





2021 Focus: Building a Sediment Management Plan & an Opportunity

Scoping, updating and coordinating consumed 2020. A federal match along with the MSAC & stakeholder contribution of \$55,000 will get Phase 2 started for the Lewis & Clark Lake region soon. Phase 2 is a \$215,667 project.

L&C Lake Master Plan



- Hurry ... initial comments are due January 25, 2021.
- Submit comments to: NWO-Master-Plan@usace.army.mil
- Read more on page 2.

7 MSAC videos reach more than 20,000 Facebook views

Read more on pg. 3

Key Objectives of Phase 2 L&C SMP

Phase 2 Purpose and Focus:

- Apply economic models to consider costs & benefits associated with sediment management
- Complete economic analysis utilizing dredging scenarios/which can be applied to other techniques
- Utilize USACE standard economic model & the Life-Cycle economic model along with alternative discount rates
- Explore full spectrum of possible solutions with a Solutions Workshop and an understanding that practitioners have increasingly looked for new, creative solutions to collect & transport sediment trapped by reservoirs
- Update existing sediment management studies
- View the PMP at www.keepitwater.org

²Comment period open on revision of Lewis and Clark Lake master plan

The public scoping and comment period for the revision and update of the Gavins Point Dam - Lewis and Clark Lake master plan kicked off Dec. 15, 2020, during a virtual meeting hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

A master plan is a high-level, strategic document that describes how the Corps of Engineers will operate and manage public lands. The current Gavins Point Dam, Lewis and Clark Lake master plan was last updated in 2004. It needs to be updated to meet current regulations and policies and to reflect user needs, according to the Corps' December 1 press release.

The Corps states that one of the most important components of the update and revision process is gathering public input, comments, and concerns relating to the current and future of management of project lands.

The input will help shape the master plan update and revision process by helping the Corps identify how to better manage the area while protecting its natural, cultural, historic, and manmade resources. An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be done to address potential environmental effects and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Once comments are collected, the Corps will draft the revised master plan and associated EA. After completion of the draft, the public will have another opportunity to offer comments. A public meeting will be scheduled by the Corps.



Gavins Point Dam/Lewis and Clark Lake - Corps photo

For More Information:

To view the current master plan:

https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Dam-and-Lake-Projects/Project-Master-Plans

Public comments may be submitted through January 25, 2021 via email:

NWO-Master-Plan@usace.army.mil

View Press Coverage at:

Yankton Press & Dakotan: www.yankton.net "A Flow of Info" and "Input Process Begins for L&C Lake Master Plan Update" ...

What does the current master plan state about sedimentation?

From MSAC reports

An excerpt from the current Master Plan:

"Sedimentation is now and will continue to be a major problem at Lewis and Clark Lake. As the lake ages, sediment will continue to be deposited. As this occurs, the size of the multipurpose pool will decrease and with it the lake's storage capacity and recreational value. The results of sediment buildup, from a recreation standpoint, will be the eventual closure of boat ramps because of poor or no access to the lake. Most of the recreation areas have been affected to a certain extent, and those above the Sand Creek Area have been affected extensively.

The accumulation of sediment is a natural, predicted occurrence and although Federal, State, and local personnel have looked at the sediment issues no plan is in place to move, redirect, or remove the incoming sediment from the reservoir. Many plans have been looked at and discarded as impractical or too costly." The current master plan goes on to generally identify four approaches to manage the sediment through dam reconstruction, sediment removal, sediment redirection and moving the sediment.

"The (master) plan is filled with all kinds of data about the reservoir. It reminds us of all the spectacular features of the lake and also the challenges it faces. It was last updated in 2004, and we realize that the landscape has changed a great deal," MSAC Executive Director Sandy Stockholm told the Yankton Press & Dakotan (published Dec. 10, 2020)

The tone that sediment management is too costly or impractical needs to change, she said adding that it would be great to see current efforts to create a SMP with the Corps complement the master plan revision process.





MSAC Photo/2007

We recently came across a historical photo in the Digital Archives - Photo Collection of the South Dakota State Historical Society (see above left). The photo on the right was taken in 2007. An estimated 35% of Lewis and Clark Lake is filled with sediment and it is on track to be 50% full of sediment by 2045. In reviewing US Sen. Case's papers at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, people in Springfield were alerting the Corps and elected officials of sedimentation problems in the late 1950s shortly after the lake was created with Gavins Point Dam.

MSAC videos draw attention to sedimentation problems



The Bazile Creek, a Missouri River tributary which enters near the headwaters of Lewis & Clark Lake, is experiencing bed build-up

Special Thank You to West River Water Development District & South Central Water Development District for contributing funds for this project. Membership contributions also made this project possible. At a stakeholder meeting, it was suggested that MSAC produce testimonial videos at vantages around the lake to inform the public about sedimentation problems and how they are impacting the region.

The seven videos were released on Facebook, MSAC's YouTube channel & website in 2020. Check them out.

- Mike Crosley, farmer/rancher & land manager for the Santee Sioux Nation, tells us about bed aggradation at the Bazile Creek, which enters the headwaters of Lewis and Clark Lake.
- Cedar Knox Rural Water Project staff tell us about the threat of sediment approaching the water intake at the lake. The project has 890 service connections and serves rural and four communities.
- Rick and Mary Hurd, landowners in South Dakota, just upstream of the lake tell us about the ups and downs of farming next to the Missouri River and the questions of what will be left for future generations. Mary is an MSAC Board Member.
- Tim Cowman, of SD Geological Survey & MSAC Board Member, explains what is happening at the reservoir & the resulting sediment deficit downstream of the dam.
- Charles Gross, of Yankton & past MSAC Board Member, explains MSAC's mission.
- The late Ron Livingston, of Springfield, told us about his unique perspective of the lake as an angler and artist.
- Attorney Rick Spellman and past Village Clerk Bob Olson tell us about the history of sedimentation and Niobrara, Nebraska which sits next to the Niobrara River.

Series of Webinars in 2020; More planned



Zoom keeps meetings on

MSAC hosted a live webinar in December of 2019 and three more in 2020:

- Tim Randle/Supervisor Civil Engineer-Hydraulics USBR
- Coalition to Protect the Missouri River
- Paul Boyd, Hydraulic Engineer -USACE
- Nathan Schaepe, hydrologist & GIS specialist-US Geological Survey's Neb. Water Science Center



Webinar & Meeting Library

Look for MSAC's YouTube channel to catch past webinars listed above and meetings in recent years.



More planned for 2021

Look for webinars this year to feature book authors and others to broaden our perspectives on Missouri River issues, Native American perspectives and Phase 2 updates.

Your membership contribution makes things happen.

MSAC relies on your

membership contribution to meet annual expenses such as insurance, accounting, office rent & expenses, professional assistance and parttime labor. It also makes applying for grant funds possible along with education and research efforts.



Contact us:

Office: 100 Douglas, Suite 103, Yankton, SD 57078

Mailing Address: MSAC, PO Box 2

Springfield, SD 57062

Ph: 605.661.1594 e: msaconline@gmail.com