



Question & Answer

1. Can we put culverts in to handle the overflow then build a wall around the spillway? This way the lake won't need to be drawn down at all.

This option has not been considered due to the additional risk, design, and additional cost.

2. Can the water from the ethanol plant be used to quickly refill the lake if it does get drawn down?

This option has not been considered because the department is confident the lake will refill under normal spring runoff and moisture conditions based on the large water-shed feeding the lake.

3. I know it's a contractor schedule issue, but can the lake draw down wait till after the 4th of July week?

Yes! The contractor may be able to start mobilizing equipment prior to the 4th, however specific language in our bid letting documents and contract will dictate no construction or lake drawdown to occur until after the 4th of July

4. I own property along the lake that has silted in over the years. Since we are drawing down the lake for the spillway construction, Am I allowed to dig or dredge the area that has silted in?

Specifics on what property owners are allowed to do in front of their properties need to run through Rhet Russell, our Fisheries Biologist our of Watertown, SD. He can be reached at 605-882-5200

5. Will a coffer dam be used?

A coffer dam will be used in conjunction with a diversion channel to divert water flows around the existing spillway.

6. What is the estimated cost?

The total project cost is estimated at 3.8 million which includes the 350,000 of temporary repair work done in 2020. The department



will be utilizing a loan program through the Department of Public Safety to fund the costs.

6. Will it be primarily Mina Lake taxpayers paying for it?

No. GFP will be funding the project with a loan program administered by the Department of Public Safety. This program was made available through our state government after the flood events of 2019. GFP will be required to pay the loan balance off over the next 7 years.

7. What will be the impact on plant life, fish life, and other lake animals?

The department anticipates very little impact to fish and wildlife during the project. A ten foot maximum lake drawdown will be implemented to ensure adequate amounts of water remain to support fish and wildlife habitat.

8. Will there be a 'smell'?

The department does anticipate some odor after lake draw down starts exposing shoreline.

9. Potential impact on Freedom Festival, Pontoon Poker Run, lake recreation, etc.

Impacts on recreational use will primarily be dictated by the actual date the boat ramp goes out of service. The boat ramp will remain functional until approximately elevation 1409.5. The department will have a much better idea of when that elevation will happen when a contractor is selected and has submitted a de-watering plan and construction schedule.

10. Will Nesbit Drive be closed at some point during the project?

Any temporary closures of Nesbit Drive will be coordinated between GFP, the selected contractor, and local highway department. The department expects these closures to be minimal during the project.



11. Will the new spillway be the same size or larger?
The new spillway will be slightly larger than the existing spillway. The crest elevation will remain the same at 1413.63. The Crest length will increase to 150 ft from the current length of 148'6" and tapered down to 132'. The spillway length will be shortened from 170 feet to 146 feet. All of these specs were recommended by our consultant engineering firm Barr Engineering.
12. Will the new spillway have a concrete apron so cattails can no longer grow in the waterway?
No. The additional cost for a concrete apron would be significant and is not being considered. The design does include a low-level outlet that will be used to perform dam maintenance, which will include the possibility for the department to perform mechanical or chemical eradication of plant material.
13. While the lake level is low, am I allowed to do shoreline work?
Shoreline work can be completed; however, it will require a permit issued by GFP. Please contact Rhet Russell our Fisheries Biologist out of Watertown at 605-882-5200 to acquire a permit.
14. While construction is going on is it possible for the contract to allow for proper steps or a walk down to the spillway basin?
No. For safety reasons, this option will not be considered.
15. Will there be an option to put up a temporary dike near the Wakeside bridge similar to a project completed at Moccasin Creek in Aberdeen?
No. This option has not been considered due to the additional risk, design, and additional cost.
16. Will property owners be able to get clearance and complete fish habitat at their own expense?
Any fish habitat enhancement considered will need to run through our wildlife division. Please contact Rhet Russell at 605-882-5200.



17. Whom will be writing the checks and reviewing bids?

Game Fish & Parks will work with our consultant engineer to put together bid letting details. GFP will review the bids and formalize a contract with the selected contractor. GFP will be paying all of the invoices associated with the project and will utilize a loan program through the Department of Public Safety to ensure proper budget dollars are available to continue park operations throughout the state.

18. How much will the lake drop and for how long?

The lake drawdown will be determined by the selected contractor. A maximum drawdown of 10 feet will be in place to ensure an appropriate amount of depth and water to avoid fish and wildlife impacts. The length of time will also be determined by the selected contractor. Starting immediately after the 4th of July, the contractor will be allowed to start de-watering. Once desired drawdown is achieved, the contractor will manage an appropriate level to complete work throughout the project. A dewatering plan will be reviewed by DENR and GFP and details will be relayed to the Lake Association.

19. What happens when the lake is lowered, we don't get a rain and people's boats or pontoons are stuck on lifts?

The department will be asking lake residents to take personal responsibility to stay informed of when the boat ramp will go out of service and avoid this scenario. The department expects this to happen shortly after the 4th of July and continue through the fall/winter. Our recommendation will be to have a plan in place immediately following 4th of July. Details on when the boat ramp will come out of service will be updated according to the dewatering plan and construction timeline put in place by our selected contractor.



20. How will lake residents stay informed of what is going on during construction?

The department intends to work with a main point of contact from the Mina Lake Association to distribute ongoing information. Our local GFP staff will be informed of ongoing information, and the department's communications team will be providing updated information through our website, press releases, and other means necessary to keep the public and lake residents informed of new information.

Contact Information:

General questions please contact

Adam Kulesa at 605-773-5526 or Adam.Kulesa@state.sd.us

Fisheries, dredging, or shoreline work/permitting please contact

Rhet Russell at 605-882-5200 or Rhet.Russell@state.sd.us