
MARK TWAIN LAKE MASTER PLAN

CLARENCE CANNON DAM AND MARK TWAIN LAKE MONROE CITY, MISSOURI

CHAPTER 6 SPECIAL TOPICS/ISSUES/CONSIDERATIONS

This chapter discusses the special topics, issues, and considerations identified as necessary to the future management of Mark Twain Lake. Special topics, issues, and considerations are defined in this context as items that are unique to the Project and not covered in other parts of the plan. For simplicity, the topics are discussed below under generalized headings.

6.1 PARTNERING

The Corps of Engineers has control and oversight of stewardship activities on the public lands and waters at Mark Twain Lake. The MDNR has responsibility for recreation management at Mark Twain State Park. The MDC is responsible for fisheries management.

Increasingly, competition for the use of project lands and waters and their natural resources can create conflicts and concerns among stakeholders. The need to coordinate a cooperative approach to protect and sustain these resources is compelling. Many opportunities exist to increase the effectiveness of federal programs through collaboration among agencies and to facilitate the process of partnering between government and non-government organizations.

To sustain healthy and productive public lands and waters with the most efficient approach requires that individuals and organizations recognize their unique ability to contribute to commonly held goals. The key to progress is building on the strengths of each sector, achieving goals collectively that could not be reasonably achieved individually. Partnering opportunities exist and can promote the leveraging of limited financial and human resources. Partnering aids the identification of innovative approaches to deliver acceptable levels of service, defuses polarization among interest groups and leads to a common understanding and appreciation of individual roles, priorities and responsibilities.

To the extent practicable, this Master Plan and a proactive approach to partnering will position the Mark Twain Lake Project to aggressively leverage project financial and human resources in order to identify and satisfy customer expectations, protect and sustain natural and cultural resources and recreational infrastructure, and sustain Corps management efforts and outputs at an acceptable level of service.

Memorandums of Agreement and, Legislative Authorities for Partnering and Coordination, or both are established to define partnering arrangements with other agencies or organizations. These partnerships have become vital in providing the levels of service that users of project

related resources demand. The Mark Twain Lake Project continues to seek new partnerships and strengthen existing ones to accomplish project initiatives. The Mark Twain Lake Project maintains many forms of partnerships such as Volunteer Agreements, Memorandums of Agreements, Memorandums of Understanding, and Cooperative Agreements. Currently, the Friends of Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Council (FOREST Council) a 501c3 “Friends” group, serves as a local clearing house for partnership initiatives at the Project and includes regional government agencies, community organizations, and individuals.

6.2 UTILITY CORRIDORS

A variety of utility corridor outgrants exist at the Clarence Cannon Dam and Mark Twain Lake Project. Public utilities for electricity, water, phone, fiber optics, natural gas, and petroleum products currently have outgrants that traverse portions of the Project. In 2009, the Corps issued a Non-Recreational Outgrant Policy (USACE, 2009a) stating that the primary rationale for authorizing any future non-recreational outgrant request for use on Corps lands or waters will be (1) no viable alternative to the activity or structure being located on civil works lands or waters, or (2) a direct benefit to the government. Requests for utility outgrants are managed through the St. Louis District Real Estate Division. Requests must meet all regulatory and Real Estate Division requirements for consideration of an outgrant. Additionally, requests must not interfere with the authorized purposes or public use of the project.

6.3 WATER CONTROL MANUAL

The Master Plan does not cover lake regulation, shoreline management, water quality, or operational structures. As a result, lake regulation is covered in detail in the Mark Twain Lake Water Control Manual that was approved on February 28, 2011 which supersedes the Water Control Manual dated November 1991. The purpose of the Water Control Manual is to present the detailed plan of water regulation and pertinent information relative to Mark Twain Lake. It presents a description of the multi-purpose reservoir project features; the responsibilities of the personnel and organizations involved in the regulation of the project; the means of receiving hydrologic, stream flow and water quality data; the methods of data analysis and data communication; and the plan of regulation. Mark Twain Lake water level is regulated by the Water Control Section, Hydrologic and Hydraulics Branch of the St. Louis District Engineering and Construction Division.

6.4 BARRIER-FREE ACCESSIBLE SHORELINE ACCESS

The provision of a universally accessible fishing pier on the project shoreline is difficult with a pool fluctuation of over 50 feet and the steep topography of the project. Due to these difficult conditions, development of lake-based accessibility has not been feasible. Lack of accessible fishing is one of the most significant customer complaints that are received at the project office. In response to customer feedback, approval was obtained for the installation of accessible fishing piers in the Spillway Recreation Area. Currently, funding and implementation partners for installation of the accessible piers are not available. Additionally, accessible fishing facilities are provided at the recreational fishing pond within the Frank Russell Recreation Area.

Ambulatory fishing opportunities on Mark Twain Lake exist at many developed recreation areas and hunter fisherman access lots on the project. Additionally, stocked fishing ponds exist on project lands that are easily accessible from developed recreation areas and hunter fisherman access lots.

Currently, ambulatory overnight docking facilities exist at the Blackjack and Indian Creek Marinas located on Mark Twain Lake. Accessible docking and fishing facilities may be provided by the marinas. Accessibility at these locations may be limited during certain lake elevations.

6.5 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

The Shoreline Management Policy, in accordance with Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations 327.30 states that it is USACE policy to protect and manage shorelines of USACE water resource development projects "in a manner which will promote the safe and healthful use of the shorelines by the public while maintaining environmental safeguards to ensure a quality resource for use by the public." The policy recognizes the need to balance competing interests present at multi-purpose properties. The Shoreline Management Policy regulations prohibit private shoreline uses on water resource projects where construction was initiated after December 13, 1974, or where no private shoreline uses existed as of that date. USACE projects with private development prior to December 13, 1974, are managed in accordance with a shoreline management plan. Currently, private development does not exist at the Mark Twain Lake Project, however, commercial development potential exists.

Development is possible at Mark Twain Lake through its leasing or outgrant program. Before federal property could be made available for development, the following documentation would need to be prepared: 1) marketability study; 2) feasibility study; 3) environmental/cultural resources evaluations. Currently, USACE does not have the resources to prepare this documentation. If interested, individual developers or groups would be required to prepare the documentation for USACE review to support additional development at the Mark Twain Lake Project.

6.6 REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT.

Expansion in the distribution of potable water has had positive impacts on the quality of life and growth in Northeast Missouri. Future needs for the Mark Twain Lake region should address issues such as wastewater requirements necessary for additional growth. In 2013, the Cannon Water Supply District No. 1 attempted to develop an initiative to deliver a Regional Sewer System in Ralls County adjacent to State Routes J and EE. The initial meetings were well attended by interested parties. The initiative lacked funding to continue pursuit of an Engineering Report that would have identified alternatives and cost for the project. The economies of many communities and continued growth in the area will be hampered until a regional wastewater system is provided to address these needs. Additionally, the Corps may potentially be interested in treatment options if a regional public wastewater system was developed within proximity to the Mark Twain Lake COE facilities.

6.7 RESORT NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) AT FRANK RUSSELL

The St. Louis District and Mark Twain Lake Project Corps of Engineers are pursuing the development of a commercial resort facility providing expanded, shoreline-accessible recreational opportunities. Twelve potential development locations were identified. Based on utility infrastructure, transportation networks, regional commerce trends, and visitor use patterns, it has been determined that the Frank Russell Recreation Area possesses the salient characteristics and capabilities necessary to meet market needs. Regional market analysis supports the economic feasibility and benefit of a resort facility proposed for the area. This resort concession, developed with commercial funding sources, would be initiated under a Notice of Availability action (NOA). The NOA would establish the minimum development criteria for the proposed facility, including: a resort/hotel complex with a minimum of 100 rooms, casual/formal dining amenities, a conference facility with accommodations for 300, 25 boat mooring slips, paved parking and road surfaces, utility infrastructure, and LEED qualification – Silver Certified.

6.8 MODERNIZATION OF FACILITIES

Various facilities at the Mark Twain Lake Project have been recently modernized and/or replaced as a result of funding availability from sources other than the annual basic Operations and Maintenance funding allocation for the project. Facilities that have been modernized, replaced, or consolidated as a result of flood supplemental funding include; replacement of vault toilets with water borne comfort stations in the Warren G. See North and South Spillways, and vault toilet replacement at Bluffview, Robert Allen, South Fork, Stoutsville and the Indian Creek East Boat Ramp. Examples of facilities that have been modernized or replaced as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) supplemental funding include replacement of the M.W. Boudreaux Visitor Center, a safety buoy line at the Clarence Cannon Dam, and a portion of the Indian Creek Recreation Road. The remainder of the roads in the Indian Creek Recreation Area, John Briscoe Group Camp and Stoutsville Recreation Areas were improved utilizing Federal Highway Administration funding through the Federal Lands Transportation Program.

It should be noted that fiscal availability through the National Recreation Business Line for the basic annual Operations and Maintenance funding requirements for the project has diminished in recent years and is not expected to increase in the near future. As a result, efficiencies in annual operations have been deployed to insure availability of recreation opportunities at the Mark Twain Lake Project. It is anticipated that it would be difficult to provide additional future modernizations without availability of supplemental funding sources or partnerships.

6.9 HYDROPOWER

The Clarence Cannon Power Plant has an installed nameplate capacity of 58,000 KW of electrical power that is delivered through two hydroelectric turbines and is operated as a peaking plant. Hydropower is an authorized purpose of the project and provides peaking power to the regional market of the Southwestern Power Administration. The Southwestern Power Administration is a power marketing administration that delivers power from COE Hydropower

plants to power cooperatives and municipalities within the southwestern region of Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been entered into by and between Department of the Army acting through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Southwestern Power Administration (SWPA), and the Centennial Bank, Trustee of the Southwestern Preference Customer Trust, which is part of the customer group served by SWPA. The purpose of this MOA is to establish a framework governing the respective activities at hydroelectric facilities of the Corps districts in the SWPA marketing region. Pursuant to this MOA, the parties shall enter into sub-agreements that will allow the Corps to accomplish properly identified and prioritized work items and will allow the customer group to provide funding through the Centennial Bank, Trustee of the Southwestern Preference Customer Trust for such work items. Such work items will include efforts for maintenance, rehabilitation, and modernization work at hydroelectric facilities owned by the Corps districts within the SWPA marketing region.