

RESERVOIR OPERATIONS PLAN EVALUATION (ROPE) STUDY

POKEGAMA LAKE GROUP MEETING

AUGUST 6, 2003

1. Introductions. Jeff Kleinert, Park Manager at Pokegama Dam, started the meeting with personal introductions and a brief overview of what was to be covered.
2. Purpose. The purpose of the meeting was explained with an emphasis on group input to determine the importance of different activities on the reservoirs. These inputs will be used with the planning models being developed for the ROPE study.
3. Handout 1 listing the ROPE study progress and upcoming events was discussed.
4. Handout 2 showed a historical graph of lake levels on Pokegama Lake.
5. The operating plan of Pokegama Dam was included in the package as Handout 3. This showed the cyclical changes throughout the year, and the elevation targets to meet.
6. Annual hydrographs of historic and natural conditions for Pokegama Lake were designated as Handout 4 and briefly discussed.
7. Handout 5 required inputs from the group, ranking the importance of recreation, flooding, erosion, and natural/environmental concerns. A range of preferred elevations for different recreation categories was recorded. Unacceptable elevations for the other categories took more time to discuss and record with lively inputs throughout the group.
8. One person in attendance from the Prairie River watershed provided his own response inputs for the Lawrence Lake/Prairie River area after the meeting. It was also mentioned that Minnesota Power & Light (MP&L) should try to use upstream precipitation information and react sooner with changes to the Prairie Dam to benefit upstream interests. The question was raised as to whether their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license required them only to react to a rising gage on the lake itself, or if they could be more proactive, watching the weather and using the Internet to necessitate a change. This question will be explored.
9. It is difficult for concerned citizens to relate to Pokegama Lake elevations when their homes are on the Prairie River system or on Mississippi River stretches both upstream and downstream of Pokegama Lake.
10. Appreciation for their participation was extended and the meeting was adjourned. A future meeting date was not set at this time.

Attendance List
Pokegama Lake Group
August 6, 2003

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids, MN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Jeff Kleinert	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walt Peters	Lawrence Lake Association
Bob Olson	Pokegama Lake Association
Don Pierce	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife
Howard Christman	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Waters
Thomas Brady	Lower Lawrence/Prairie River
Jim Uzelac	Minnesota Power & Light
Noel Griese	Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District