

Clark County Commissioners continue Dry Lake #2 discussions

Dry Lake #2 discussion continued during the Tuesday, August 18 meeting of the Clark County Board of Commissioners. Kevin Goff of Clark Engineering, Jay Gilbertson of East Dakota Water Development District and David Bartel of James River Water Development District were all part of the Zoom meeting, along with approximately a dozen interested producers and landowners, plus the county commissioners.

Clark Engineer Goff began by saying, "This is a massive undertaking, a million dollar problem with no money to solve the problem."

Goff continued that the water of Dry lake #2 has to go somewhere and queried, "what will be difficult, is to determine what the impact will be on downstream landowners."

He shared with the commissioners what a \$25,000, or thereabouts, survey would entail.

"Dry Lake #2, in analysis, is a complex situation (to drain) with many variables," he said. A fact finding study would look at flow, stream stability, channel flow, quantification, culverts, private land and flow rate. "It gets spendy awfully fast," said Goff of putting together a survey.

A map would be included with the survey of all the lake areas. Upstream benefits and downstream costs would also be included.

After the survey is complete then public meetings, both upstream and downstream would be scheduled.

Goff said that this would be a starting point and then funding applications and opportunities along

with involving FEMA would be the next step.

County commissioner Wally Knock then asked, "How much water is going to be moved?" Goff answered Knock with another question, "Where do you start?" and then told Knock and those on the conference call that this would be the key to the issue.

"We need to know the impact and it is hard to be substantive. That is why we need this feasibility study and then funding. This would be a complex, lengthy project, at least five years in the making."

Clark County Emergency Manager David Lewis then interjected about what would be the goal of the study. "What are we trying to answer here, flood permit? I don't think we want to put \$100,000 into this and it becomes a non-starter. What is the effect on the town of Willow Lake. What will this \$25,000 study show us that we don't already know?"

Goff answered Lewis' questions, by inferring that a study has to be done before these questions can be answered. "We need to quantify what the benefits are or could be," Goff stated and then asked "What other things can we do to solve this, or help to solve this water issue?"

Joey Galloway of the United States Geological Survey agency wanted to see where this discussion is going, as to whether matching funds would be available. He also wanted to know the ground water data and implications and that led

Dry Lake #2
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Clark School Class of 2033 starts kindergarten

There are two 2020-21 kindergarten classes at Clark Elementary School this fall. Pictured is Mrs. Stephanie Hagstrom's class preparing for the first Pledge of Allegiance. Raegan Florey is also a kindergarten teacher.

Class of 2033 potential high school graduates include: in the front row from left to right, Berkley Herr, Thomas Dandurand, Santiago Culhuac

and Roland Beving.

In the middle row are, Ashlynn Peterson, Declan Oster, Finley Morehouse, Ryker Lamb and Bayler Hurlbut. In the back are Mrs. Hagstrom, Kamden Werdel, Ava Werdel, Allie Schmidt and Alice Ringo. Alayna Reppe was absent at the time of the picture.



The 2020 Clark High School Homecoming royalty candidates have been chosen by the senior class. The Queen candidates in the front row, left to right are: Sarah Weisbrod, Brandi Foster, Charity Kabwe and Lydia Reidburn.

Marshal candidates from left to right in the back row are, Evan Stromsness, Schuyler McElhone, Javonte Zachary and Hudson Fuller. Coronation for the Queen and Marshal will be held on Tuesday, September 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the Clark High School gym.

2020 CHS Homecoming theme is 'Commercials'

Homecoming, with coronation, a parade and football game will go on in 2020.

Something a little different this year will be that the Clark High School Coronation will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 1 with the Homecoming parade and football game on Friday, Sept. 11. Coronation will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Clark High School gym.

During Homecoming week or 'Spirit Week', September 8 through

September 11, each day has a different dress up protocol. Quarantine Day is Tuesday, Sept. 8. The fun continues on Wednesday with Hill Bill Day and on Thursday, the theme is Tie Die Day. Friday is the traditional 'Cyclone Day' showing the school spirit with the school colors, black, green and silver.

The Homecoming parade starts at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 11. The Cyclone football game will start at 7:00 p.m. that evening at

the Clark High School Sports Complex west of the high school against the Florence-Henry Falcons.

The Queen candidates are:

Charity Kabwe is the daughter of Michelle Flatten and Mofya Kabwe. She is active in basketball, FCCLA, SADD, student council, National Honor Society, choir and her church youth group.

Lydia Reidburn is the daughter

Homecoming
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Crops look good - but moisture is needed

Last year around Labor Day - the spring wheat was only about 50% harvested with the winter wheat in the bin.

This year, both winter and spring wheat are all harvested as well as the oats at this time.

As producers head to the State Fair next week it will be very interesting to hear what conversations will be out there between the farmers.

Will the crop devastation in Iowa affect the markets this year? "Only time will tell. There's talk out there among the producers - but I haven't heard anything in that regard at all," stated South Dakota State University Extension Agronomy Field Specialist David Karki, regarding commodity prices.

"I am hearing that the winter wheat harvest is pretty good in the area with 80 bushels per acre. The spring wheat wasn't quite as good as expected for some. That high heat and wind that we got in June set it back a little I believe. Clark County was fortunate to have some good rains after those heat spells in June. We were not short of water in June and we did have some good subsoil moisture.

"For spring wheat, I was expecting 70-75 bushels, but it turned out to be more towards around 65 bushels per acre," stated Karki.

"Both Codington and Clark counties have had some nice showers this growing season which compensated for those couple weeks we had



Heat units have been available this month, as this picture accurately describes some early morning fog lifting, as the air has been very humid, along with above normal temperatures.

Soybeans and corn are looking good, said agronomist David Karki, but it is getting to the point that moisture is needed, so crops don't go backward.

very hot and windy conditions."

The heat did take the test weight down on the oat crop Karki stated and results varied from 80 bu to 180 bushels per acre in eastern South Dakota.

He has also seen more cover crops being planted with a little more time left to the growing season after this year's wheat harvest. Mostly different blends of cover crops.

Corn and Soybeans

"Looks-wise, the corn and the soybeans so far, look tremendous around our area," states Karki. "It all got planted in a timely manner this spring, compared to last year."

Going into Labor Day - heat temperatures are expected to be in the higher 80s and 90s. These heat

units will speed up the maturing of the corn and beans.

"The bean fields will show more

Crops
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WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Aug. 11.....	87	60	.02
Aug. 12.....	87	61	.14
Aug. 13.....	87	63	0
Aug. 14.....	88	71	0
Aug. 15.....	81	57	0
Aug. 16.....	85	59	0
Aug. 17.....	85	60	0
2020 precipitation to date	14.71		
2019 precipitation to date	26.60		

As COVID-19 cases rise, experts question effectiveness of contact tracing in S.D.

Nick Lourey, South Dakota News Watch

Public health experts are questioning the extent and effectiveness of contact-tracing efforts in South Dakota and across the country, arguing that an inadequate number of investigators and lags in testing times have reduced the efficacy of the tracing process.

Contact tracing aims to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19, by quickly identifying people who may have been exposed to the virus. Investigators question people who test positive for the virus and then try to determine who else they may have

come in contact with. Those people are then warned to isolate, watch for symptoms and get tested if they feel sick.

The process is seen as a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 and other diseases such as tuberculosis because it can break or slow the cycle of transmission from one person to another.

When combined with high rates of testing and social distancing, contact tracing has been shown to slow the spread of COVID-19 and speed up the ability of countries such as South Korea, Singapore and Germany to safely re-open their national economies.

Investigating COVID-19 cases has taken on heightened importance in South Dakota in recent weeks as the state has seen a surge in its number of new cases. On Aug. 20, South Dakota reported 125 new cases of the disease and had the nation's second-highest rate of transmission, according to state and federal data.

The state also reported on Aug. 20 that at least two dozen COVID-19 cases were related to the Sturgis motorcycle rally, including two notices about the potential for significant public exposures, and school districts and colleges were already reporting cases among students

just days into the new academic year.

South Dakota Department of Health leaders say their contact-tracing efforts are keeping up with the increasing caseload. The state's goal is to make contact with everyone who tests positive for COVID-19 in South Dakota within 24 hours of the department being notified of the new case.

The 131 contact tracers now working for the health department are making initial contacts with known COVID-19 patients within about 15 hours on average, said Cassie Deffenbaugh, who leads the contact-tracing team. The state con-

tact-tracing workforce has grown to five times its pre-pandemic size since March, and has been able to identify 35,000 close contacts of coronavirus patients during the pandemic so far. Deffenbaugh said she is confident that the state's contact tracers would be able to keep up with the virus.

"We are adequately staffed to be able to support our current workload," Deffenbaugh said. "We are constantly assessing to make sure we are adequately staffed at this time and that we will be moving forward."

But some disease researchers say the contact-tracing workforce is not

widespread enough in South Dakota to handle the rising number of cases. Without increased availability of COVID-19 testing and speedier test result reporting — along with extensive social-distancing and increased mask usage — experts worry that contact tracers likely will be overwhelmed and the benefits of the process will be muted.

"I don't think that we can afford, at this point, for contact investigation to stop the epidemic alone. It would have to be done at such a national scale with such speed and efficiency, that I don't think that's

COVID-19
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