subject: FW: [FWD: Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision--Please Save the Date for Agency Scoping workshop, 28 November 2012 (UNCLASSIFIED)]

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

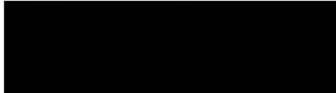
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 12, 2012 1:16 PM
To: Coburn, Dana O SWL
Subject: FW: [FWD: Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision--Please Save the Date for Agency Scoping workshop, 28 November 2012 (UNCLASSIFIED)]

Dana, Please see my comments in RED in your original email below.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 09, 2012 12:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [FWD: Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision--Please Save the Date for Agency Scoping workshop, 28 November 2012 (UNCLASSIFIED)]

Would love to hear any comments you have so I can present at this meeting. And yes, I think this is the meeting that was supposed to be held at the Visitor Center - the one that pre-empted the freshmen legislators lunch.





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

Subject: Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision--Please Save the Date for Agency Scoping workshop, 28 November 2012 (UNCLASSIFIED)

From: "Coburn, Dana O SWL" [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, November 09, 2012 12:40 pm

To: Undisclosed recipients;;

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

----TABLE ROCK LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISION----

All,

The Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, plans to revise the Table Rock Lake Master Plan. The Master Plan guides the classification and management of government-owned or leased lands around the lake and may affect future recreational opportunities and natural resource management.

We will be hosting an agency scoping workshop the morning of Wednesday, November 28, 2012 from 10AM to Noon at the Keeter Center located on the campus of College of the Ozarks. I invite you to save the date and please plan on attending.

To frame what our discussion will be about, I ask that you think about three questions (see below) and how your agency would respond to these three questions. Please be prepared to discuss your response at our workshop.

Three questions we would like to ask to help us focus on concerns and issues around the lake:

How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

We should position Table Rock to be the cleanest lake in America, recognized for exceptional recreational activities, world class fishing, camping and marina facilities. This will require lots of work to clean up old septic systems around

the water, continued control of docks and shoreline management and upgrading and addition of camping facilities.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you?

I like to feel safe when going on the water. This means exceptional water quality where I don't have to worry whether my family will become sick after swimming. I also want to be able to swim/boat/fish without worrying about larger, faster boats creating huge wakes and lots of noise. Simply, we cannot allow Table Rock to become Lake of the Ozarks where it's life-threatening every time you go out. Table Rock should remain Family Friendly.

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake?

Limit the size and speed of some boats – especially the cigarette-type boats which create noise, endanger other boats and are of little use other than going fast.

AGENCY SCOPING WORKSHOP
Wednesday, November 28, 2012

10:00AM to 12:00PM

Keeter Center, College of the Ozarks
1 Opportunity Avenue
Point Lookout, MO 65726
Phone 417-239-1900
Fax 417-335-8140
www.keetercenter.edu

Please note that we will be accepting scoping comments from November 14, 2012 through December 14, 2012.

Comments may be submitted via mail, email, or fax with attention to: Dana Coburn, Chief, Environmental Branch, Planning and Environmental, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203. Fax: (501) 324-5605, Email: M4TRMP@usace.army.mil , Website: <http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/tablerock/trmasterplan.htm> .

A formal agency coordination letter will be sent to your agency offices within the next couple of weeks.

Thank you,
Dana Coburn

Dana O. Coburn

*Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning and Environmental*

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Little Rock District
700 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201*

(501) 324-5601 (*phone*)

(501) 324-5605 (*fax*)

(501) 749-5262 (*bb*)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Coburn, Dana O SWL

From: Coburn, Dana O SWL
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 8:54 AM
To: CESWL-TR Master Plan SWL
Subject: FW: Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision--Please Save the Date for Agency Scoping workshop, 28 November 2012 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

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

[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 12, 2012 2:27 PM
To: Coburn, Dana O SWL
Subject: RE: Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision--Please Save the Date for Agency Scoping workshop, 28 November 2012 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Dear Dana, unfortunately I will be out of town, as will most of my board, attending the National League of Cities conference. We will have a person from our City there to listen and participate, just not yet sure who that would be.

Obviously it is my hope that Table Rock Lake will continue to be a source of beauty, water, energy, and recreation for years to come. I continue to be concerned about the sewer plants that are multiplying around the lake - some functioning correctly and some not. We must have a plan for the water quality of the lake. All else pales in my opinion.

My Best,

[REDACTED]
From: Coburn, Dana O SWL [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 09, 2012 12:41 PM
To: Undisclosed recipients:
Subject: Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision--Please Save the Date for Agency Scoping workshop, 28 November 2012 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

-----TABLE ROCK LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISION-----

All,

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Three questions we would like to ask to help us focus on concerns and issues around the lake:

How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you?

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake?

AGENCY SCOPING WORKSHOP

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

10:00AM to 12:00PM

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1 Opportunity Avenue
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A formal agency coordination letter will be sent to your agency offices within the next couple of weeks.

Thank you,

Dana Coburn

Dana O. Coburn

Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning and Environmental

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Little Rock District
700 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

(501) 324-5601 (phone)
(501) 324-5605 (fax)
(501) 749-5262 (bb)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Coburn, Dana O SWL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 07, 2012 7:35 AM
To: CFSWL TR Master Plan SWL
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Table Rock Lake Master Plan
Attachments: Corpsletter2012-1Empire Letter Head.doc

Please view the attachment for our input on the Master Plan revision.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]


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December 5, 2012

TO:

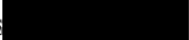
Dana Coburn

Chief, Environmental Branch, Planning and Environmental
USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203

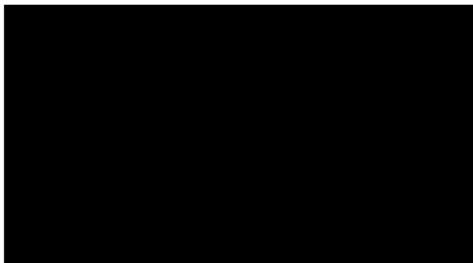
REGARDING:

Table Rock Lake Master Plan revision

Ms. Coburn,

My name is  representing Empire District Electric Co. On November 28th I attended the meeting at Reed Springs Missouri regarding the "Master Plan for Table Rock Lake". Although I found it informative, it was mostly information gathering, and lake level or reallocation were not addressed. With that in mind, The Empire District Electric Company would request that we be involved in any future lake level and water reallocation discussions involving Table Rock Lake.

Sincerely,



Coburn, Dana O SWL


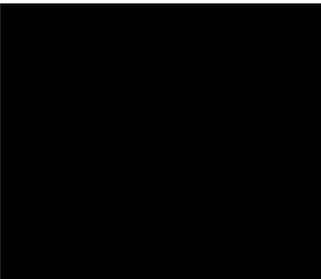
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 2:12 PM
To: CESWL-TR Master Plan SWL
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Southwestern comments on the update to the Table Rock Lake Master Plan
Attachments: TableRockMasterPlanUpdate_SouthwesternComments20121212.PDF

Ms. Coburn,

Attached is a PDF copy of Southwestern Power Administration's letter with comments on the Table Rock Lake Master Plan revision. The original letter was sent via U.S. Postal Service today, Wednesday, December 12, 2012.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input during the early stages of the development process. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,



DEC 12 2012

Ms. Dana Coburn
Chief, Environmental Branch
Planning and Environmental Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District
P.O. Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203

Dear Ms. Coburn,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the update of the Table Rock Lake Master Plan (Master Plan). As the Federal agency responsible for scheduling and marketing the hydroelectric power and energy from the Table Rock project, Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) has comments regarding the update to the Master Plan.

First and foremost, any updates made to the Master Plan should not negatively impact current hydroelectric power operations at the Table Rock project. Hydroelectric power is one of the two original Congressionally authorized purposes of the project, and Southwestern applies a portion of the revenues collected each year to paying off the U.S. taxpayers' investment, plus interest, in the Table Rock project facilities. Therefore, other project uses should not receive additional benefits to the detriment of hydroelectric power.

Additionally, as discussed in section 2-04. Project Operation (page 2-2) and as shown in Figure 2-3 (page 2-8) of the current Master Plan, other lake users should be made aware in the Master Plan update that lake levels will fluctuate depending on a variety of factors, including rainfall (or lack thereof), flood control operations, and power demand. Prior to the construction of additional facilities in or around Table Rock Lake, developers should continue to be informed of these routine and sometimes significant fluctuations.

Finally, Southwestern supports efforts to improve the water quality at Table Rock Lake. In addition to improving recreation and fish habitat, increased water quality has a positive impact on the severity of dissolved oxygen (DO) conditions in the lake. Improved DO in the lake will allow Southwestern to maintain operational flexibility at the Table Rock project during the low DO season, which historically occurs during the months of July through November.

Southwestern appreciates the opportunity to provide input for the Master Plan update. If you have any questions or comments, please contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Coburn, Dana O SWL

From: Coburn, Dana O SWL
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 1:31 PM
To: CESWL-TR Master Plan SWL
Subject: FW: Table Rock Lake Master Plan (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 9:44 AM
To: Coburn, Dana O SWL
Subject: Table Rock Lake Master Plan

Dear Ms. Coburn:

Thank you for including the EPA in the planning and scoping phase of the Table Rock Lake Master Plan. At this time the EPA has no specific comments, but would be happy to entertain any questions the Corps might have about NEPA or the NEPA process. In addition, the EPA can provide you with specific information to include maps with water dischargers on the lake.

Here are some examples of what information we can provide:

[cid: 1 0F8508140F850394005674F686257AD2](#)

[cid: 1 0F8530B40F8524BC005674F686257AD2](#)

If you have any questions please contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Coburn, Dana O SWL

From: Coburn, Dana O SWL
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 1:31 PM
To: CESWL-TR Master Plan SWL
Subject: FW: Table Rock Lake Master Plan (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

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Table Rock Lake, MO

Project Location Map

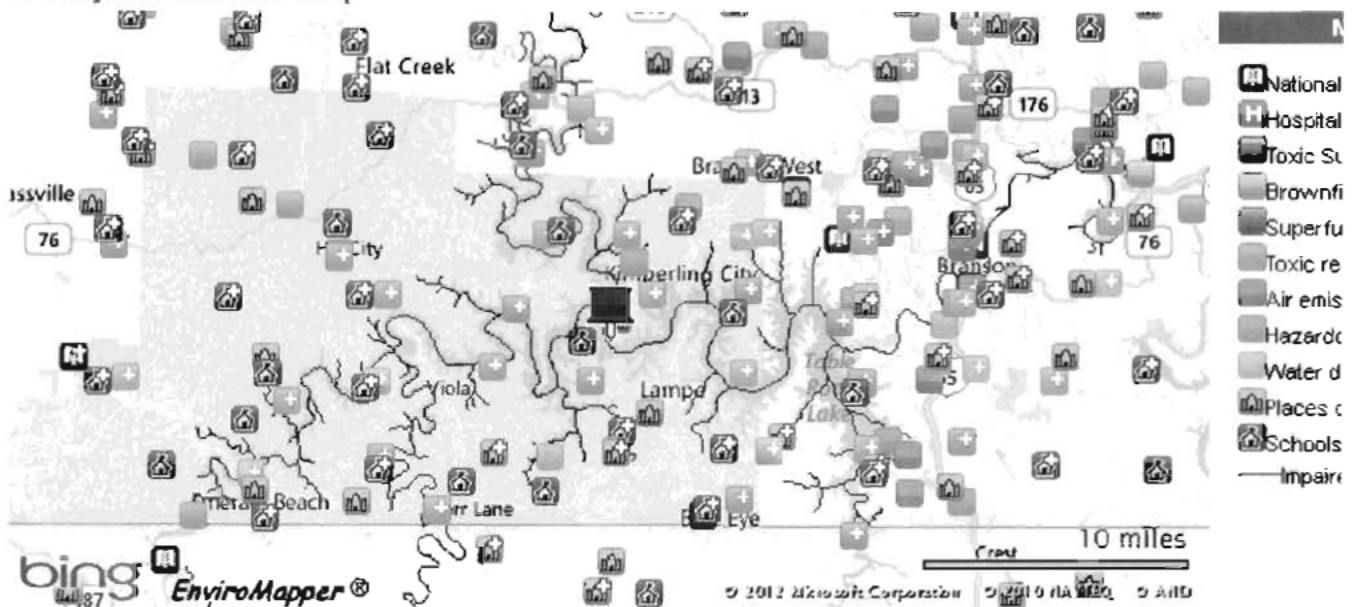
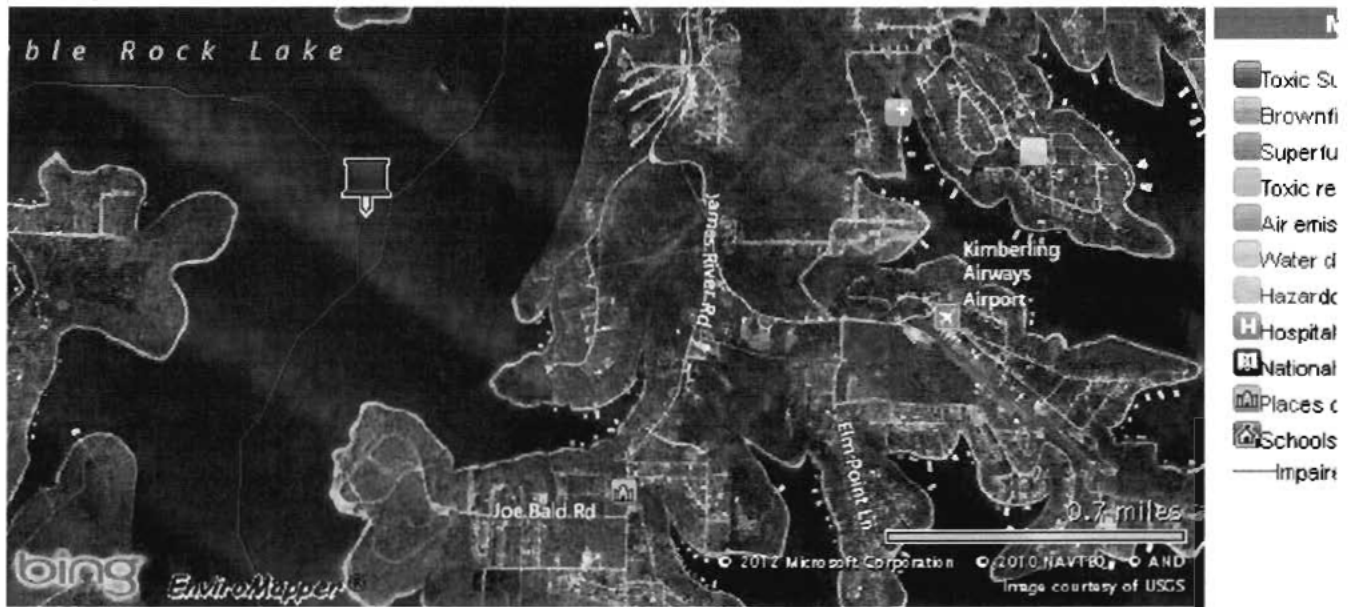


Table Rock Lake, MO

Project Location Map



If you have any questions please contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Coburn, Dana O SWL

From: Coburn, Dana O SWL
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 1:32 PM
To: CESWL-TR Master Plan SWL
Subject: FW: TRL Master Plan Written Comments (UNCLASSIFIED)
Attachments: Master Plan Comment Letter.pdf

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 1:18 PM
To: Coburn, Dana O SWL
Subject: TRL Master Plan Written Comments

Hi Dana,

Attached are my written Table Rock Lake Master Plan comments. I appreciate all your assistance in getting me the information on the Master Plan process.

Please know that Ozarks Water Watch is ready assist the Corps in any capacity that might be beneficial.

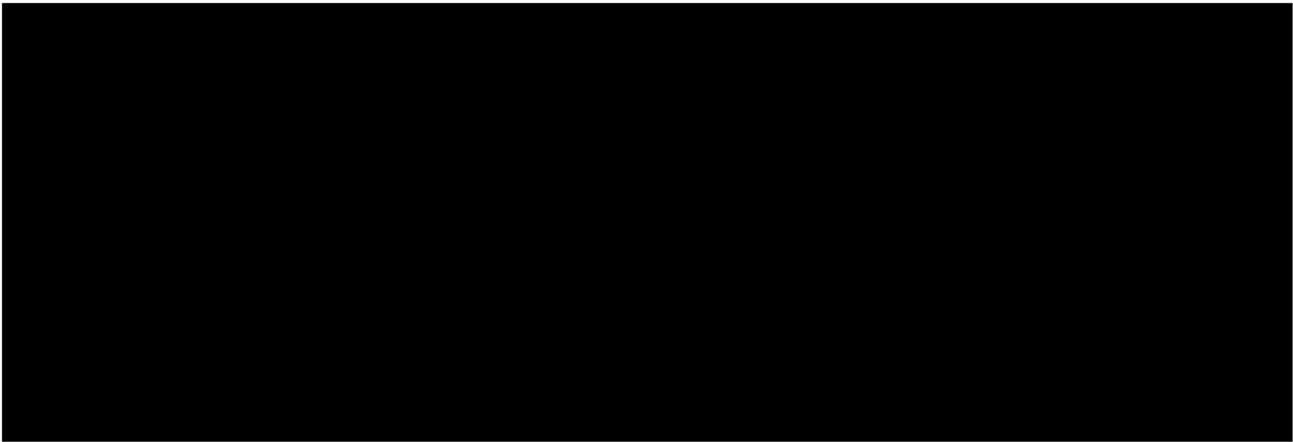
I hope to talk with you soon,

[REDACTED]

OWW FullColor LongLogo RGB

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE



WWW.OZARKSWATERWATCH.ORG

MISSION

TO PROMOTE WATER QUALITY IN THE UPPER WHITE RIVER WATERSHED THROUGH BI-STATE COLLABORATION ON RESEARCH, EDUCATION, PUBLIC POLICY AND ACTION PROJECTS

VISION

WITH YOUR HELP WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE BEAVER, TABLE ROCK, TANAYCOMO AND BULL SHOALS LAKES THE FOUR CLEANEST MANMADE LAKES IN NORTH AMERICA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PETER HERSCHEND

CHAIRMAN
HERSCHEND FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

ALAN FORTENBERRY

VICE CHAIRMAN
BEAVER WATER DISTRICT

MARTIN MACDONALD

SECRETARY
BASS PRO SHOPS

TODD PARNELL

TREASURER
DRURY UNIVERSITY

LEON COMBS

RETIRED BUSINESSMAN

JACK HERSCHEND

HERSCHEND FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

ANDY SOUTHERLY

CARGILL MEAT SOLUTIONS

JOHN L. MORRIS

BASS PRO SHOPS

ARCHIE SCHAFFER

TYSON FOODS, INC.

JOE WHITE

KANAKUK KAMPS

CHARLES ZIMMERMAN

WALMART

JOHN E. MOORE, JR.

HORSE CREEK TREE FARM

TIM O'REILLY

O'REILLY HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT, LLC

FOUNDATION STAFF

DAVID CASALETTO

PRESIDENT
DCASALETT@OZARKSWATERWATCH.ORG

RONNA HAXBY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
RHAXBY@OZARKSWATERWATCH.ORG

ANGELA DANOVI

PROJECTS MANAGER
ADANOVI@OZARKSWATERWATCH.ORG

PO BOX 636, 2 KISSEE AVT.
KIMBERLING CITY, MO 65686

1200 W. WALNUT, STE 3405
ROGERS, AR 75756

417-739-5001

December 11, 2012

Ms. Dana Coburn, Chief Environmental Branch
Planning and Environment
USACE Little Rock District
P.O. Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203

Dear Ms. Coburn,

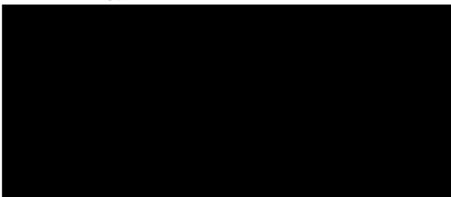
I would like to submit written comments pertaining to the Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision and Environment Assessment on behalf of Ozarks Water Watch Foundation.

I attended the agency meeting at the Keeter Center and talked with those who attended the public meetings held at Reeds Spring, Shell Knob and at the Chateau on the Lake. I think the overwhelming response of the estimated 1800+ people who attended the meetings shows how great the interest is in the future of Table Rock Lake and in how the Corps plans to manage their lands on behalf of the public. While I do not believe demographics were collected on those who attended the meetings, my educated guess is that most who attended live in the lake area or have a business that is located around the lake.

According to what I have been told, at all four meetings the main concern was water quality. While the term water quality seems fairly straight forward, I am sure when asked to define how best to achieve this goal of water quality, you would get many different answers. My suggestion would be to hold a series of focus group meetings with local property and business owners to get specific as to what they see the Corps role being in the water quality of Table Rock Lake. This group of people that live and work around the lake should be the group that is most protective of the lake. And I think these groups will be the most protective IF we engage them, ask them for their opinion, listen to their concerns and issues, work with them to find win-win solutions and educate them on how to better protect the lake. Make them a part of the ongoing process not only of the Master Plan revision but of the Shoreline Management plan revision, when it occurs.

There are organizations already in place to help the Corps with water quality protection on Table Rock Lake. Water quality groups such as Table Rock Lake Water Quality, James River Basin Partnership, Kings River Watershed Partnership, Roaring River Watershed Alliance and Ozarks Water Watch are the ones that first come to mind. A partnership between Corps, the Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation and the water quality groups can lead the Corps in this mandate of "water quality" that was spoken loud and clear at each of these public meetings. The Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation could be the organization with the resources needed to accomplish this task. This partnership could work with and educate the public on what water quality means for Table Rock Lake. Ozarks Water Watch Foundation stands ready to assist the Corps as needed.

Sincerely,





REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
POST OFFICE BOX 867
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-0867

October 29, 2004

I regret that I am unable to join you today to celebrate the culmination of the great work by many partners resulting in the construction of the Table Rock Lakeshore Trail.

I especially want to thank our partners, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks, the Ozark Mountain Nature Trail Association, and the Herschend Family Entertainment Corporation, who worked closely and well with us to create this trail that will connect the Dewey Short Visitor Center, the Showboat Branson Belle and Table Rock State Park. What started as a vision long ago by the Ozark Mountain Nature Trail Association is now a reality, thanks to the many efforts by the folks from these organizations. Special thanks go to Congressman Blunt for his interest and personal support of this project as he ensured that congressional funding was available. I also want to commend our [REDACTED] and our [REDACTED] and their teams for their fine work on this project.

The Table Rock Dam and Lake is an important Army Corps of Engineers project. Not only does it continue to provide the public with flood control, hydropower, and recreation benefits, it was one of the key public investments that has enabled the development of Branson and the rest of Southern Missouri. This Corps project is the result of foresight and continuing support over many years by Congress, especially Congressman Blunt. This trail is the latest demonstration of this wisdom and support in public investment. It will be an important visitor attraction to Table Rock Lake and will help ensure everyone who visits the Branson area has a wonderful experience. Thank you all for your support of this project.

[REDACTED]

Coburn, Dana O SWL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 7:03 AM
To: CESWL-TR Master Plan SWL
Subject: Master Plan Revision Email Address

Hello Dana,

We met briefly at the Saturday, December 1, public meeting at the Chateau. (you handed me the forms..lol)

I sent an email previously to advise that the comment website is displaying an error message and there is no access. Anyway, wanted to get my comments in by the deadline so here they are:

How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

I would like to see the lake offering the type of flood control, clean water sustainability efforts, wildlife/fish habitat and recreational opportunities available today. A 20 yr plan will require diligence and enforcement of existing and proposed measures to ensure sustainability of this outstanding southwest Missouri resource. Key elements of the master plan will guide development of the new Shoreline Management Plan.

What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you?

That it continue to provide the outstanding opportunities and local resources to future generations.

What is one thing that could be done to improve the lake?

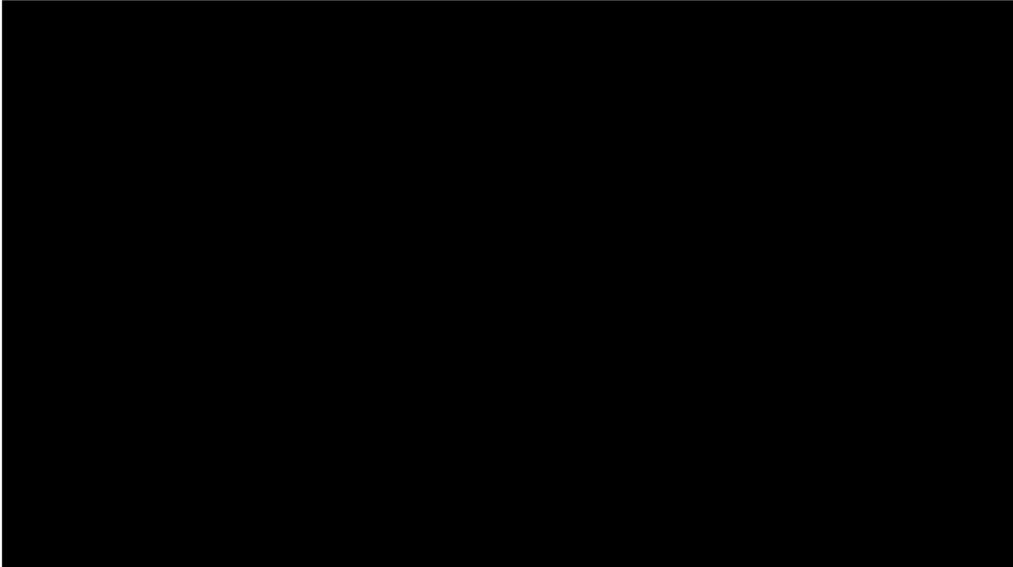
Maintain or increase development setbacks and dock limitations. (I know that's two)

Additional comments on the Master Plan Revision or about issues that should be studied:

When working through the process, please consider those issues that exist at other lakes worldwide that have in fact been impediments, damaged or destroyed them. Though I'm an avid boat owner and enjoy all that Table Rock has to offer, I would strongly suggest limiting boat size, speed and sound. These all impact how well the lake can be sustainable and its ultimate future. I understand failing septic systems surrounding the lake is a serious problem and if not addressed, will continue to erode water quality at Table Rock. This regrettably is most likely not an issue USACE can tackle alone, as this lake is located in two different counties with different requirements. However, what USACE can do is focus it

marketing on education related to clean water and what failing septic systems mean to the lake and the entire system.

Take care,



Coburn, Dana O SWL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 7:03 AM
To: CESWL-TR Master Plan SWL
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Master Plan

Dear Dana Coburn,

The City of Kimberling City wishes to extend our thoughts on your revision to the existing Master Plan for Table Rock Lake.

Due to past and ongoing communications with developers and with the unwillingness of the Corps to cooperate, not allowing additional docks within your current red zone or park buffer has significantly diminished our ability to grow as a city.

The original plan allowed this to help insure prosperity for the marinas at that time. Times have changed. The land classifications that are set up currently are very outdated. Our city bordered on three sides by the lake; seeks classification as commercial high use or something of the nature that allows future growth. This would re-open opportunities for developers to reconsider coming to Kimberling City with their developments.

We would like your group to consider allowing our city to manage all shoreline within our Municipal Boundaries. Having the availability to manage this asset for our growth would insure prosperity for both of us.

With us already having jurisdiction over the construction on Corps lands,(i.e. building codes) this continued effort of managing these much needed safety aspects for you provides for the needed growth within our community, thus ensuring sustainability for all involved.

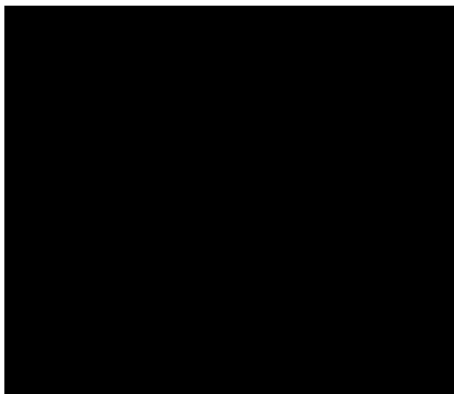
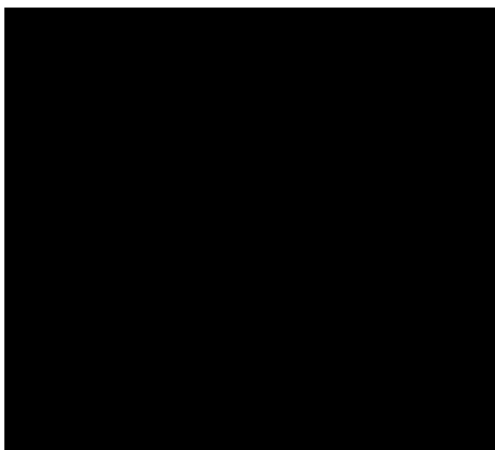
Yet another issue we feel we both could greatly benefit from is for the Corps to provide our city the ability to manage the vegetation permits within our boundaries. As you are aware, the Corps spends a great deal of its time managing these issues currently.

This City has asked for the ability to do these types of things in the past, including putting satellite parks in around the city off our many dead end roads that touch Corps land, but to no avail. We hope that there will be a different eyes looking to address the much-needed changes for Table Rock Lake, and allow for guided growth for all involved, not just a particular few.

This very vast lake can support growth as long as we all come together on it and stop protecting a select few. The Corps has "hand cuffed" themselves to something that makes no sense. Not only have you killed growth for us, but also you are not allowing any growth for yourself either. This makes no sense. Table Rock Lake being the only lake that the Corps operates of which still has such laws. Whom are you protecting?

Many consider Kimberling City the "Front Door" to Table Rock Lake. All we are asking for is the means to change out this "door" to one that opens much wider, providing the necessary access to this lake that all desire.

Thank you very much for allowing our input in this matter.





December 14, 2012

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Headquarters

2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180
Telephone: 573/751-4115 • Missouri Relay Center: 1-800-735-2966 (TDD)



Dana Coburn, Chief
Environmental Branch, Planning and Environmental
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Little Rock District
P.O. Box 867
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

RE: TABLE ROCK LAKE MASTER PLAN REVISION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Dear Ms. Coburn:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision and Environmental Assessment.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) is the agency responsible for fish, forest, and wildlife resources in Missouri. As such, we actively participate in project review when projects might affect those resources. Our comments and recommendations are for your consideration and are offered to enhance the fish, forest and wildlife resources in the project area.

The Department would like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consider the following comments as they revise the Table Rock Lake Master Plan. The Department recommends that the Plan:

- Provide sustained water intake for the Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery.
- Identify changing demands for the water resources and identify zones to accommodate authorized uses.
- Identify measures that will improve water quality in Table Rock Lake, including long-term watershed level Best Management Practices.
- Identify measures that will improve safety for all users of the Lake.
- Provide for protection of rare species and their habitats in and around the Lake.
- Address siltation at the dam.
- Identify steps to educate the public on invasive species and appropriate measures to limit their spread.

COMMISSION

DON C. BEDELL
Sikeston

JAMES T. BLAIR, IV
St. Louis

DON R. JOHNSON
Festus

BECKY L. PLATTNER
Grand Pass

Ms. Coburn
December 14, 2012
Page 2

- Prescribe practices to be implemented that will maintain a quality fishery for future generations.
- Provide equal opportunity for multiple uses of the resource (fishing, hunting, boating, wildlife watching, etc.).
- Provide adequate law enforcement.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact me at [REDACTED]
or by email at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

AWL/ck

c: [REDACTED]



WINNER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE CHARTER AWARD

Ms. Dana Coburn, Chief, Environmental Branch, Planning and Environmental
USAACE, Little Rock District
P.O. Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203
VIA FAX and regular mail

December 11, 2012

RE: Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision and Environmental Assessment Comments

Dana,

I really appreciate your returning my call last week. When I discovered the web site address in all of the meeting notices wouldn't work, I knew your people would be hurrying around to get a revised address and then try to get the word out to the thousands of people who may want to visit that site before sending in their comments. I gave the new address to a few hundred of our property owners in my monthly newsletter so maybe that helped.

I have talked to several people and their feelings are mostly the same as the ones expressed at the public meetings. They say they just want "clean water and a pretty lake" with as few restrictions as possible. Obviously "clean" and "pretty" mean different things to different people. That is understandable given the size of TRL and the big diversity of land use, i.e. from state and/or federal forest land to agricultural to residential (primary and second homes) to commercial.

First, I want to try to explain this situation as best I can. When the CORPS develops a Master Plan or revises one as in this case, I assume (and hope) such a plan is intended to not be cut in stone but rather be dynamic in nature, allowing for changes depending upon trends in actual and/or planned land use, the general economy and the several pockets of sub-economies. I'm not familiar with how the federal government does things but common sense would dictate such long range plans be developed the way cities do their 20-year Comprehensive Plans which are general guidelines subject to revision. I've helped develop such long-range comprehensive plans for cities from scratch and also helped to revise them and have chaired a city Planning and Zoning Committee and other related functions that dealt with operating within Comprehensive Plans and revising them as necessary. Given the conditions at and around TRL this seems the best approach for all concerned.

We were told for years that when Bull Shoals and TRL were first being planned in the '30's and '40's, the original priorities were only two...flood control and the generation and distribution of electrical power. In the November meeting I attended at the Chateau, the speaker listed two or three other priorities including water-oriented recreation but I believe if that priority exists today, it was added much later if at all. That really doesn't matter now because society has added water recreation to TRL due to the birth and growth of sport fishing, fishing boats and pleasure crafts so those uses must be recognized and dealt with to the satisfaction of all concerned. The new uses that affect TRL and the new uses that TRL affects include the growth in water recreation (boating, fishing and related water oriented activities), primary and second home development, tourism, transportation (new ground, rail and air access) and the increased mobility and leisure time desires of Americans. To complicate matters, the land use in the area encompassing TRL itself and the public and private land surrounding it is not only quite large but is also extremely diverse, making it impractical or impossible to control under a "one set of rules fits all" basis.

TRL, being typical of a lake in a chain of highland reservoirs, has, in its upper reaches, its "river" arms with mixed use including public forest land, agricultural land and scattered residential that may have grown into "lake communities" that support primary and secondary lake homes with relatively heavy fishing activity. Most of these areas are near a public marina/campground, many of which were wisely built shortly after the lake formed. These areas usually include services such as a gas station, convenience store, café, private and/or community docks, etc. Further down these river arms, areas such as Shell Knob and Lampe developed, partly due to state highways with bridges over the lake providing better access from the north and south. Shell Knob has attracted a number of primary and second home owners from Kansas, Oklahoma and other areas due to its highway access from the west and north and the fact that many retired people and vacationers prefer this "quiet" side of the lake. Further down, as the lake widens, at about the 12 mile marker, with good highway and bridge access from the north and south, the Kimberling City area has developed with primary and second homes, resorts, commercial and considerable marina/dock development accommodating many larger boats. This begins the "lower", more developed end of the lake which, together with Branson West, and Reeds Spring provides more commercial development and a K-12 school district making them more appropriate for younger working families with children. This brings us to the "Dam Area". This lower 12 miles of the lake has the most water recreation use. South from the dam, the first few miles of the Long Creek Arm, have commercial, marina and residential development along the easterly bank due to good access from Hgwy. 265. The south side of the lower lake has much less development due to having poorer road access and being farther from commercial and tourist areas.

The north side of the lake from the dam to Kimberling City has the most development on the lake due to proximity to the Springfield population, east - west road access and commercial services. Four miles west of the Branson theater/attraction district on highway 76, the Village of Indian Point is located on a TRL peninsula, at mile marker 3. It has a combination of resort, commercial and primary and second home development. With twenty eight resorts totaling over 1,000 rooms plus a Corps campground, six restaurants, three stores, two public marinas and private docks the

Village of 700 residents accommodates up to several thousand tourists daily. This makes it the largest resort area on the lake. Visitors staying at this area of the lake typically participate equally in both lake and Branson activities. Indian Point is adjacent to Silver Dollar City, an internationally acclaimed theme park with annual attendance over 2 million. It is just four miles west of the Branson theater and attraction district.

Branson, with a population over 10,000, is the largest city contiguous to the lake and is among the top 15 destination tourist areas in the U.S. The area has a full range of facilities and services including a major hospital (soon to be two), 52 theaters with over 100 live shows daily, over 20,000 guest rooms, 200 restaurants, shopping centers, a major convention center, two airports, 2 colleges, several high quality golf courses, and is contiguous to both TRL and Lake Taneycomo which offer water sports as well as both warm and cold water angling. Branson is the "driver" of the area's economic engine, attracting approximately 8 million visitors annually, providing thousands of diversified jobs for residents of both Missouri and Arkansas and producing an annual economy well over \$1½ Billion. The Branson/Lakes Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (CVB) coordinates an annual marketing budget exceeding \$8Million. Over a million dollars of that annual amount is used to directly market the beauty and water-oriented attributes of TRL using nation-wide TV, public relations, social media and other sources. In addition, the CVB works aggressively to attract and sponsor the highest level of professional fishing tournaments, wakeboarding, swimming and other water-oriented competitions to TRL. These activities also generate additional TV shows seen nationally several times each year which attracts even more lake visitors. The Branson/lake tourism business provides facilities and services for both residents and visitors that create a "quality of life" that far exceeds that which is normally found in such a low populated area. For all of these reasons, this area is also growing as a retirement destination. Two things make this area so desirable...its' unique blend of "neon and nature" and its people.

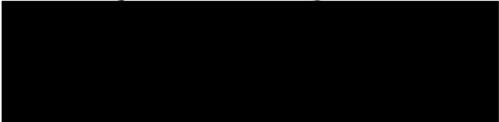
The Corps, being a part of the federal government, does suffer from a public relations standpoint. This was evident in the three public scoping meetings recently held. Just being a part of our federal government these days brings out animosity from many citizens. To some people, the Corps comes across as "we own the lake and we make all the rules". At the other extreme, many people feel "the people own the lake and the Corps works for us". I'm convinced this relationship could be greatly improved with compromise and better communication from both sides.

We each tend to focus on our own areas of responsibility so much that it's often hard to take time to see and understand the big picture. Whether we recognize it or not, this area is operating as a giant public-private partnership consisting of several key players and entities. The Corps is one of the important players in this partnership. Other equally important "partners" are the full and part time residents, those who attract visitors here, those who build and operate the facilities and services that people want and require, and all of us who provide the Ozark friendliness and hospitality that keep our visitors coming back.

I've been visiting and fishing the White River area since before Bull Shoals, Table Rock and Beaver were started so I've seen the development of the lakes and the shoreline use and the surrounding private and public property over a long period of time. I think both the Corps and the private sector have, on balance, done a great job of managing the growth in as orderly a manner as possible.

In summary, I can think of several things the Corps could consider doing that would not harm the lake but would create good will among the public. The following are examples. The master plan could be revised taking into account various "zones" of the lake as previously outlined above. These areas of varying use and intensity have developed over the life of the lake and seem to be what the people want. If the trends in each zone evolve to something different over the next several years, provide a way for that to happen. If the Corps has a problem with future private docks, allow for "community docks" and let them be located and accessed conveniently for those who will use them. Consider more access points to the lake so the public can more conveniently go to the lake without having to trespass through private property. If more launch ramps are needed in certain areas, build them. People do not feel it is right to have to pay a launch fee to use a ramp that was built and paid for 50 years ago. Some of the Corps' administrative procedures could be improved. For instance, there are apparently some inconsistencies regarding the \$4.00 daily boat launch fee. The Corps sign going into the public marina near our resort on Indian Point reads "Area Use Fee Required" "Day - Use Fee \$4.00" instead of "Boat Launch Fee \$4.00. Also, there is no information on the sign stating "seniors half price". We have sent our guests there to eat at the floating café or buy bait, etc. and many have turned around and come back thinking they had to pay \$4.00 just to go into the area to buy a can of worms. If an incorporated city on the lake wants to improve and maintain a small park on Corps property for residents and visitors to access the lake, they should be allowed to do so and required to maintain it to Corps standards. If a small increased minimum flow from TRL dam would greatly enhance the coldwater trout fishery in Taneycomo and such flow could be provided by simply raising the "normal" TRL level by two feet (which I was told would be the amount of water required to supply the minimum flow annually) thus not reducing any water supply for power generation, we should consider doing it. I was told the only things that might be hurt are a few Corps picnic tables. Volunteers would probably move or replace them. If a Corps area daily use fee is not required in one area such a fee should not be required in another similar area. The revised Master Plan should provide for a process of application, review and approval similar to a city's planning and zoning process and it shouldn't take an unreasonable time to process such requests. The Corps should be mindful that unexpected new policies and requirements such as the one-year moratorium can be very harmful to people and the economy. I don't know the particulars of this but to prevent dock construction for a year, without warning, could cost hundreds or thousands of jobs and cause employers, suppliers and developers to go out of business. That is harsh.

Well, there you are. I wanted to try to put this whole situation in prospective and show how a "partnership" of all concerned could lead to improvements and peace among all concerned. I fell in love with the White River area of the Ozarks the first time I saw it in the '40's and love it even more today. I have experience in some of the areas outlined above and would be more than willing to sit with you and help in any way I can to perpetuate the wonder and magic that is this corner of the Ozarks. Thank you.



Appendix H

Media Coverage of Scoping Workshops

Douglas County
Herald
Ava, MO
Circ. 4200
From Page:
2
11/8/2012
18531

Table Rock Master Plan Revisions Require Temporary Halt to 112 Shoreline Management Requests

BRANSON — The Army Corps of Engineers' Table Rock Project Office will suspend shoreline activity requests beginning Dec. 1 to

establish a baseline of the lake for officials to use while revising its 36-year-old master plan.

Shoreline activity request will not be accepted during the master plan revision and all zoning and shoreline management regulations will remain in effect until the plan is complete.

Three public workshops will be held to inform the public about the

process used to update Table Rock's master plan.

The workshops will be held from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28 at Reed Springs High School in Kimberling City, Mo., and Thursday, Nov. 29 at Shell Knob Elementary School in Shell Knob, Mo. A workshop will be held from 10 a.m. until noon Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Dewey Short Visitor Center outside Branson, Mo.

The Corps' master plans are used to guide all use and development of a project's federal public lands and

waters for environmental stewardship and recreation related purposes, throughout its life.

Most of Little Rock District's master plans were completed in the 1970's, with supplements added through the years to document change for that specific time.

At the public meeting, representatives from the Corps of Engineers and its contractors will present a background on the master plan revision process to include explaining the difference between a master plan and a shoreline management plan. Anyone with any interest in the future management of Table Rock Lake is encouraged to attend.

The public's input may be provided at the workshops or during the public comment period. The comment period will be Nov. 14 through Dec. 14. Comments can be mailed to: Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, ATTN: Dana Coburn, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Ark., 72203. Or, you can email your comments to M4TRMP@usace.army.mil.

For more information about the master plan revision process go to the following website: <http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/tablerock/trmasterplan.htm> or call Dana Coburn at 501-324-5601.



DVIDS – Atlanta, GA
November 8, 2012

Table Rock master plan revisions require temporary halt to shoreline management requests

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View Clip: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/97442/table-rock-master-plan-revisions-require-temporary-halt-shoreline-management-requests#ixzz2Bdw9rFHE>

KRZK 106.3 – Harrison, AR
November 14, 2012

Corps to Revise Table Rock Master Plan

Shoreline management requests are being suspended as of December first by the Corps of Engineers' Table Rock Project Office to prepare for revision of the master plan. Environmental Branch Chief Dana Coburn says the Corps looks at the master plan every 5 years. Funding is now available to move forward with the first revision since 1976, and workshops will be held for public input...

Listen to clip:

http://hometowndailynews.com/12569/corps_to_revise_table_rock_master_plan.html

Workshops will be held at Reeds Spring High School November 28th and at Shell Knob Elementary School November 29th. Both are from 6 to 8:30 p.m. There's also a workshop for the public in Branson at the Dewey Short Visitor Center on Saturday, December first from 10 a.m. until noon. Public comment can be provided at the workshops, or by mail or e-mail during the public comment period from November 14th through December 14th. Addresses are available below.

<http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/tablerock/trmasterplan.htm>

M4TRMP@usace.army.mil

Army Corps of Engineers

Little Rock District

ATTN: Dana Coburn

P.O. Box 867

Little Rock, AR 72203

Table Rock master plan revisions require temporary halt to shoreline management requests

The Army Corps of Engineers' Table Rock Project Office will suspend shoreline activity requests beginning Dec. 1 to establish a baseline of the lake for officials to use while revising its 36-year-old master plan.

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The Corps' master plans are used to guide all use and development of a project's federal public lands and waters for environmental stewardship and recreation related purposes, throughout its life.

Most of Little Rock District's master plans were completed in the 1970's, with supplements added through the years to document change for that specific time.

At the public meeting, representatives from the Corps of Engineers and its contractors will present a background on the master plan revision process to include explaining the difference between a master plan and a shoreline management plan. Anyone with any interest in the future management of Table Rock Lake is encouraged to attend.

The public's input may be provided at the workshops or during the public comment period. The comment period will be Nov. 14 through Dec. 14. Comments can be mailed to: Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, ATTN: Dana Coburn, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Ark., 72203. Or, you can email your comments to M4TRMP@usace.army.mil.

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<http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/table-rock/trmasterplan.htm> or call Dana Coburn at 501-324-5601.

View Clip: <http://www.ozarkssentinel.com/table-rock-master-plan-revisions-require-temporary-halt-to-shoreline-management-requests.html/>

Corps says no new Table Rock Lake docks, additions for at least a year

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced recently it will not accept any requests for new boat docks on Table Rock Lake for at least the next year.

The Corps issued a statement that shoreline activity requests will be suspended until the lake's 36-year-old master plan is updated.

The master plan update is scheduled to be complete December 2013.

“That is our scheduled timeline, but things could change,” said Jeff Farquhar, chief ranger of natural resources for the Corps.

About 90 percent of shoreline activity requests are for new boat docks or boat dock additions, Farquhar said.

The permit requests are being suspended in order to establish a baseline of the lake, he said.

“All zoning and shoreline management regulations will remain in effect until the plan is complete,” according to information from the Corps Little Rock District public affairs office.

The Corps is planning three public workshops in the Tri-Lakes Area as part of its revision process for the plan.

The public meetings are being held Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Reeds Springs High School, Thursday, Nov. 29, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Shell Knob Elementary, Shell Knob, and Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Dewey Short Visitor Center on Missouri 165 outside Branson.

Table Rock is part of the Little Rock District. Most of the district's master plans were completed in the 1970s.

The lake itself was formed in 1958 by construction of a dam on the White River.

According to the Corps, the master plan revision is needed because the existing plan's estimates for population growth and land use are out of date.

"The current master plan estimated that the lake would see approximately 20 million visits annually by the year 2020," according to the Corps website. "Current visitation is already at 40 to 50 million visitors annually for recreational activities."

At the meetings, Corps representatives will present background information on the master plan revision process.

"People will have a chance to give their input," Farquhar said. "This is just the beginning. There will be more meetings in the future."

The meetings are conducted by an independent, contracted third-party, he added.

Public comments also are being accepted by mail or email through Dec. 14.

Comments may be mailed to Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, ATTN: Dana Coburn, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203. Comments may be emailed to M4TRMP@usace.army.mil.

View Clip: http://bransontrilakesnews.com/news_free/article_240762e2-3026-11e2-8d8f-0019bb2963f4.html

Cassville Democrat
Cassville, Missouri
November 20, 2012

Table Rock master plan under revision

Tuesday, November 20, 2012
By Melonie Roberts

The Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, plans to revise the Table Rock Lake Master Plan.

The master plan guides the classification and management of government-owned and leased lands around the lake and may affect future recreational opportunities and natural resource management. An environmental assessment of potential impacts of the draft plan will also be prepared.

The master plan is the guidance document that describes how the resources of the lake will be managed in the future and provides the vision for how the lake should look in the future. The master plan does not address the details of how and where shoreline use permits may be issued, however, it does set the stage for implementation of the shoreline management program.

After the master plan is revised, the shoreline management plan would be revised to be consistent with the goals identified in the master plan when funding becomes available.

Development of the revised master plan will include: consideration of regional and ecosystem needs; project resource capabilities; and public interests and desires.

The plan's main objectives are:

- * To make maximum use of the resources of the lake within the current policies and guidelines of the Corps of Engineers
- * Accommodate current and projected use patterns with maximum efficiency
- * Identify and protect cultural and natural resources
- * Attract maximum participation by the general public and local government in project development management.

The current Table Rock Lake Master Plan was developed over 30 years ago and original estimates of future population and land use have not aligned with current demographics.

For example, the current master plan estimated that the lake would see approximately 20 million visitors annually by the year 2020, however, current visitation is already at 40 to 50 million visitors annually for recreational activities.

Revisions to the master plan will classify the government lands around the lake based on environmental and socioeconomic considerations, public input, and an evaluation of past, present and forecasted trends.

Lands may be classified into one of several categories: project operations; high density recreation; environmentally sensitive areas; multiple resource management lands; low density recreation; wildlife management; future or inactive recreation areas; vegetative management lands; water surface; restricted water areas; designated no-wake zones; fish and wildlife sanctuary; or open recreation.

These land classifications will update the shoreline management plan, which provides the policies under which shoreline use permits may be issued for boat docks or shoreline vegetation modification.

Three meetings have been set up for this review.

The first is set for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at Reeds Spring High School, located at 20277 State Hwy 413 in Reeds Spring.

The second will take place starting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29 at Shell Knob Elementary School, located at 24400 State Hwy 39 in Shell Knob.

The final meeting has been set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Dewey Short Visitor's Center, located at 4500 State Hwy 165 in Branson. All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

The meetings are open to the public. Attendees will learn the details of the master planning process and provide input to the master plan vision for future land use and management along the shorelines of Table Rock Lake. Public input will help define the Table Rock Lake Master Plan Update scheduled for public review in the summer of 2013.

View clip at: http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.cassville-democrat.com/story/1915468.html&ct=ga&cad=CAEQARgAIAAoATAAOABAm_6vhQVIAVA AWABiAmVu&cd=T92udb_S9o0&usg=AFQjCNHZH20P7FnM7u8XoHg_QE1RQxphNA>

Ozarks First – Springfield, MO
November 20, 2012

Meetings Planned for Input on Table Rock Lake Master Plan Update

View Video: http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=731102

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is updating its master plan for Table Rock Lake, and wants your input.

The plan guides the management of the lake, affecting recreational use and natural resources. [Click here to learn more](#)

"Anyone who lives on, has a business on, or uses the lake for recreation may be interested in attending one of the public meetings," says Ronna Haxby with Ozarks Water Watch.

Wednesday, November 28, 2012
6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Reeds Spring High School
20277 State Hwy 413, Reeds Spring, MO

Thursday, November 29, 2012
6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Shell Knob Elementary School
24400 State Hwy 39, Shell Knob, MO

Saturday, December 1, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Dewey Short Visitor's Center
4500 State Hwy 165, Branson, MO

All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

"For whatever reason, there are a number of people that have some level of frustration with the Corps, or at least their perception of how the Corps manages our public property that they have been entrusted to take care of by the US Congress," writes David Casaletto, OWW Executive Director, in a news letter. "There are also just as many who understand that the shoreline must be protected for numerous reasons, including protecting the quality of the water, and they thank the Corps for the good job they are doing."

Once all of the comments are in, the plan is scheduled for public review next summer.

Development of the revised Master Plan will include consideration of:

- Regional and ecosystem needs
- Project resource capabilities and suitability for various purposes
- Public interests and desires

The Table Rock Lake Master Plan Update main objectives are:

- To make maximum use of the resources of the lake within the current policies and guidelines of the Corps of Engineers
- Accommodate current and projected use patterns with maximum efficiency
- Identify and protect cultural and natural resources
- To attract maximum participation by the general public and local government in project development management.

The Master Plan revision will classify the government lands around the lake based on environmental and socioeconomic considerations, public input, and an evaluation of past, present, and forecasted trends.

Lands may be classified into one of these categories: Project Operations, High Density Recreation, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Multiple Resource Management Lands, Low Density Recreation, Wildlife Management, Future/Inactive Recreation Areas and Vegetative Management.

Comments may also be submitted via mail, email, fax or the project website with attention to: Dana Coburn, Chief, Environmental Branch, Planning and Environmental, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203. Fax: (501) 324-5605, Email: M4TRMP@usace.army.mil

Written comments regarding scoping for the Master Plan revision must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by December 14, 2012.



Table Rock Lake's future slightly murky

As I am sure most of you know, Table Rock Lake is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) lake. As the director of a watershed group, I have worked closely with the Corps on many different projects over the years including the annual shoreline cleanup put on by Table Rock Lake Water Quality. I am also a lake-front property owner sharing my property boundary line with the Corps and, in addition, I am the dock master for a community boat dock. I also fish and swim in the lake and walk the shoreline on



'It is safe to say my wife and I love the lake.'
Ozarks Water Watch Executive Director
David Casaletto

both improved trails and in unimproved areas. And it is safe to say that my wife and I love the lake.
In my 13 years living at Table Rock Lake, I have talked with many people about the Corps. For whatever reason, there are a number of people that have

some level of frustration with the Corps, or at least their perception of how the Corps manages our public property that they have been entrusted to take care of by the U.S. Congress. There are also just as many who understand that the shoreline must be protected for numerous

reasons, including protecting the quality of the water, and they thank the Corps for the good job they are doing. As with any public agency, there are rules to follow and enforce. The Corps uses a document called the Table Rock Lake master plan to guide the classification and management of the government-owned and leased lands around the lake. This plan also may affect future recreational opportunities and natural resource management.
Development of the revised master plan will include consid-

eration of:
• Regional and ecosystem needs.
• Project resource capabilities and suitability for various purposes.
• Public interests and desires.
The Table Rock Lake master plan update main objectives are:
• To make maximum use of the resources of the lake within the current policies and guidelines of the Corps of Engineers.
• Accommodate current and projected use patterns with maximum efficiency.

• Identify and protect cultural and natural resources.
• To attract maximum participation by the general public and local government in project development management.
As part of the master plan revision, the Corps is hosting three public scoping meetings where you can learn the details.
• 6-8:30 p.m. Nov. 28 at Reeds Spring High School.
• 6-8:30 p.m. Nov. 29 at Shell Knob Elementary School.
• 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec 1 at Dewey Short Visitor's Center.

Army Corps seeks your input on future of Table Rock Lake

What should Table Rock Lake look like in 20 years?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to know what lake users think and has scheduled three information-gathering workshops this week to find out.

“There are really three questions we’re interested in,” said Dana Coburn, project manager for an update of Table Rock Lake’s Master Plan. “How do people see Table Rock in 20 years? What’s most important to you about Table Rock? And, what is one thing that should be done to improve the lake? We’re looking for anything and everything.”

The original Master Plan was developed in 1976 and hasn’t been updated since. Coburn said it’s time to revise the plan to help guide how future decisions about the lake are made.

“Some might say they don’t want Table Rock to become another Lake of the Ozarks,” Coburn said, referring to the north-central lake that’s ringed by boat docks and has suffered significant pollution issues from runoff and leaking septic tanks. “We might hear people want more hiking trails along the shore or more waterway trails. The Master Plan is the vision for the lake.”

She said the Corps already has received some comments from people concerned about the large size of some boats on the lake and the high speeds at which some boats travel.

“They’re concerned about safety and whether boat speed should be more regulated,” she said.

There also have been some comments about floating docks and whether new ones can be built in various parts of the lake. There have also been some comments from people concerned about improving the quality of Table Rock Lake's water.

Each of the three public information meetings will begin with an overview of what the Master Plan is and how it will be revised. Visitors will have the chance to stop at Corps work stations, each focused on one of the three questions. Corps personnel will gather comments from the meetings to develop a draft Master Plan, which should be available for the public to see next summer.

People will have a second opportunity to say what they think about the plan before a final Master Plan is completed by December 2013.

Once the Master Plan is completed, the Corps will seek funding from Congress to rework the lake's Shoreline Management Plan, which would put in place many of the findings developed through the Master Plan process.

Because funding for the Corps has been very tight in recent years, Corps spokeswoman Laurie Driver said she hoped the revised Master Plan would result in more partnerships with local and regional organizations to help expand recreational opportunities at Table Rock.

"We have no preconceived ideas about the Master Plan," Driver said. "Our goal is to keep the lake as healthy and sustainable as possible into the future."

View Clip: <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20121126/NEWS01/311260026/Table-Rock-Lake-Master-Plan-U-S-Army-Corps-of-Engineers-public-meetings-input?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE%7Cp>

Master Plan workshops

- 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday at Reeds Spring High School, 20277 Missouri 413 in Reeds Spring
- 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Shell Knob Elementary School, 24400 Missouri 39 in Shell Knob
- 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday at Dewey Short Visitors Center, 4500 Missouri 165 in Branson
- Comments may also be submitted via mail, email, fax or the project website with attention to: Dana Coburn, Chief, Environmental Branch, Planning and Environmental, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR

72203. Fax: 501-324-5605; email: M4TRMP@usace.army.mil

- More details available at www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/tablerock/trmasterplan.

Army.mil – Ft. Belvoir, VA
November 27, 2012

Corps issues reminder of public workshops for Table Rock master plan revisions

The Army Corps of Engineers is reminding interested persons that it will hold three public workshops, Nov. 28-29 and Dec. 1, in Reeds Spring, Shell Knob and Branson to discuss the update process and seek input on the Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision. All interested persons are invited.

The workshops will be held from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., Nov. 28, at Reeds Spring High School in Reeds Spring, Mo., and Nov. 29, at Shell Knob Elementary School in Shell Knob, Mo. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Dec. 1, at the Dewey Short Visitor Center outside Branson.

The corps' master plans are used to guide all use and development of a project's federal public lands and waters for environmental stewardship and recreation related purposes, throughout its life.

At the public workshops, representatives from the Corps of Engineers and its contractors will present a background on the master plan revision process to include explaining the difference between a master plan and a shoreline management plan. Participants would then break into small groups to encourage greater interaction and input. Anyone with any interest in the future management of Table Rock Lake is encouraged to attend and participate.

The public's input may also be provided at the workshops or during the public comment period. The comment period is Nov. 14 through Dec. 14.

Comments can be mailed to: Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, ATTN: Dana Coburn, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Ark., 72203. Or, email your comments to M4TRMP@usace.army.mil.

For more information about the master plan revision process, go to the following website: <http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/tablerock/trmasterplan.htm> or call Dana Coburn at 501-324-5601.

View Clip: <http://www.army.mil/article/91843/>

Belleville News Democrat – Belleville, IL
November 27, 2012

Army Corps seeks public input on Table Rock Lake

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans three meetings this week to hear the public's ideas for the future of Table Rock Lake. Dana Coburn is leading the effort to change the lake's master plan, which hasn't been updated since it was developed in 1976. She says the corps wants to know how the public envisions the use of the lake in 20 years. Other questions to be considered are what is important about Table Rock Lake and what should be done to improve it. The Springfield News-Leader reports (<http://sgfnw.co/Song6m>) the public will have a second opportunity to discuss the lake's future before the master plan is completed by December 2013. The meetings will be Wednesday in Reeds Spring, Thursday in Shell Knob and Saturday in Branson

View Clip: <http://www.bnd.com/2012/11/26/2407218/army-corps-seeks-public-input.html#storylink=cpy>

Joplin Globe – Joplin, MO
November 27, 2012

Army Corps seeks public input on Table Rock Lake

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans three meetings this week to hear the public's ideas for the future of Table Rock Lake.

Dana Coburn is leading the effort to change the lake's master plan, which hasn't been updated since it was developed in 1976.

She says the corps wants to know how the public envisions the use of the lake in 20 years. Other questions to be considered are what is important about Table Rock Lake and what should be done to improve it.

The Springfield News-Leader reports the public will have a second opportunity to discuss the lake's future before the master plan is completed by December 2013.

The meetings will be Wednesday in Reeds Spring, Thursday in Shell Knob and Saturday in Branson

View Clip: <http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/x1332339354/Army-Corps-seeks-public-input-on-Table-Rock-Lake>

KRZK 106.3 – Branson, MO
November 28, 2012

Corps Begins Master Plan Workshops



Visitors have a view of Table Rock Lake and the dam from the Dewey Short Visitor Center. (file photo)

The master plan for Table Rock Lake will be revised in 2013, and public workshops on that process get underway this evening.

The U-S Army Corps of Engineers holds a workshop at 6 o'clock this evening at Reeds Spring High School, and another at 6 p.m. Thursday at Shell Knob Elementary School. A workshop will be held in Branson at 10 o'clock Saturday morning at the Dewey Short Visitor Center.

Anyone interested in the future management of Table Rock Lake is encouraged to attend and participate.

View Clip: http://www.komc.com/12754/corps_begins_master_plan_workshops.html

Decide Table Rock's future

Workshops offer public chance to help fashion Master Plan

Table Rock Lake is one of the region's key resources and a major driver of economic activity.

So, area residents would be well advised to speak up today, Thursday or Saturday at one in a series of workshops hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps is beginning to work on an update to the Master Plan for Table Rock — the first major one in more than 30 years for the lake created in 1958 by **construction of a dam** on the White River.

Obviously, such an effort is overdue, so we applaud the Corps' efforts.

The 43,000-acre lake's popularity has well exceeded original estimates. The 1976 plan predicted 20 million visitors by the year 2020. In fact, current visitation is in the range of 40 million to 50 million per year for recreational activities, including vacation and retirement homes along 745 miles of shoreline.

Beyond providing recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, the lake provides flood control and a dam producing hydroelectricity.

Each session will begin with an overview of what the Master Plan is, and the process for revisions. Three workstations will be set up, each addressing a separate question:

- How do people see Table Rock in 20 years?
- What's most important to you about Table Rock?
- What is one thing that should be done to improve the lake?

A proposed plan is set to be finished by the end of 2013, then implementation plans will be created.

Residents and visitors to Table Rock often compare the lake to its bigger cousin to the north, Lake of the Ozarks. That lake is ringed by homes and boat docks, plus has dealt with bigger pollution issues from runoff and leaking septic tanks. Many say they don't want Table Rock to become another Lake of the Ozarks.

Now would be a good time for you to weigh in on how to balance future development and use of this great resource for southwest Missouri.

Master Plan workshops

- Today 6-8:30 p.m. at Reeds Spring High School, 20277 Missouri 413
- Thursday 6-8:30 p.m. at Shell Knob Elementary School, 24400 Missouri 39
- Saturday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Dewey Short Visitors Center, 4500 Missouri 165 in Branson
- Comments may also be submitted by Dec. 14 via mail, email, fax or the [project website](#) with attention to: Dana Coburn, Chief, Environmental Branch, Planning and Environmental, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203. Fax: 501-324-5605; email: M4TRMP@usace.army.mil
- More details available at: www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/tablerock/trmasterplan

View Clip: <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20121128/OPINIONS01/311280045/decide-table-rock-s-future?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7COpinions>

Ozarks First, Springfield, MO
November 28, 2012

Tonight First of Meetings This Week for Table Rock Lake Master Plan Update

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is updating its master plan for Table Rock Lake, and wants your input at three public meetings this week.

The plan guides the management of the lake, affecting recreational use and natural resources. [Click here to learn more](#)

"Anyone who lives on, has a business on, or uses the lake for recreation may be interested in attending one of the public meetings," says Ronna Haxby with Ozarks Water Watch.

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Reeds Spring High School

20277 State Hwy 413, Reeds Spring, MO

Thursday, November 29, 2012

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Shell Knob Elementary School

24400 State Hwy 39, Shell Knob, MO

Saturday, December 1, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dewey Short Visitor's Center

4500 State Hwy 165, Branson, MO

All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

"For whatever reason, there are a number of people that have some level of frustration with the Corps, or at least their perception of how the Corps manages our public property that they have been entrusted to take care of by the US Congress," writes David Casaletto, OWW Executive Director, in a news letter. "There are also just as many who understand that the shoreline must be protected for numerous reasons, including protecting the quality of the water, and they thank the Corps for the good job they are doing."

Once all of the comments are in, the plan is scheduled for public review next summer.

Development of the revised Master Plan will include consideration of:

- Regional and ecosystem needs
- Project resource capabilities and suitability for various purposes
- Public interests and desires

The Table Rock Lake Master Plan Update main objectives are:

- To make maximum use of the resources of the lake within the current policies and guidelines of the Corps of Engineers
- Accommodate current and projected use patterns with maximum efficiency
- Identify and protect cultural and natural resources
- To attract maximum participation by the general public and local government in project development management.

The Master Plan revision will classify the government lands around the lake based on environmental and socioeconomic considerations, public input, and an evaluation of past, present, and forecasted trends.

Lands may be classified into one of these categories: Project Operations, High Density Recreation, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Multiple Resource Management Lands, Low Density Recreation, Wildlife Management, Future/Inactive Recreation Areas and Vegetative Management.

Comments may also be submitted via mail, email, fax or the project website with attention to: Dana Coburn, Chief, Environmental Branch, Planning and Environmental, USACE, Little Rock District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203. Fax: (501) 324-5605, Email: M4TRMP@usace.army.mil

Written comments regarding scoping for the Master Plan revision must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by December 14, 2012.

View Clip: http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=734152

KOMC 1220 – Branson, MO
November 30, 2012

Table Rock Workshop Draws Large Crowd

The U-S Army Corps of Engineers says it was good to see so much interest in revision of the Master Plan for Table Rock Lake, but the turnout of 600 to 800 people at last night's meeting was larger than expected. Calls to Hometown Radio expressed disappointment that the public workshop at Reeds Spring High School failed to provide as much information as expected.

Environmental Branch Chief Dana Coburn says immediately after the workshop, the staff met to make some adjustments...

Listen to Clips: http://www.komc.com/12789/table_rock_workshop_draws_large_crowd.html

Comments to Hometown Radio indicated the meeting Wednesday night fell short of the scheduled 8:30 end time. Coburn says they're making some adjustments to address the concerns of those who expressed disappointment...

Coburn says work also continues on scanning continues to scan the paper document from 1976, outlining the existing Master Plan, to allow the public to view it online.

Tonight's public workshop is from 6 o'clock to 8:30 at Shell Knob Elementary School. Saturday's session at the Dewey Short Visitor Center in Branson is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 12:30.

For more information on the master plan revision process, click on the link below.

<http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/tablerock/trmasterplan.htm>

To submit comments to the corps by e-mail: M4TRMP@usace.army.mil.

KY3 – Springfield, MO
November 29, 2012

Weigh in on the future of Table Rock Lake

The Army Corps of Engineers is holding public meetings to create a Master Plan for Table Rock Lake.

The future of table rock lake rests in your hands. Well, at least partially.

The Army Corps of Engineers is asking the public to give their two cents. In particular, how would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 Years?

When comparing Table Rock Lake to Lake of the Ozarks, it's like comparing apples and oranges. From what KY3 has heard through social media, email, and in person, people hope it stays that way.

"I grew up coming down here from the 1960 on." Don Bishop has a long history with Table Rock Lake.

"From the time I was in diapers," Bishop joked. "I came down ever since. I've seen the Lake, Branson, everything change over the years."

He not only owns a home on the lake, but he started a children's charity involving the lake. It's called **Major Don's Army**.

"We bring kids with cancer and their families to the lake," said Bishop.

Like many lifetime residents Don appreciates Table Rock for it's privacy and beauty.

"The houses are jammed aren't jammed up on the shoreline. It's still not overcrowded like Lake of the Ozarks and some of the other lakes," he said.

The Army Corps of Engineers hopes to hear from people just like Don in a series of public forums as it creates the next master plan for the lake.

"It's time. It needs to be updated," said Ozarks Water Watch Executive Director David Casaletto.

The last master plan was created more than 30 years ago. "This master plan is going to affect the shoreline management plan down the road," said Casaletto.

That shoreline management plan helps determine how people use the lake--from construction to docks to how you mow your lawn.

"You have to make sure that at least you don't go backwards," said Casaletto.

He believes there is a happy medium that can be reached.

"You do have to balance economic growth with the protection of the lake and with the use of the lake," said Casaletto.

Don agrees, but says one thing has to remain constant. "The water has to be clean. If we don't have clean water in the lake, nobody is going to want to get in the lake."

There are three meetings for the public to attend:

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Reeds Spring High School

20277 State Hwy 413, Reeds Spring, MO

Thursday, November 29, 2012

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Shell Knob Elementary School

24400 State Hwy 39, Shell Knob, MO

Saturday, December 1, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dewey Short Visitor's Center

4500 State Hwy 165, Branson, MO

All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

View Clip: <http://www.ky3.com/news/ky3-weigh-in-on-the-future-of-table-rock-lake-20121128,0,747358.story>

Ozark Anglers Forum
November 29, 2012

Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision Meeting

Comments only:

View Comments: <http://forums.ozarkanglers.com/topic/36410-table-rock-lake-master-plan-revision-meeting/>

Hundreds Attend First Meeting for Input on Table Rock Lake's Future

View Video: http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=734152

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held its first Table Rock Lake meeting Wednesday night at Reeds Spring High School.

The Corps is seeking input from neighbors of the lake as it updates the lake's Master Plan. That plan guides the management of the lake, affecting recreational use and natural resources.

There were so many people in attendance at Wednesday's meeting that crowds were moved from the school cafeteria to the gym. Early estimates are that there were upwards of 500 people, and comment sheets ran out.

Organizers made it very clear that there is no plan in place yet -- this meeting was just meant to gather ideas from citizens. Without solid information to learn about, some folks left the meeting out of confusion.

[Click here to learn more](#)

"For whatever reason, there are a number of people that have some level of frustration with the Corps, or at least their perception of how the Corps manages our public property that they have been entrusted to take care of by the US Congress," says David Casaletto, Executive Director of Ozarks Water Watch. "There are also just as many who understand that the shoreline must be protected for numerous reasons, including protecting the quality of the water, and they thank the Corps for the good job they are doing."



Once all of the comments are in, the plan is scheduled for public review next summer. The revised plan will touch on regional and ecosystem needs, project resource capabilities and sustainability for various purposes, and public interests and desires.

The Corps says it wants to make maximum use of the resources of the lake within the current policies and guidelines. It also wants to accommodate current and projected use patterns with maximum efficiency.

The Master Plan revision will classify the government lands around the lake based on environmental and socioeconomic considerations, public input, and an evaluation of past, present, and forecasted trends.

Lands may be classified into one of these categories: Project Operations, High Density Recreation, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Multiple Resource Management Lands, Low Density Recreation, Wildlife Management, Future/Inactive Recreation Areas and Vegetative Management.



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Written comments regarding scoping for the Master Plan revision must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by December 14, 2012.

There are two remaining meetings:

Thursday, November 29, 2012

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Shell Knob Elementary School

24400 State Hwy 39, Shell Knob, MO

Saturday, December 1, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dewey Short Visitor's Center

4500 State Hwy 165, Branson, MO

Ozark Anglers Forum
November 29, 2012

Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision Meeting

Comments only:

View Comments: <http://forums.ozarkanglers.com/topic/36410-table-rock-lake-master-plan-revision-meeting/>

KY3 – Springfield, MO
November 29, 2012

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View Clip: <http://www.ky3.com/news/ky3-weigh-in-on-the-future-of-table-rock-lake-20121128,0,747358.story>

Ozarks First – Springfield, MO
November 30, 2012

Location Changed for Saturday's Table Rock Lake Meeting in Branson

BRANSON, Mo. -- The Army Corps of Engineers is moving Saturday's Table Rock Lake Master Plan Revision Workshop.

Due to overwhelming interest, the meeting will move from the Dewey Short Visitor Center to Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa & Convention Center to accommodate larger crowds.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1. All interested persons are invited.

The public's input may be provided at the workshop or during the public comment period. The comment period is Nov. 14 through Dec. 14. Comments can be mailed to: Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, ATTN: Dana Coburn, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Ark., 72203.

View Clip: http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=735712

Table Rock Lake plan in the works

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials were ready to talk about plans to update the existing Table Rock Lake Master Plan Wednesday night at Reeds Spring High School. But they weren't expecting to have to talk to nearly 1,000 people.

Corps officials originally planned to hold round-table discussions in the school's cafeteria. Instead, the capacity crowd packed the school's gym.

Corps officials and contractors helping coordinate the master plan public hearings said input from the public is needed to determine the best classification and management of government-owned land around the lake.

Some of the classifications are simple, such as project operations, which are areas of land required for the dam, spillway, offices and other areas used for the operation of the reservoir.

High density recreation areas are designed for parks and other public use.

Environmentally sensitive areas are places around the lake where scientific and ecological features have been found and designated for preservation.

Multiple resource management lands and water areas are more complicated.

In the multiple resource management classification, areas can be designated as low-density recreation, which include hiking trails and primitive camp sites; wildlife management areas which are generally open for hunting and fishing; future or inactive recreation areas which may have never been developed or have been closed; and vegetative management areas such as forests and prairies.

Water surface areas will be broken down into one of four categories in the new master plan; restricted areas such as those around the dam; designated no-wake areas; fish and wildlife sanctuaries; and open recreation areas available for water-based activities.

The plan also will have to take into consideration environmental assessment information, as per federal law.

Corps Chief Natural Resources Ranger Jeff Farquhar said the existing plan's estimates for population growth and land use are out-of-date.

The Corps estimates 50 million visitors go to Table Rock each year, far exceeding the current master plan's estimation of 20 million a year by the year 2020.

With the large crowd, Corps members weren't able to talk to everyone, but members of the public were encouraged to complete forms asking how they'd like to see the lake in 20 years, what is most important about the lake and what one thing could be done to most improve the lake.

People also were asked to write those ideas on Post-it notes. Those ideas were placed on a wall in the gym.

Most responses to each of the questions centered around the same things; restricting the size, horsepower, wake and speed of boats on the lake and improving water quality, shoreline maintenance and cleanliness and septic systems around the lake.

Park Ranger Jeremy Rasnick said water quality is a consistent concern he's heard about from meeting with local residents and government officials.

Another public hearing was held Thursday night in Shell Knob and one is scheduled for Dec. 1, at the Dewey Short Visitors Center from 10 a.m. to noon.

Those unable to attend may mail comments to Dana Coburn, chief, environmental branch, planning and environmental, USACE, Little Rock District, at P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203. Comments may be faxed to Coburn at 501-324-5605 or emailed to M4TRMP@usace.army.mil.

The deadline for master plan revision scoping comments is Dec. 14.

After reviewing public feedback, the Corps will create a draft master plan.

The draft is expected to be available for public review by the summer. It won't be until after the master plan is completed that the Corps will revisit its shoreline management plan.

The master plan does not address details of how and where shoreline use permits may be issued.

In December, the Corps announced that no new use permits, which include requests for new boat docks, would be considered until the master plan revision was completed.

Faquhar said the permit requests were suspended in order to establish a baseline of the 54-year-old, 43,000 acre man-made lake.

View Clip: http://bransontrilakesnews.com/news_free/article_a6f5f730-3b2b-11e2-990a-0019bb2963f4.html

Lake of the Future: Army Corps of Engineers wraps up public meetings on Table Rock's master plan

Hundreds attend three meetings as Corps revamps master plan for first time in 30+ years

Table Rock Lake is ready for an update - at least that's the message from the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**.

On Saturday, the Corps wrapped up three days of public meetings for the lake's first new master plan in three decades.

More than a hundred people showed up at Chateau on the Lake resort Saturday morning to share their perspectives with the Corps. Two meetings earlier this week - in Branson and Reeds Spring - drew several hundred people.

The master plan envisions the lake's character and use in the future. The Corps says the plan will dictate how much - or how little - the development can grow.

"In addition to the public we have our own regulations and policies we have to follow," says Dana Coburn, the project manager of Table Rock's master plan. "We're talking to Fish & Wildlife Commission, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources. We have to take their thoughts into consideration."

The Corps did announce one major decision today: a full moratorium on any new docks or major construction projects along Table Rock Lake's coastline.

That took effect Saturday and lasts one year, when the Corps expects to complete the master plan.

Even though the Corps finished its round of public meetings, you can still offer your opinion and perspective online at

<http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/table-rock/trmasterplan.htm>

View Clip: <http://www.kspr.com/news/kspr-army-corps-of-engineers-wraps-up-public-meetings-on-table-rock-master-plan-20121201,0,1908246.story>

KTTS 94.7 FM – Springfield, MO
December 3, 2012

Moratorium on Building Surprises Table Rock Lake Businesses

So many people showed up to learn about the future of Table Rock Lake, the venue had to be changed at the last minute.

Hundreds attended the third and final public meeting this weekend to help shape a revamped master plan for the lake. Several business owners were surprised to learn a one-year moratorium on building took effect Saturday.

The Army Corps of Engineers says the final master plan is set for public review next summer.

View Clip: <http://www.ktts.com/news/181782291.html>

KY3 – Springfield, MO
December 3, 2012

Future of Table Rock Lake discussed some businesses upset with building moratorium

View Video: http://www.ky3.com/news/ky3-future-of-table-rock-lake-discussed-some-businesses-upset-with-building-moratorium-20121201,0,1311393.story?track=rss&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

The future of Table Rock Lake was on the agenda on Saturday at a public meeting.

The venue for the meeting had to be changed to the Chateau on the Lake Resort to accommodate a bigger audience.

The Army Corps of Engineers asked for public input in putting together a master plan for the future of the lake, which will lay out the future of economic development on the water while keeping the lake clean as tourism grows.

One point of the plan, a year moratorium on building that took effect on Saturday, caught some business owners off guard.

"They mentioned it briefly, moratorium starts today, it's a year long. That was it. And what I figured out was, that's not new dock building for a year. That's gonna affect all these dock companies. Some are gonna go under, some people are gonna be out of work," said Jack Meferd, the owner of Deep Six Marine.

Army Corps officials said the opinions gathered from the meeting will be taken into consideration as they draft the master plan, which is scheduled for public review in the summer of 2013.

Ozarks First – Springfield, MO
December 3, 2012

Hundreds Meet to Help Shape the Future of Table Rock Lake Master Plan

View Video: http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=735962

Hundreds attended a meeting today to discuss Table Rock Lake's future.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held its third and final public information meeting in Branson to get input from residents about how to update Table Rock's out-of-date master plan.

Table Rock's current master plan, which guides the management of the government lands around the edge of the lake and natural resources, was last updated in 1976.

The Corp hosted a series of meetings this week to get public input on how they want the new plan to be revised, so many people attended the previous meetings that comment sheets ran out and today hundreds attended the final meeting to continue to voice concerns for Table Rock Lake's future.

Locals have been enjoying this shoreline for more than 50 years

But the plan to protect Table Rock Lake's 700 miles of beaches is out of date so a new initiative is now exploring plans to ensure the sustainability of the man made lake protecting its waters and wildlife.

Locals say it's about time.

"I would say the main concern is the quality of the water," said Robert Reynolds.

Reynolds is one of the more than 400 people that attended the final master plan meeting today.

The plan is designed to help provide a vision for how the lake should look in the future but Reynolds says the 30 year old vision of Table Rock Lake is murky and thinks twice before stepping in.

"The quality is getting to the point to where I don't really want to be comfortable doing that," said Reynolds.

But it's not the only part of the old plan that's being revised.

The current plan estimates that the lake would see 20 million visitors annually by the year 2020, but current visitation to Table Rock Lake is already between 40 to 50 million visitors every year.

"It's time," said Dana Coburn.

Coburn is with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the project manager for the Table Rock Lake master plan revision. She says the planning process for a new master plan includes studying the potential effects on the natural and social environment of the lake including wildlife, land use, recreation and public health and safety and public meetings are the first step.

"This is our initial outreach to the folks we want to get their input on how they feel the lake should look in the next 20 years," said Coburn.

And hundreds of locals want to get involved in the planning process.

"We have to maintain our shorelines. Secondly water quality and then bring more commercial interests in," said Chuck Barnhart.

So hopefully 20 years from now the new master plan will be clearer.

News Leader – Springfield, MO
December 4, 2012

Dock builders concerned about permit moratorium

Applications on hold until Table Rock Lake Master Plan is finished



Boat docks like this one, which was recently built by Colliers Boat Dock Company in Kimberling City, won't be allowed to be built during a just-announced moratorium. / Valerie Mosley/News-Leader

A yearlong moratorium on new dock permits at Table Rock Lake has sparked worries among some business owners who rely on the lake for their livelihoods.

“I don't want our lake to become what people tell me Lake of the Ozarks is like,” said Ruth Burns, owner of Dry Dockers Boat Lifts and Docks in Lampe. “But I'm in the business of building docks. I don't want our work to dry up.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers put the moratorium on new dock permits or dock expansions in place Dec. 1, pending a yearlong review of the Table Rock Lake Master Plan.

The Corps held three meetings last week to explain the Master Plan process and ask people what they'd like the lake to be in 20 years. The Corps planned for 150 to 200 people at each workshop, but 800 showed up for the first meeting, about 600 attended the second and about 450 attended the third, which was switched to Chateau on the Lake hotel to accommodate the larger crowd.

Dana Coburn, chief of environmental planning at the Corps' Little Rock office, said the moratorium on dock permits likely will be lifted when the Master Plan is completed by the end of 2013. Additional public meetings are slated for summer and early fall 2013 after a draft of the plan is released.

Burns, who has operated Dry Dockers for 20 years, said the Corps continued to take dock permit applications until Dec. 1, and she is hopeful there will be enough new dock construction and dock modification work to last for six months.

"But your request had to be submitted before Dec. 1 to be considered," she said. "After that date, you're out of luck until the Corps decides to do shoreline inspections again."

She didn't understand why the Corps wouldn't continue to accept dock permit applications while the Master Plan is being reworked.

Coburn said the moratorium was put in place so Corps planners can "establish a baseline — take a snapshot of existing conditions — so we know what's out there right now."

Coburn said docks can be rebuilt during the moratorium if they're damaged or destroyed by storms or other events. But they can't be built with a larger footprint or with more stalls than the original had. Modifications and renovations also can be done, but only if the size and shape of the dock remains the same.

Coburn said dock permits aren't the only ones on hold. Property owners wanting new permits to mow near the lake or create walking paths also will have to wait until the Master Plan review is finished.

Jim and Cecelia Sasser, who own Colliers Boat Dock Company in Kimberling City, said they fear they'll lose business because of the Corps' suspension of shoreline activity permits.

They were counting on working with property developer Bob Bales to build four 20-stall slips, but those are now on hold.

"They just cost us a year's work," Cecelia Sasser said of the Corps' action.

Jim Sasser said he thinks the Master Plan revision might ultimately result in tighter restrictions on where — and how many — new docks can be built on Table Rock Lake in the future.

"My gut is that it will be more restrictive," Jim Sasser said. "My biggest problem with this whole thing is why they have to shut down dock permits during this assessment? Why does it have to be done so fast. Why not give us a year or two to prepare — it's like all of a sudden slamming the door."

Bales, a property developer who sells lakefront and lake view lots, said he thinks there will be two immediate impacts from the moratorium: the value of lots that can't have a boat dock associated with them will decrease, and the price of lots that have boat docks already in place will soar.

"We immediately raised the price of our lots and docks when this announcement came out," Bales said. "I don't know why anybody would try to develop land down here without a dock on it."

Although he expects to take a financial hit because of the moratorium, Bales acknowledged there was a positive side to updating the Master Plan.

"We can't just build dock after dock after dock down here," he said. "That is one of the good things about this study."

And Burns, the owner of Dry Dockers in Lampe, also was pulled in different directions.

"I don't know how or if this Master Plan revision will benefit us in any different way," she said. "I see it both ways. My business is building docks, but I am also a dock owner and

live on the lakefront. The lake's water quality affects me personally. There is a double-edged sword here."

View Clip: <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20121204/NEWS01/312040023/Table-Rock-Lake-Master-Plan-update-dock-permit-moratorium?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Ozarks First – Springfield, MO
December 4, 2012

Pollution Surfaces as Top Concern of Table Rock Lake Meetings

View Video: http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=736492

Homeowners near Table Rock Lake hope to clear up some questions about murky water.

During recent meetings about the lake's master plan, this was one of the biggest concerns. The pollution running into the lake may be coming from your home.

Table Rock Lake's water quality has been a major concern for years, dating back to 2001 when the EPA approved a phosphorus removal effort at wastewater locations.

Springfield's Wastewater Treatment Plant was found to be a main source for the overload of nutrients getting into Table Rock Lake, causing an excess of algae, cloudy water, and pollution. Now ten years later, a similar problem is surfacing.

For half a century, the lake has played host to tourists and locals.

"One of the main draws for me was the lake and I can go out in the middle of it and swim, but now it's getting to the point where I don't really want to be comfortable doing that," says resident Robert Reynolds.

Hundreds of other concerned lake-goers agree. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, leading the new master plan, noticed.

"How do you want to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?" asks Dana Coburn with the Corps. "Of course people were saying, 'We want to see a clean, clear Table Rock Lake.'"

It's a vision that local water watch groups say lies in the hands of homeowners.

"We have been concerned with failing septic tanks for over ten years," adds David Casaletto with Ozarks Water Watch. He says after the phosphorus removal effort at wastewater plants, organizations noticed an improvement in water quality. But now, lake homeowners need to help continue the ground that's been gained.



"A good majority of those older homes built in the 70s and even early 80s and 60s," adds Casaletto. "They have an old 500-gallon metal tank that probably by now is rusted out."

Casaletto says it's a problem most homeowners don't know they have because the leaks happen underground with no natural protection to stop it from running off into the lake.

"We have very little soil. We have steep terrain."

But with an increase in public awareness and a new future for Table Rock Lake, Casaletto says it's a pollution problem homeowners can help clear up.

"The Corps has an opportunity. The water quality organizations have an opportunity to educate those homeowners. What can you do to stop this pollution? How can you help?"

Ozarks Water Watch received a \$1 million grant in 2011 to help assist homeowners with the cost of replacing their failing septic systems.

Master Plan for Table Rock Lake meeting has large attendance 112

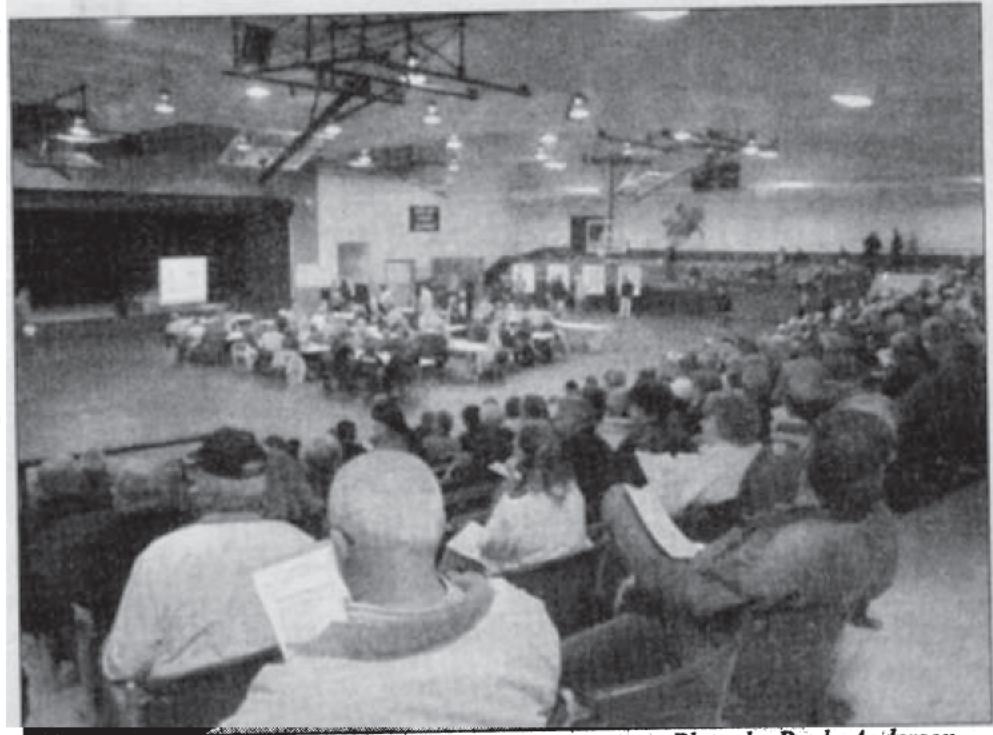


Photo by Paula Anderson

by Kathee Baird

Some people who attended meetings held by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Reeds Spring and Shell Knob about the revision of the Master Plan for Table Rock Lake say they are confused by the "Master Plan" and "Shoreline Management Plan."

Calls to The Barry County Advertiser say the public "workshop" held at Reeds Spring High School lacked pertinent information and answers to questions from the public were vague at best.

Dana Coburn, the Environmental Branch Chief for the USACofE, says staff members met immediately following the meeting

to "tweak" presentations scheduled for Shell Knob and the Dewey Short Visitor's Center in Branson.

While Coburn says it was good to see so much interest in the revision of the Master Plan for Table Rock Lake, the crowd of between 600 to 800 people in Reeds Spring on November 28th was a little overwhelming. About 500 people attended the meeting the following night in Shell Knob.

One point of the plan, a year moratorium on building that took effect on December 1st, caught some business owners off guard.

According to the Corps, the Master Plan is the guiding document that describes how the resources of the lake will

be managed. The Master Plan also provides the vision for how the lake should look.

Development of the revised Master Plan will include consideration of:

- * Regional and ecosystem needs
- * Project resource capabilities and suitability for various purposes
- * Public interests and desires

The Table Rock Lake Master Plan Update main objectives are:

- * To make maximum use of the resources of the lake within the current policies and guidelines of the Corps of Engineers

- * Accommodate current and projected use patterns

Continues on A-2

Barry County
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Cassville, MO
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From Page:
1
12/5/2012
17597





Barry County
Advertiser
Cassville, MO
Circ. 13264
From Page:
2
12/5/2012
17597



A-2 BARRY COUNTY ADVERTISER WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012

**Master Plan
Continued from front**

with maximum efficiency

- * Identify and protect cultural and natural resources
- * To attract maximum participation by the general public and local government in project development management.

Tammy Trantham, Education and Outreach Director for Table Rock Lake Water Quality, Inc., says the "master plan" does not address the details of how and where shoreline

use permits may be issued. However, it does set the stage for implementation of the shoreline management program. After the Master Plan is revised, the Shoreline Management Plan, which addresses things like dock permits, tree lines will be revised to be consistent with the goals people want to see happen to the lake over the next twenty years that will be identified in the updated master plan.

Trantham says the master plan has not been revised in almost forty years.

"We're trying to get our hands on the last one that was done in 1976, but that has proved difficult. We've been assured that the Corps will get us a digital copy soon. At this time, I don't know if they will hold any additional public meetings regarding the master plan."

The Corps is expected to publish a written proposal sometime next year and open it up for online public comment, according to Trantham.

KTTS 94.7 FM – Springfield, MO
December 5, 2012

No New Boat Docks On Table Rock Lake

The Army Corps of Engineers is putting a hold on new permits for boat docks on Table Rock Lake for one year.

Dana Coburn is the project manager in charge of updating the lake's master plan.

She says the Corps needs time to see what's on the lake so it can prepare for the future.

The master plan is scheduled to be finished by 2013.

Coburn says you can still rebuild your boat dock if it's damaged or destroyed.

View Clip: <http://www.ktts.com/news/182050711.html>

SK workshop draws crowd

Last Thursday night, the Shell Knob School gymnasium was packed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' public meeting, which was held to gather public comments regarding the revision of the Table Rock Master Plan.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives distributed literature and comment sheets to attendees as they arrived for the meeting, which was scheduled to get underway at 6 p.m., but did not begin until close to 7 p.m. due to the number of community members in attendance.

Corps staff members explained that the master plan is the "guidance document that describes how the resources of the lake will be managed in the future and provides the vision for how the lake should look in the future." The plan was last updated in 1976.

The current Table Rock Lake Master Plan estimated that the lake would see around two million visitors annually by the year 2010 but today four to five and half million visitors use the lake for recreational activities each year.

Planning for the revision of the master plan began in June. Information collected at the public workshops held in Shell Knob, Reeds Spring and Branson last week will be used to create a draft plan, which will be reviewed by the public next summer. The Corps hopes to complete the revision of the master plan by December of 2013.

Development of the revised master plan will include consideration of regional and ecosystem needs, project resource capabilities and suitability for various purposes and public interests and desires.

The main objectives of the master plan update are to maximize the use of the resources of the lake within the current policies and guidelines of the Corps, accommodate current and projected use patterns with maximum efficiency, identify and protect cultural and natural resources and attract maximum participation by the general public and local government in project development management.

The master plan does not address the details of how and where shoreline use permits may be issued, but it does set the stage for implementation of the shoreline management program. After the master plan revision has been completed, the shoreline management plan will also be revised.

The updated master plan will classify government lands around the lake based on environmental and socioeconomic considerations, public input and an evaluation of past, present and forecasted trends.

Land classifications will include the following:

* Project operations, which are lands required for the dam, spillway, offices and other areas for the operation of the reservoir.

* High density recreation lands acquired for project operations and designated for use as parks and recreation. New private floating facilities would not be allowed in these areas.

* Environmentally sensitive areas where scientific, ecological, cultural or aesthetic have been identified. The areas are managed to protect their environment resources.

* Multiple resource management lands, which includes: low density recreation lands for hiking trails, primitive camping and limited lake access points; wildlife management lands allocated as habitat for fish and wildlife; future or inactive recreation areas that are intended for recreation but have not been developed or have been closed; and vegetative management lands designed for stewardship of forest, prairie and other vegetative cover.

* Water surface areas including: water areas restricted for project operations, safety and security purposes; designated no-wake areas designed to protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas and recreational water access areas; annual or seasonal restrictions on areas to protect fish and wildlife species during periods of migration, resting, feeding, nesting and spawning; and waters available for year round or seasonal water-based recreational use.

After offering information on the master plan, attendees were asked to complete a questionnaire and write some of their top concerns or requests on slips of paper, which were collected by Corps representatives.

When asked how they would like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years, the audience's top three concerns were water quality, safety and the size of water vessels using the lake.

When asked what is most important about Table Rock Lake, attendees also identified water quality and safety as two of their top concerns. The answer that received the third highest comments was more free access.

When asked what one thing could be done to improve the lake, those in attendance once again identified water quality and safety as the top two issues. Audience members also said that boat size, speed limits, enforcement and boat dock requirements were top concerns.

Table Rock Lake offers over 745 miles of shoreline, 14 developed parks, 13 campgrounds with over 800 campsites, 100 adjacent resorts and 15 public marinas. The man-made lake was formed in 1958 and is around 43,000 acres in size.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers wants to hear from the public that recreates on the water, the businesses around the lake and everyone who will be impacted by the lake in some form or other.

Comments can also be emailed to M4TRMP@usace.army.mil, faxed to 501-324-5605 or mailed to Dana Coburn, chief, environmental branch, planning and environmental, USACE, Little Rock District, PO Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Written comments must be received or postmarked by Dec. 14.

View Clip: <http://www.cassville-democrat.com/story/1919950.html>

Table Rock Lake plan questioned



Cape Fair Marina is just one of dozens of businesses that will likely feel the impact of a moratorium placed on new shoreline activity requests by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the beginning of this month.

Hundreds of area residents and property owners turned out last week to hear what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to do with Table Rock Lake, but many of them, including some who make a living working on the lake, say they're not getting any answers.

The Corps announced this fall it planned to revise the Table Rock Lake Master Plan, a document outlining uses for the areas around the lake. The existing master plan dates back to the 1970s.

Officials at several public meetings last week said improving water quality is a major concern.

But for several dock builders and marina owners on Table Rock, that doesn't explain why the Corps also announced a moratorium on shoreline activity requests pending completion of the master plan update.

Cecelia Sasser, who owns Colliers Boat Docks in Lampe and Kimberling City, with her husband, Jim, said almost all the company's business is on Table Rock.

What the moratorium means to the Sassers, and others, is that they might be going out of business.

“We have a 50-foot boat that we run on Table Rock,” she said. “We can’t just put it on a trailer and move it somewhere else.”

Sasser said her company also has a full shop and crew, all of which adds the company’s overhead.

Corps officials gave those wanting to submit shoreline activity requests until Dec. 1. Requests received by the start of the month will have to be considered by the Corps.

About 90 percent of those shoreline requests are for new boat docks or boat dock additions, Jeff Faruhar with the Corps said previously.

Sasser and others said the Corps only gave people a 10- to 14-day notice, however, not long enough for some to complete the required paperwork.

Doug Blevins, co-owner of D&R Dock Builders in Reeds Spring, said the moratorium is going to put dock builders like him out of business.

“In my mind, I don’t see much other choice,” Blevins said. “I’ve got a farm and cattle to take care of, but the guy who works for me or someone else, the general laborer who is just out there working, I can’t tell him to just take six months or more off and come back.

“He’s got a house payment to pay and kids to feed. He’s not going to be there in six months,” he said.

Blevins said he doubts the Corps will complete the master plan and the shoreline management plan, which is a part of the master plan outlining shoreline activity uses and requests, in only a year.

“It’s probably going to be more like two to five years,” he said. “They’re going to put me out of business. I’ve been in business for 25 years.”

Blevins said he doesn’t understand why the state or the Corps would halt dock building.

“We collect \$50,000 to \$75,000 in sales tax for the state a year, and I pay income taxes,” he said. “I don’t get why the Corps would want to do this, in an economically hard time.”

Blevins said water quality is a concern of his, but pointed at old septic systems in nearby subdivisions as the culprit, not “the guys mowing the grass next to the water’s edge or the people wanting to add boat docks,” both of which require the shoreline activity requests.

Farquhar said the Corps halted the new requests to establish a baseline on the lake.

Jim Best, general manager at L&H Dock Service in Blue Eye, said his company also will be hurt by the moratorium.

“We do an awful lot of maintenance and boat lift work, so the moratorium won’t change any of that,” Best said, “But as far as dock building, it will take a big percentage of the total gross out of contractors.

“It will hurt us since Table Rock is our home lake.”

Best said layoffs are likely and contractors will probably have to move out of the area to look for work.

He said his company hurried to submit activity request applications before the Dec. 1 deadline, but noted that the Corps won’t do site visits for some time, likely in the spring, once the lake maintains a water level of 915 feet.

Best said he felt the Corps was doing needed work.

“Without them, we’d have another Lake of the Ozarks, and we don’t need that mess down here,” he said. “That’s because there’s no shoreline restrictions. We need the restrictions, we just need to be sensible about them.

“If this is about clean water, I’m all for it,” Best said. “But if this is just a move to stop development of the area, I’m against it.”

Meanwhile, L&H this week is finishing up what could be its last new dock on Table Rock Lake for years.

And fewer boat docks means fewer dollars for the local economy.

Best said his company spent \$2 million on the Table Rock Lake area this year alone on raw materials for docks.

This isn’t the first time the Corps has made things tougher on dock-builders, he said.

Best said, in 1993, the Corps placed a moratorium on floating structures on the lake, took it off, and then put it back on.

Docks that had already been approved for construction had to be poly flange encapsulated, adding additional expense.

Marinas, other businesses will be impacted

Scott Phelps, co-owner of Hideaway Marina, Cape Fair Marina and James River Dock Service, said the Corps shutdown came as a surprise to businesses like his, which have made large investments in property on the lake.

“We bought two dilapidated marinas ... those two marinas were as good as shut down,” Phelps said. “We signed new leases with the Corps when we took them over and put a ton of money into it.

“The news of a complete shutdown is a little shocking. I think some folks don’t even know what’s going on yet.

“I’ve heard rumors that the shutdown may be a couple of years or that there may be no more development ever. We certainly wouldn’t have taken these new marinas on and agreed with the Corps to invest millions if we knew a few years later the ax was going to drop and it’d be over.”

Phelps said the shutdown likely surprised some Corps officials, as well.

“There’s now an environmental side (to the Corps), and everyone knows the environment is a huge thing these days. That’s probably what caused this review of the master plan,” he said.

“While there’s a lot of parts to the master plan, the shoreline management plan is what will impact people the most. That’s why everyone has piled into these meetings. That plan is a big thing with developers and people wanting to expand their docks.”

Port of Kimberling General Manager Ryan Hamilton agreed.

“The shoreline management plan is what governs what happens on the lake,” Hamilton said. “I really think the moratorium has a bigger impact than the updated master plan.

“I’ve seen several Corps public releases where they say the moratorium is a year-long deal, but they’re not reviewing the shoreline management plan, so I don’t understand how they can say the moratorium will be lifted by then. I think there’s been a lack of information.”

Phelps said the Corps is doing what it can to manage the lake, despite having a limited workforce.

“There is a lot to it and a lot of different angles to consider,” he said. “You have this commercial real estate side that is trying to work actively and positively with marinas and resorts but you have this environmental side stepping up and saying, ‘Hey, we need to bring everything up to standard.’”

“It is a fine line to walk, determining if the lake should continue to develop or if it needs to be halted for the preservation of the lake.

“I don’t think the Corps has the answers yet. They had a public meeting because they had to. They’ve tried to sugar-coat what is going on. All these people were at the public meetings because they feel their business could be impacted.”

Hamilton said lots of businesses will be impacted.

“The moratorium is going to stifle any sort of activity,” he said. “You can’t even expand your dock. If you have a 10-by-24 slip and you want to buy a bigger boat, make it a 28-foot slip, the moratorium won’t let that happen.

“Dock builders are going to be impacted,” Hamilton said. “That will impact sales tax. It also will impact boat dealers because (what size of boat people can buy) is going to be very rigid.

“What does this mean over the next two to five years? I don’t see the moratorium being lifted until the shoreline plan is addressed.”

Phelps said it means businesses will have to shut their doors.

“Dock businesses are going to drop like flies, they’ve suddenly gone from having work to not,” he said.

Hamilton said fewer boat dock builders in the local area will mean fewer people on Table Rock Lake in the long term.

“This year we had four docks wiped out by a tornado,” he said. “(Without local builders) it’s going to end up costing us more money to replace those docks because there are fewer choices.

“We may end up having to buy a dock from Oklahoma or Washington state because if there’s no docks to build, there’s no dock builders. If it costs us more to replace those docks, our insurance premiums go up.

“It’s concerning to us in a lot of respects,” he said. “In these times, we don’t need more challenges. We have peoples’ businesses and livelihoods on the line here.”

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Water quality tops list of concerns

By David Casaletto
Executive director
Ozarks Water Watch

In the Ozarks Waters newsletter on Nov. 19, I discussed the upcoming public meetings the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was holding to discuss the planned revisions to the Table Rock Lake master plan. I would like to revisit that topic.

At the time these public meetings were being held, the actual master plan was not available to review. It is more than 30 years old, and 30 years ago we all still used typewriters, so the Corps had to scan it in, all 443 pages.

I am happy to report that the plan is now available on the Corps master plan Web page. It is divided into three separate parts: 1976 Table Rock master plan supplements, main text and plates (maps).

The attempt to get the public to the master plan meetings was overwhelmingly successful.

The Corps held one agency meeting for governmental, regulatory and non-profit agencies and organizations, and three meetings open to the general public. The total attendance at these meetings is estimated at more than 1,800 people.

I have held public meetings on various topics, and if you get 25 or 50 people to show up, you are patting yourself on the back. To get an average of 600 people per meeting can only mean the subject was of major importance to them, and the subject was the future of Table Rock Lake.

At these meetings, the Corps and their contractor hired to handle the master

plan update gave a presentation and then asked those in attendance to answer these three questions:

1. How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

2. What about Table Rock Lake is most important to you?

3. What is the one thing that could be done to improve the lake?

The attendees were asked to put their answers in two places: on a "sticky note" that was then collected and tallied, and on a comment card that was either turned in or sent to the Corps after the meeting.

There was no opportunity for verbal comments at any of the public meetings.

While we do not know the demographics of the 1,800 people at the meetings, I will give an educated guess that most were local lake area residents and business owners. I say this because I talked to many of them after the meetings. And the top concern given in response to the questions asked above, at all three public meetings and at the agency meeting, was water quality.

Other subjects like failing septic tanks, no big boats or better fishing were also given, but water quality was by far the top concern.

So what were they saying? What does water quality mean and how does the Corps now address it in the master plan, and in the shoreline management plan when it is someday updated?

I know what I think they were saying, but I would recommend the

Corps hold a series of focus group meetings that drill down and find out exactly what the public really means by water quality.

I have always said that the group that is most protective of our land and streams is the local farmers that live and work on the land they love.

Along those same lines, the groups most protective of the lake should be the adjacent landowners that love the lake, and the businesses that depend on the lake for their livelihood. And I think these groups would be the most protective if we engage them. Ask them for their opinion, listen to their concerns and issues, work with them to find win-win solutions and educate them on how to better protect the lake.

The organizations are already in place to help the Corps accomplish this mission. The water quality groups such as Table Rock Lake Water Quality, James River Basin Partnership, Kings River Watershed Partnership, Roaring River Watershed Alliance and Ozarks Water Watch are the ones that first come to mind.

A partnership with the Corps, the Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation and the water quality groups can lead the Corps in this mandate of water quality that was spoken loud and clear at each of these meetings.

This partnership can work with and educate the public on what water quality means for Table Rock Lake.

How would you like to see Table Rock Lake in 20 years?

Stone County
Gazette
Kimberling
City, MO
Circ. 2717
From Page:
6
12/13/2012
17323

