

RESERVOIR OPERATIONS PLAN EVALUATION (ROPE) STUDY

CASS LAKE/WINNIE LAKE GROUP MEETING

AUGUST 4, 2003

1. Introductions. Jeff Kleinert, Park Manager at Winnibigoshish Dam, and Brenda Halter-Glenn of the U.S. Forest Service 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 of Winnibigoshish Lake.
5. The operating plan of Winnie 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 Winnie, Cass, and Bemidji Lakes were grouped 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. With the majority of people in attendance from the Cass Lake area, it was decided to answer the inputs relative to Cass Lake elevations first. 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. The Wolf Lake residents in attendance declined to provide their elevation inputs until October. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be establishing the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) for the lake, and they wanted that elevation to work from with their answers. Also, only one Winnie resident was in attendance. Jeff Kleinert will meet with Winnie residents at the Winnie Lake Association meeting in October to receive their inputs on these same parameters.
9. It is difficult for this group to relate to Winnie elevations when their concerns are scattered throughout the watershed. Wolf, Bemidji, Cass, and other lakes have higher elevations farther upstream.
10. Appreciation for their participation was extended and the meeting was adjourned. A future meeting date was not set at this time.

Attendance List
Cass/Winnie Lake Group
August 4, 2003

Chippewa National Forest office, Cass Lake, MN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Brenda Halter-Glenn	Chippewa National Forest
Jeff Kleinert	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
John Endres	Camp Chippewa Foundation
Mike Endres	Camp Chippewa
Chris Endres	Camp Chippewa
Chuck Conway	Big Lake Association
Earl Ockenga	Big Lake Association
Ryan Hilmer	Wolf Lake
Pete Swanson	Big Lake
John Seekon	Pines Resort - Winnibigoshish
Mike Schwab	Star Island Protection League/Camp Unistar