

LOCAL

KM's plan for second lake could hit a snag

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The City of Kings Mountain wants another reservoir and so does the county. Will both be granted lakes or only one? If water is "gold" in the future, who will be the provider of that wealth?

Before engineers can shore up KM's possibility, the Lake Committee must first tackle the slippery slope ahead. Members of the Lake Committee met with officials from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the NC Division of Water Resources Friday morning to discuss the next steps toward securing an additional impoundment east of Moss Lake.

USACOE Special Projects Manager Henry Wicker told the committee that there are some "overlapping" issues that need to be addressed. According to a preliminary map of the Cleveland County Sanitary District's proposed lake in upper Cleveland, the county's service area allegedly overlaps that of Kings Mountain's.

Wicker suggested that KM have a meeting with CCSD and the City of Shelby to discuss the water supply and overlapping service issues. He added that although each project stands on its own merit, it is difficult for USACOE to permit multiple reservoirs.

In order to secure an additional impoundment, the city will need state and federal permits which are required through national and state environmental policy acts and the Clean Water Act. Wicker and Jim Mead, with NCDWR, explained the lengthy process that the city will have to go through to acquire the permits.

The process includes: outlining the purpose and need of the project; "scoping" out the idea through preliminary comments from responsible agencies and/or the public; and reporting the project's environmental affects through an environmental assessment and an environmental impact statement (EIS).

Mayor Rick Murphrey said that the city is committed to the idea of another reservoir. "We feel that the need is there," he said. "With all we see that's coming, we know we'll need an additional impoundment."

Wicker suggested they begin by mapping out the boundaries of the proposed wetland and

start an environmental assessment to determine all of the "impacts" a second lake may pose. Even though the city's preferred outcome would be a second lake, Wicker said that they will have to address other alternatives in the EIS process, including: conserving water, utilizing groundwater, increasing withdrawal at the existing intake site and purchasing water from other sources like Shelby or the county. The EIS will determine the type of permit the city will need.

"We will permit the least environmentally damaging practical alternative," Wicker said.

Project Manager Ron Geiger, with HDR Engineering, a company that has been working with the city on the lake project, expressed concern that the process they would have to go through sounds more political than environmental. Wicker said although there may be politics behind it, "this is an environmental issue."

He mentioned that the county will hold a "Scoping" meeting for the public on the proposed Upper Cleveland reservoir on April 17th. Geiger said that KM's process towards a second lake hasn't slowed down and they would like to keep the ball rolling. Wicker said he understands the need, but "it is not about who gets an impoundment first."

Mead said the issues state agencies will focus on are habitat vs. stream flow, water sup-



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Sitting near the dry erase board inside of City Hall, Jim Mead, with the NC Division of Water Resources, outlined some of the steps the city will have to go through to get a state permit for the construction of an additional impoundment at a Lake Committee meeting on Friday morning.

ply, secondary or cumulative impacts, dam safety, watershed reclassification and water quality. Mead said they are currently measuring the in-stream flow from Moss Lake. After those measurements are collected, they will study the in-stream flow of Muddy Creek near the proposed second lake. Through these studies they hope to see how the two lakes would work together and to come up with

short-term and long-term predictions of water supply and quality.

Murphrey said the city's preliminary studies have shown that by the year 2050, Moss Lake will no longer be able to supply the growth expected for the region.

Over the next 12-15 months, Geiger said that they plan to provide a preliminary geo-technical analysis and engineer

work on the proposed reservoir to validate construction costs and constructability.

Wicker warned that other issues, including land ownership, may also arise during the process. But the city hopes that none of the issues will clog their dreams of another reservoir.

White Plains Shrine Club

Spring Bar-B-Q Sale

Saturday April 5, 2008 starting at 10:00 AM
(Please note the new, earlier date this year.)

Corner of York Road & Gold Street
Kings Mountain, NC

Proceeds Support the Shrine Hospitals for Children

Sandwiches: (2) for \$6.00

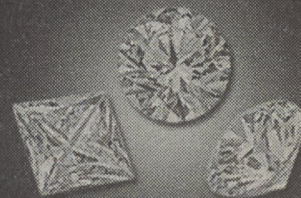
Shoulders: \$45.00 each

Plates: Chicken or Pork \$7.00

Pick-up Pre-Purchased Orders by 12:00 Noon

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