SECTION 319 NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

WATERSHED PROJECT FINAL REPORT

LAKE FAULKTON
WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

Prepared by

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For

Faulk Conservation District
Project Sponsor

This project was conducted in cooperation with the state of South Dakota and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8.

Grant #9998185-00

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE: LAKE FAULKTON WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

SECTION GRANT NUMBER(S): 9998185-00

PROJECT START DATE: July 14, 2000 PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: September 15, 2006

FUNDING:	TOTAL BUDGET	2,046,135
	TOTAL EPA GRANT(S)	673,710
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF EPA FUNDS	603,373
	TOTAL SECTION 319 MATCH ACCRUED	832,585
	Other Federal	151,006
	BUDGET REVISIONS	59,821
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,586,964

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The project goal was to improve the water quality in Lake Faulkton and the Lake Faulkton watershed through the reduction of phosphorus loading by thirty five percent and the removal of 144,000 cubic yards of sediment from the lake. Attaining the goal will maintain improved water quality and the lake's beneficial uses of semipermanent marginal fish life propagation, immersion and limited-contact recreation, wildlife propagation and stock watering.

The project attained seventy five percent of the TMDL goal. Water quality samples collected during dredging indicate reductions in the inlake phosphorus levels were achieved. The load reductions realized through the installation of BMPs in the watershed and inlake dredging are summarized in the table below.

Summary of Load Reductions.

Parameter	Load Reductions	
	Goal	Attained
In Lake	144000 cu yd (4,016.53 Kg/year Phosphorus)	115799 cu yd (3,231.55 Kg/year Phosphorus)
Watershed	977.47 Kg/year Phosphorus	397.15 Kg/year Phosphorus

Information and education activities completed included tours of the dredge segment of the project, fund raising drives, an informational brochure and several articles in local newspapers.

Although the TMDL was not attained, many of the tasks that were included in the project implementation plan were completed. Seven sections of lakeshore were stabilized. Practices installed to reduce loads related to grazing practices included: a combined total of 60 new stock water dugouts and cleanouts, 29 miles of pipeline, 67 water tanks and 10 rural water hookups. The practices were installed as components to managed grazing systems.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Local concern about the deteriorating condition of Lake Faulkton resulted in the Faulk Conservation District sponsoring the Lake Faulkton Assessment Project during 1993. After the completion of the study, the District, with assistance from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SDDENR) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), developed the Lake Faulkton Watershed Restoration Project to implement the recommendations.

The watershed assessment included collecting tributary and inlake water quality data, an evaluation of the lakeshore, sediment and aquatic plant surveys and analysis of the watershed using the Agricultural Non-Point Source (AGNPS) model. The study found that the lake's designated beneficial uses were impaired with the most likely source of impairment being total phosphorus and accumulated sediment.

The 161,320 acre Lake Faulkton watershed is located primarily in Faulk County (Figure 1). Parts of the watershed extend into Potter and Hyde Counties. The main tributary to Lake Faulkton is the south fork of Snake Creek. The creek enters Lake Faulkton from the west and exits to the east via a spillway.

Lake Faulkton is a 115 acre reservoir located one mile west of Faulkton, Faulk County, South Dakota. The lake was formed when a dam was constructed on the south fork of the Snake Creek by the Works Progress Administration during 1936.

The designated beneficial uses of Lake Faulkton are:

a. Warm water semi permanent fish life propagation waters
b. Immersion recreation waters
c. Limited-Contact recreation waters
d. Wildlife propagation and stock watering waters

The beneficial uses of the lake which are impaired include: warm water semi permanent fish life propagation, immersion recreation and limited contact recreation. The causes of impairment have been linked to high concentrations of nutrients, siltation, suspended solids, and low oxygen levels.

The maximum depth of the lake is 24 feet; average depth 9.3 feet. An in-lake sediment survey found the depth varied from about one-foot in near-shore areas to nearly seven feet in deeper water areas. Total sediment volume was calculated as approximately 277,793 cubic yards. Nearly 100 percent of the shoreline is overgrown with vegetation. The Trophic State Index value of Lake Faulkton is 76.0, which classifies Lake Faulkton as hypereutrophic.

The Lake Faulkton watershed is located primarily in the Great Plains physiographic province.

The watershed is characterized by rolling hills separated by numerous poorly-drained depressions, "prairie potholes", that function as lakes and ponds during wet years. Local relief rarely exceeds 50 feet within a square mile.

Most of the soils in Faulk County formed in glacial material derived from preglacial formations of gneiss, granite, limestone, sandstone, siltstone, and shale. The glacier ground and mixed this material into an aggregate of sand, silt, clay, and some rock fragments.

The population in the Lake Faulkton watershed is supported principally by agriculture. Most of the land is used for range and field crops. Agriculture has been adapted to the semi-arid continental climate. Normal annual precipitation is 17 inches. Most of that precipitation occurs during the growing season.

Water and wind erosion are major problems on more than half of the crop and, hay and pasture lands in Faulk County. Native vegetation in many parts of Lake Faulkton watershed has been depleted by continuous, often excessive use. Most of the rangeland that once supported mixed grass prairie is now dominated by short grasses, weeds, and non-native species that may produce less than half of the forage produced by the climax species.

The main housing development on the shores of Lake Faulkton has been the construction of numerous lake cabins. There are approximately 25 dwellings around the lake. The majority of the dwellings are primarily used during the summer; a few year around.

The State of South Dakota owns a lakeside use area, managed by the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP), that provides campsites and a fishing dock on the northwest side of the lake and a public access boat ramp and dock on the north side of the lake. The lakeside use area, has running water, vault toilets, and refuse containers. The facilities at the boat ramp site include a vault toilet and refuse containers. Refuse from both areas is collected and disposed of regularly; the area is well maintained and has minimal impact on the lake.

A golf course is located adjacent to Lake Faulkton. Water quality samples of runoff from the golf course show high levels of ammonia, nitrate nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total phosphorus, and total dissolved phosphorus. The high levels of nutrient in the runoff from the golf course have been linked to the overabundance of algae and weedy vegetation in the lake. The loss of soil at numerous sites around the lake is contributing to the accumulation of sediment and nutrients in Lake Faulkton. The subsequent decrease in lake depth is felt to be the cause of an increase in rooted plant growth within the lake. The growth is threatening the beneficial uses of Lake Faulkton.

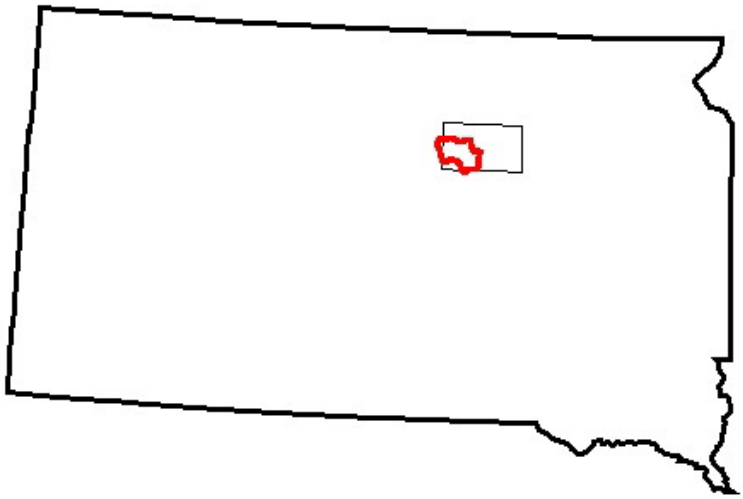


Figure 1a. Location of Lake Faulkton Watershed in State of South Dakota.

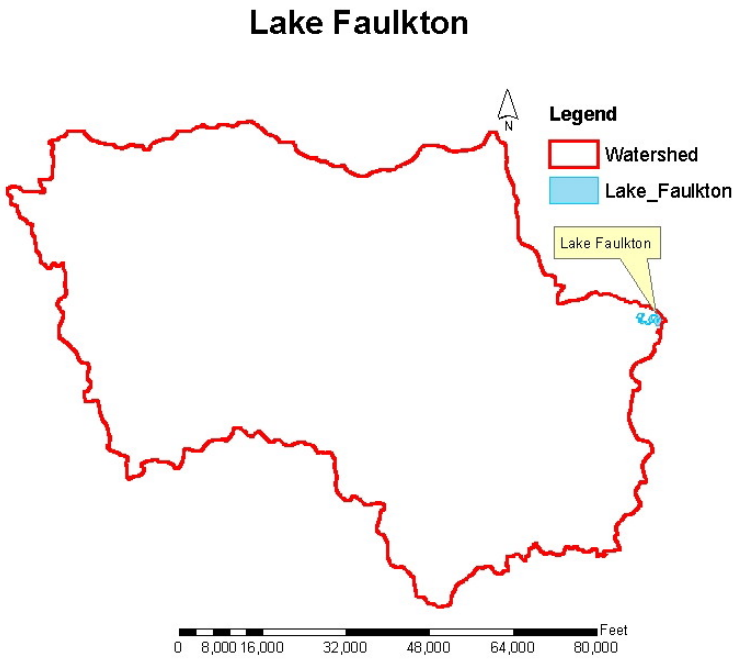


Figure 1b. Location of Lake Faulkton in the Watershed.

PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The goal of the project is:

> "Improve the quality of water in Lake Faulkton and in the Lake Faulkton Watershed through projects that will create a 35% reduction in total phosphorus input into Lake Faulkton, remove 144,000 cubic yards of sediment from Lake Faulkton, and overall restore and maintain water quality and the beneficial uses of warm water semi permanent marginal fish life propagation, immersion and limited-contact recreation, and wildlife propagation and stock watering."

Objective 1: Establish Best Management Practices (BMP's) and other practices that will advance efforts to reach the above stated goals.

The location of BMPs installed through activities completed as part of implementing the project workplan is shown in Figure 2.

Task 1: Implement planned grazing systems on 20,000 acres over a period of three years. Participants will receive a one time incentive payment of $2.50 per acre.

Products: Planned grazing systems covering 20,000 acres that lead to improved range condition which will in turn reduce run-off.

Accomplishments: A total of 24,003 acres were treated to reduce runoff from pasture and range lands. Of the total, planned grazing systems were installed on 16,971 acres and practices such as pipelines, tanks, rural water and wells that improve grassland use were installed on the remaining 7,032 but rotational grazing plans were not developed. Two grazing management meetings were held during winter 2004 to inform project area livestock producers of the advantages of implementing a managed grazing program and opportunities for doing so available through the project. (Appendix B)

Task 2: Erect 28.5 miles of cross fencing to facilitate permanent planned grazing systems. The average cost of a four wire fence is $ 0.66 per foot.

Products: Install 28.5 miles of cross fence to establish paddocks for planned grazing systems that improve range and reduce run-off.

Accomplishments: The project installed 13.9 miles of the projected 28.5 miles of cross fence. Some producers chose to setup a rotational grazing system using their current pastures and used water development to attain better grazing distribution. To ensure placement of water sources achieved the desired end result, assistance was provided by grazing specialists from NRCS and the 319 supported SD Grazing Management and Planning Project

Task 3: Establish alternative water systems for livestock through wells, tanks, and rural water hookups. This will take an estimated twenty miles of 1¼" PVC pipe that will be installed at a depth of six feet. The cost of this pipe is $1.46 per foot. Ten 2000' wells will be dug at an average cost of $23,000 per well. Fifty tanks will be needed at a cost of $1,300 each. Five rural water

hookups will be established at a cost of $1,934 each. Ten wells will be plugged at a cost of $1,000 each. Fifteen new dams will be constructed at a cost of $3,000 each, and forty new dugouts and cleanouts will be established at a cost of $2,000 each.

By completing this package of water development projects, the installation of planned grazing systems will be facilitated and grazing distribution will be improved. The improved distribution along with the new dams acting as settling ponds, unneeded wells being plugged and new dugouts constructed, and existing dugouts cleaned out will all lower the amount of nutrients and sediment entering the tributaries and subsequently Lake Faulkton itself.

Products: Develop alternative water systems to improve grazing management:

Alternative water systems planned included:

- twenty miles water pipeline,
- Ten 2000 foot wells,
- Fifty tanks,
- Five rural water hookups,
- Plug ten wells,
- Fifteen new dams, and
- Forty new dugouts and dugout cleanouts

Accomplishments: The project installed 157,288 feet (29.8 miles) of pipeline, 2 wells, 67 tanks, 10 rural water hookups, 4 new dams and 36 new dugouts and dugout cleanouts were completed. No wells were plugged. These practices were implemented on the 7,032 acres of grassland referenced in Task 1.

Task 4: Establish riparian and buffer zones over a total of eight miles (equal to 50 acres). Participants will receive payment of $40 per acre for a maximum of six years.

Following the establishment of the riparian and buffer zones, grass cover will be developed through natural drainage that will decrease erosion, run-off, and the entrance of chemicals off cropland into the water system.

Products: Eight miles (50 acres)of riparian and buffer zones.

Accomplishments: No riparian or buffer zones were installed during the project period. The practice was not well received. Many producers expressed they did not want to give up cropland acres or take on the upkeep for additional fence along streams or creeks. Even when other programs, such as the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) which pay more to install the practice and provide incentive payments to maintain the practices installed, were offered to some producers and were still reluctant to install the BMPs.

Task 5: Seed grass in previously farmed natural drainage channels. Native seeding will be at a cost of $60 per acre over 250 acres and tame seeding will be at a cost of $30 per acre over 250 acres.

By seeding the previously farmed channels the level of sediment buildup will be lowered.

Products: Grass seeding:
250 acres native seeding
250 acres tame grass seeding

Accomplishments: No grass seeding was completed using project funds or other programs. The practice was not well received. Many producers expressed they did not want to give up cropland acres or take on the upkeep for additional fence along streams or creeks. Even when other programs, such as the CCRP which pay more to install the practice and provide incentive payments to keep the practices installed, were offered producers and were still reluctant to install the BMPs.

Task 6: Implement conservation tillage/no-till practices in the watershed. There will be a maximum of 320 acres allowable per participant and a maximum project total of 10,000 acres. Payment will be an incentive payment of $2 per acre for three years.

Conservation tillage/no-till practices will increase residue amounts on cropland leading to a decrease in run-off.

Products: No-till farming practices adopted on 10,000 acres.

Accomplishments: The project paid incentives to adopt no-till practices on 3,128.2 acres of cropland. Incentives were not paid on an additional 550 acres adopted as the acres exceeded the 320 acre allowable per participant. No-till and conservation tillage have become popular practices in the project area. Although the exact figures are not available, it is readily accepted that the use of conventional tillage is becoming a rarity in the project area. The adoption of the practices is most likely related to the combined efforts of resource management agencies and groups such as the local conservation districts, South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service, NRCS, the SD Department of Agriculture, DENR, SD No-till Association and commodity groups.

Task 7: Strategically plant trees to facilitate planned grazing systems with winter feeding areas as well as in areas that will impede runoff and erosion. Seventy acres with fabric will be planted at $1,200 per acre and thirty acres without fabric will be planted at $400 per acre.

By facilitating the planned grazing systems and planting trees in areas that will impede runoff and erosion, the level of nutrient and sediment loading will be lowered.

Products: One hundred acres of trees planted to reduce sediment loading originating from planned grazing systems with winter feeding areas.

Accomplishments: Trees were planted on 30.8 acres. Because of wide spread and prolonged drought, the past two to three years have not been favorable for tree establishment. This may have contributed why fewer than planned acres of plantings were attempted by project area producers.

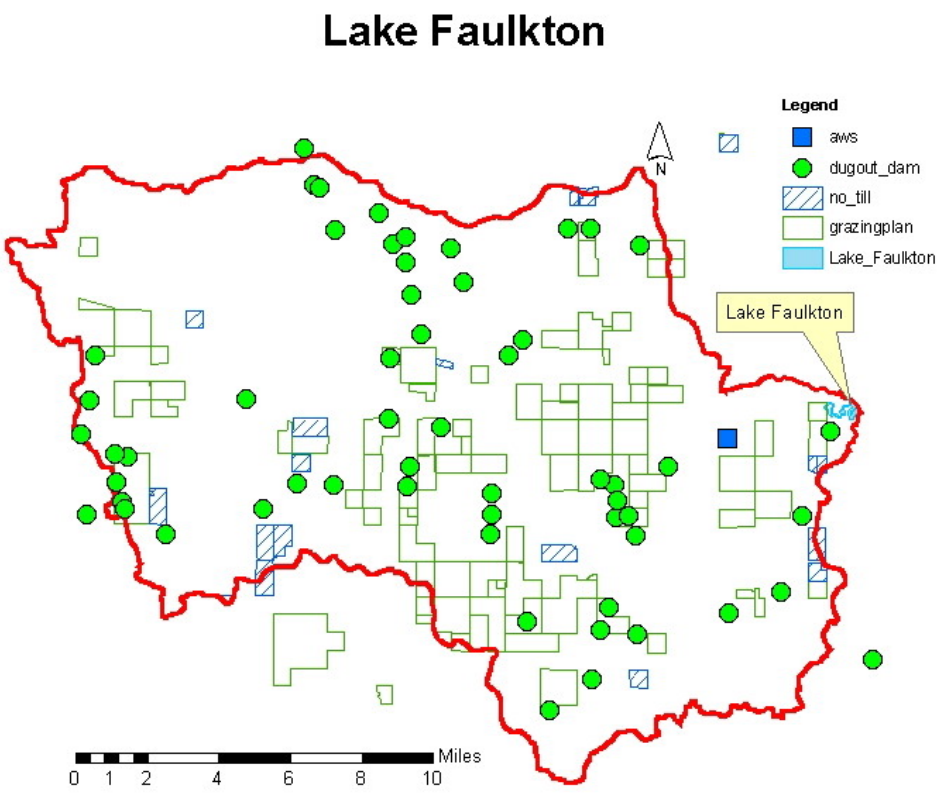


Figure 2. Location of BMPs Installed.

Objective 2: Develop projects and programs that will provide nutrient management throughout the watershed.

Task 8: Establish sixteen animal waste management systems (AWMS) in the form of lagoons, diversions, and berms. The average cost for these systems will be $20,000 each.

By establishing the agricultural waste systems, animal waste will be held on site. This in turn will lead to a significant decrease in runoff.

Products: 16 AWMS

Accomplishments: The feedlots that were surveyed during the assessment were reassessed. The results concluded that some feedlots do not rank as high as initially estimated and were therefore determined not to poses an environmental risk sufficient to warrant construction of an ANMS. An agricultural waste management system was constructed at a 300 animal unit beef operation located near Lake Faulkton. Construction of the system resulted in a load reduction of 57.6 Kg Phosphorus/ year. Other producers were contacted about installing an AWMS, but were not interested in the practice.

Task 9: A nutrient management plan for the local golf course will be developed and initiated.

By implementing a nutrient management plan for the golf course, runoff that is contributing to the hypereutrophic state of the lake will be reduced.

Products: Nutrient management plan for Faulkton Golf Course.

Accomplishments: The golf course developed a nutrient plan which resulted in a reduction in the amount of fertilizer applied. Implementation of the plan is expected to decrease Phosphorus runoff into the lake.

Objective 3: Repair damage to Lake Faulkton and the Lake Faulkton Watershed.

Task 10: Establish holding ponds to facilitate dredging.

The holding ponds will safely store sediment and nutrients as they are removed from Lake Faulkton.

Products: Five holding ponds are to be constructed.

Accomplishments: It was determined that the five holding ponds planned would not fit in the allotted area and that three ponds would provide sufficient storage. The three holding ponds were constructed east of Lake Faulkton during spring 2002. The ponds were drained summer 2005 and reclaimed between winter 2005 and summer 2006. Figure 3 shows the location of the holding ponds.

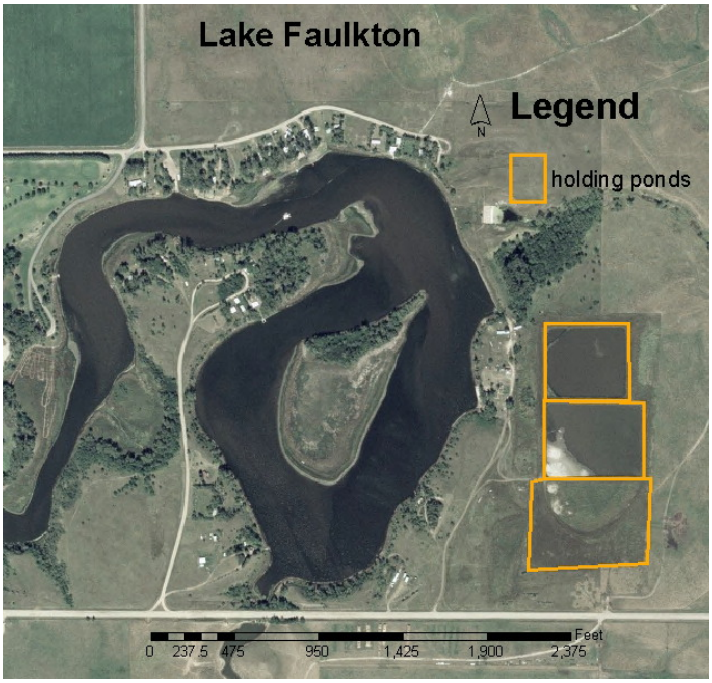


Figure 3. Location of Holding Ponds

Task 11: Dredge 144,000 cubic yards of sediment from Lake Faulkton at $2 per cubic yard.

Nutrients and sediment will be removed from Lake Faulkton allowing for its beneficial uses to be utilized and maintained.

Products: Dredge 144,000 cubic yards of sediment from Lake Faulkton.

Accomplishments: The dredging segment of the project was initiated during July 2002 and ended during October 2004. Despite low water levels, the South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association removed 115,799 of the planned 144,000 cubic yards of sediment from the lake.

The 1996 sediment survey determined the average sediment depth for Lake Faulkton was 3.5 feet. After dredging was completed during 2004, a follow-up survey estimated the average sediment depth was one foot. During 1964, field work done by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks estimated the average depth of the lake at 9.7 feet with a maximum depth of 23 feet. The 2004 study determined the average lake depth was 7.3 feet. The maximum depth measured was 22 feet. At the time of the 2004 study, the reservoir was quite low, which may account for the reduced depth readings. Figure 4 is a photograph of the dredge used by South Dakota Lakes and Streams on Lake Faulkton. Figure 5 shows the estimated sediment depths before and post dredge.

Figure 4. Dredge on Lake Faulkton.

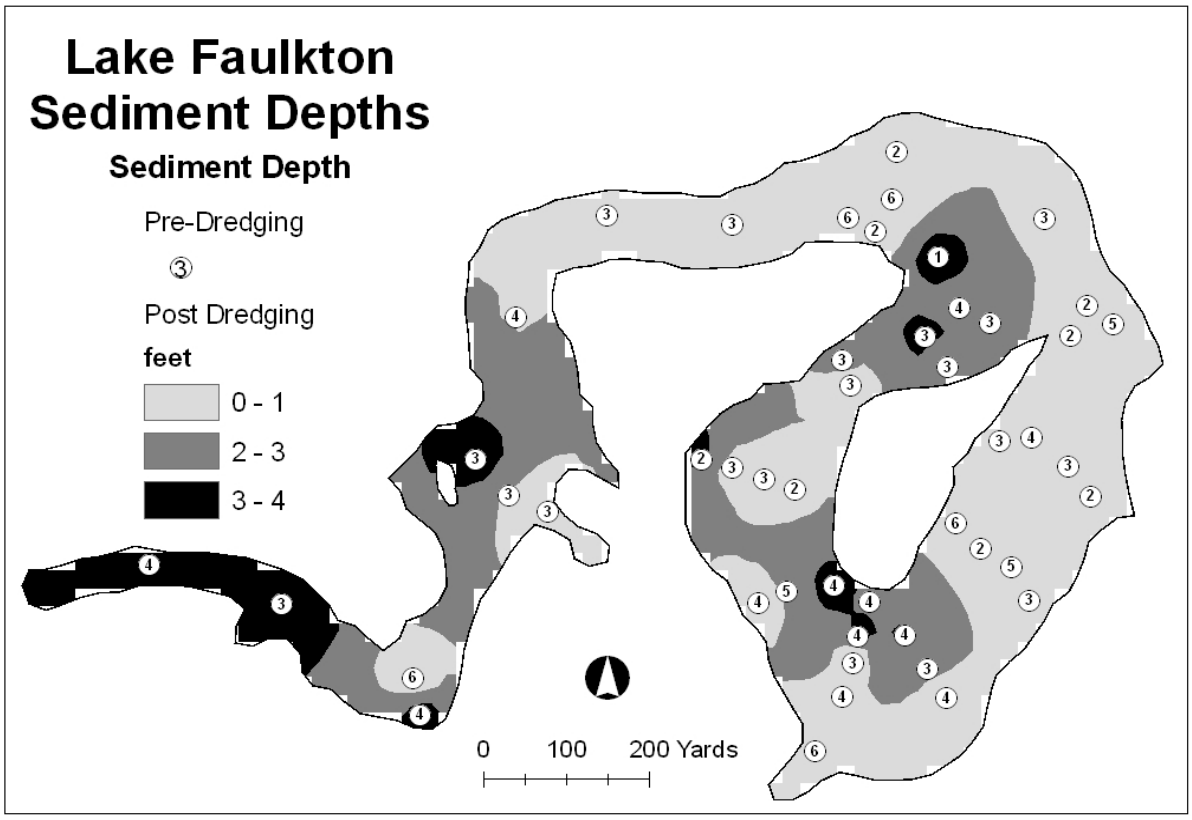


Figure 5. Lake Faulkton Sediment Depths

Task 12: Stabilize ten streambank sites in the Lake Faulkton Watershed at $1,000 each.

Streambanks will be stabilized to reduce sediment entering directly into tributaries.

Products: Ten streambank segments stabilized.

Accomplishments: One section of streambank totaling 4,700 feet was stabilized. The producer installed a fence to eliminate access by the cattle. Many producers expressed that they did not want to give up cropland acres or maintain additional fence along streams or creeks.

Task 13: Stabilize three lakeshore sites in Lake Faulkton at $5,000 each.

A stable shoreline around the lake will reduce the amount of sediment entering directly into the lake.

Products: Three lake shore segments stabilized.

Accomplishments: Seven cabin owners stabilized a combined total of 1,170 feet of shoreline. Stabilization was accomplished by reshaping the shoreline and placement of oversized to large rocks to decrease the shoreline erosion caused by wave action. Figure 6 shows the location of the sites stabilized.

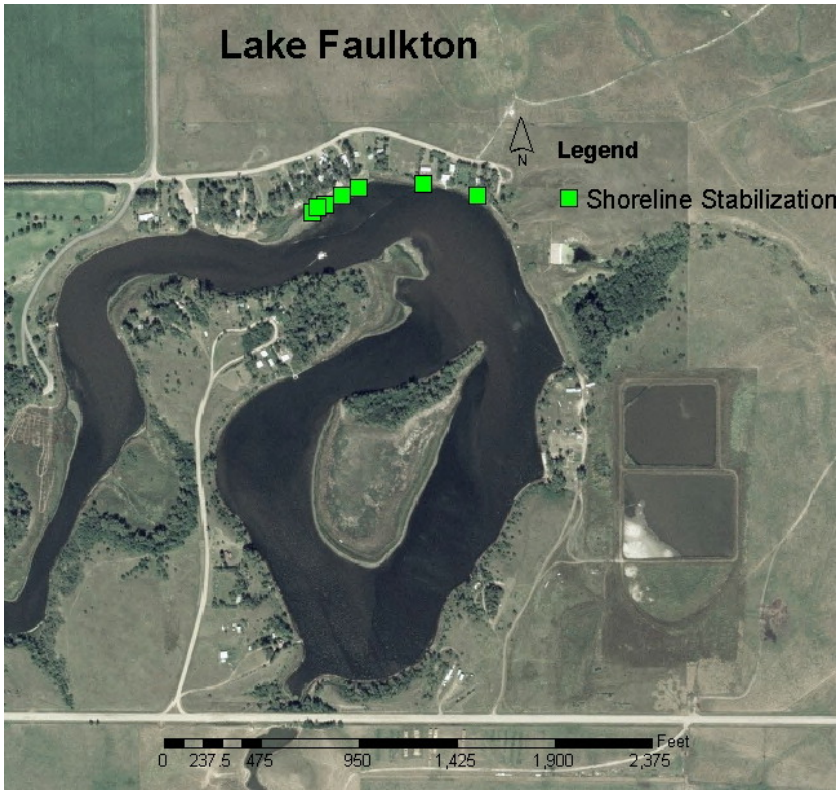


Figure 6. Shoreline Stabilization

Objective 4: Maintain water quality and beneficial uses by providing information and education to the public in regard to progress and the benefits of the tasks being accomplished and by monitoring water quality so programs can be modified to ensure the above stated goals are accomplished.

Task 14: Publish and distribute an informational brochure explaining the problems in the Lake Faulkton Watershed and the plans to correct those problems.

The brochure planned was a publication that could be distributed to local individuals, high school, alumni, visitors, and any interested party with the intention of eliciting public support of the project.

Products: One Informational brochure will be produced. The number of copies printed will be determined by the amount of interest that is generated.

Accomplishments: A two-sided brochure was produced. One hundred copies were distributed to the public. (Appendix A)

Task 15: Facilitate a yearly tour of the project in conjunction with a special local event.

The tour will show project progress and help to further explain not only the short term benefits of individual tasks but the long term benefits of the overall project.

Products: Six tours during the project period.

Accomplishments: While no tours were conducted in the watershed, three tours were held at Lake Faulkton during the dredging operation to show how the dredge worked and to explain the project goal. Two grazing management meetings were conducted to increase interest in rotational grazing systems. Flyers for both events were placed in area businesses (Appendix B) and an article was published in the newspapers. (Appendix C)

Task 16: Publish articles in the paper updating project status throughout the year.

These articles were to provide ongoing updates of the project between the yearly tours.

Products Publish articles a minimum of 4 times each year.

Accomplishments: Thirty nine articles were published in newspapers. Length and topics ranged from full articles on project progress to advertisements for fund raising activities. A copy each article is located in Appendix C.

Task 17: Conduct site specific monitoring of water quality. Monitoring will take place upstream and downstream from four of the sixteen proposed agricultural waste systems and three of the fifteen proposed dam sites. These samples will be taken before and after construction.

These samples will allow for immediate knowledge as to the success or failure of completed tasks.

Products: Water quality data to determine BMPs effectiveness at four AWMS and at three dam sites.

Accomplishments: A total of 12 samples were collected during the project. During the implementation phase, samples of total phosphorus were taken during dredging to verify that the lakes water quality improved. The results (Figure 7) indicate that in lake phosphorus levels decreased as sediment was removed from the lake..

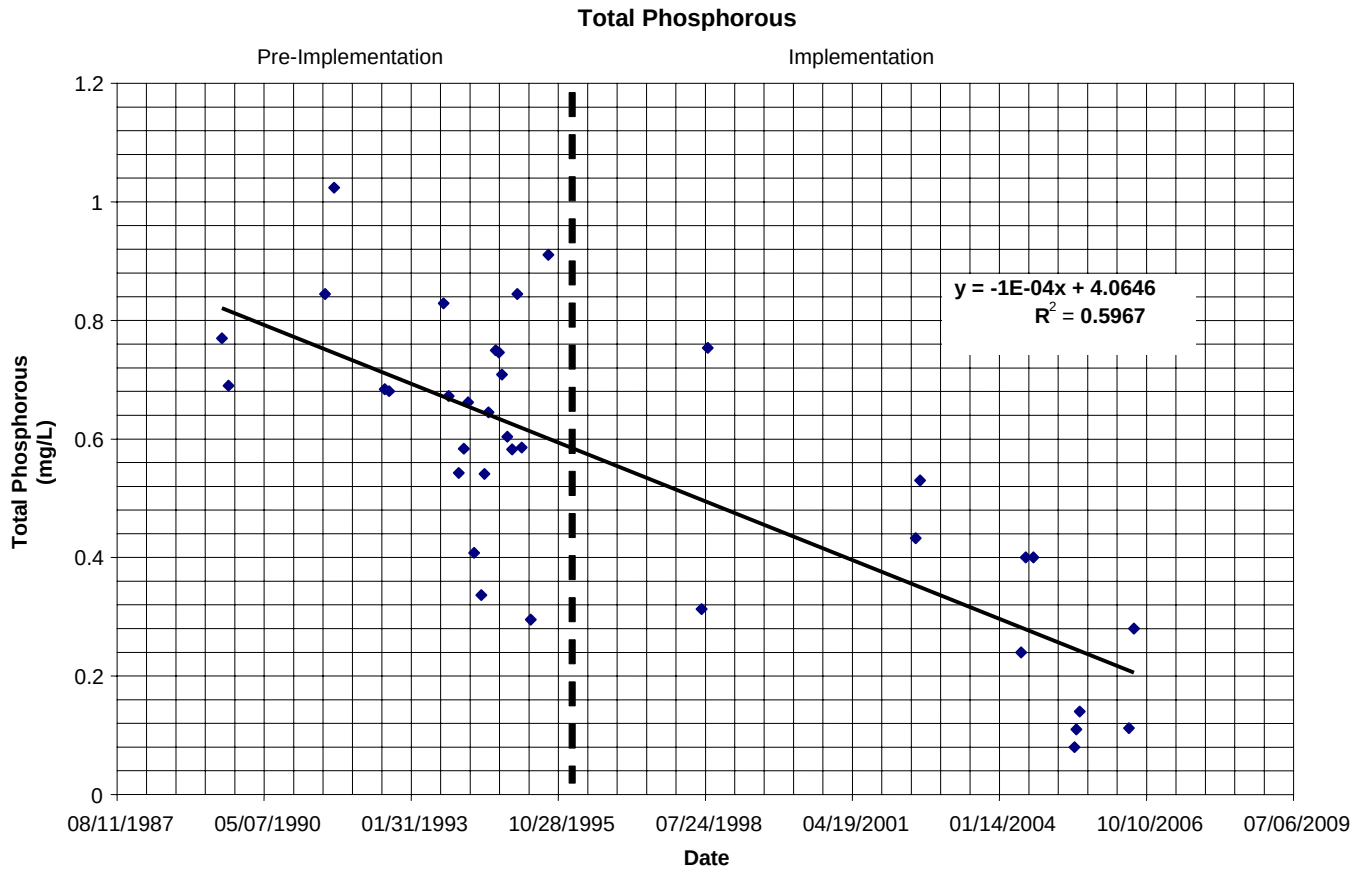


Figure 7. Total Phosphorus

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MONITORING/EVALUATION

Project monitoring and evaluation consisted of documenting project activities, BMP installation, water quality monitoring and taking lake depth readings. Table 1 summarizes the project planned versus installed BMPs and associated load reductions. The planned values reflect milestone amendments as approved through DENR.

Through the installation of BMPs, soil erosion in the watershed was reduced by 14,773 T/yr and a 397 Kg/yr phosphorus load reduction was achieved. Dredging removed 115,799 cubic yards of sediment from the lake which provided an in lake reduction of 3230 Kg/yr of phosphorus, which equals 80 percent of the TMDL goal for sediment. The shoreline stabilization attained reductions of 87 T/yr in soil erosion and 2 Kg/yr in phosphorus. BMP installation yielded a 14 percent reduction in phosphorus loading from the watershed. Combined with the phosphorus that was removed by dredging and shoreline stabilization, there was a 26 percent reduction in phosphorus in Lake Faulkton.

Eleven GRTS progress reports summarizing project progress were submitted to DENR during the project.

Although the TMDL was not attained, the BMPs installed and other activities completed resulted in water quality improvements in the watershed and lake.

Table 1. Lake Faulkton Project Planned Versus Installed BMP Milestone Comparison

TASK	PRODUCT	QUANTITY PLANNED	QUANTITY INSTALLED			LOAD REDUCTIONS		
			319	OTHER	TOTAL	Soil Loss Reduced (Tons/yr)	Phosphorus Reduced (Kg/yr)	Percent of TMDL Attained
Objective 1								
	Planned Grazing Systems	20,000 acres	11,314.27	5,657.13	16,971.40	5,770	132	2.6%
Establish BMP's	Install Cross Fence	28.5 miles	8.6	5.3	13.9			
	Alternative Water Systems					2,371	54	1%
	wells	10	2	0	2			
	pipeline	20 miles	9.9 miles	19.9 miles	29.8			
	tanks	50	18	27	45			
	rural hookups	5	4	5	9			
	new dams	15	2	2	4	378.6	9	0%
	new dugouts/cleanouts	40	18	42	60	5,679.40	130	2.6%
	Riparian & Buffer Zones	8 miles (=50 acres)	0 acres	0 acres	0 acres	0	0	0%
	Grass Seedings	250 acres native grass	0 acres	0 acres	0 acres	0	0	0%
		250 acres tame grass	0 acres	0 acres	0 acres	0	0	0%
	Implement No Till Practices	10,000 acres			3,128.2 acres	504	12	0.2%
	Tree Plantings	100 acres	0 acres	30.8 acres	30.8 acres	0.06	0.001	0%
Objective 2								
Nutrient Management	Ag Waste Systems	16 systems			1 plan	7.5	147.5	3%
	Nutrient Management Plan	1 plan	0 plans	1 plan	1 plan			
Objective 3								
Lake Repair	Establish Holding Ponds	5 ponds	1 pond	2 ponds	3 ponds	NA	NA	NA
	Dredging	144,000 cu yd	42,846 cu yd	72,953 cu yd	115,799 cu yd	140,696	3,230	65%
	Stabilize Streambank	10 sites	1 site	0 sites	1 site	70.2	1.61	0%
	Stabilize Shoreline	3 sites	6 sites	1 site	7 sites	87.4	2.01	0%
Objective 4								
Information & Education and Maintain Water Quality	Informational Brochure	1 brochure	NA	NA	100 copies of brochure	NA	NA	NA
	Yearly Tour	6 tours	0 tours	3 tours	3 tours	NA	NA	NA
	Newspaper Articles	4 articles per year	9 articles	30 articles	39 articles	NA	NA	NA
	Water Quality Monitoring	14 Samples (2 samples @ 7 sites)	12 samples	0 samples	12 sample	NA	NA	NA

SPONSORS AND OTHER SUPPORTING AGENCIES

SPONSORS AND OTHER SUPPORTING AGENCIES

Faulk Conservation District
- – Project sponsor,
- – Project administration

Lake Faulkton Restoration Committee
– Project advisor

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
– Technical assistance BMP planning and installation and office space

Farm Service Agency (FSA)
– Technical assistance for ECP, CCRP and Faulk County information

US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS)
– Funding for BMP's

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP)
– Technical assistance and land for dredge spoils holding ponds

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- – Technical assistance for water monitoring and project administration
- – Financial Assistance

Central Plains Water Development District
– Financial assistance for dredging and project coordination

Environmental Protection Agency
– Financial assistance (CWA Section 319 Grant through SDDENR)

South Dakota Conservation Commission
– Financial assistance (Soil and Water Conservation Grant)

South Dakota Lakes and Streams
– Contractor for dredge activities

ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT THAT DID NOT WORK WELL

Progress in completing the workplan was hampered during the early stages of the project because of personnel related issues. Once these were resolved the project progressed essentially as planned and enjoyed a high level of local support.

Riparian and Buffer Zones

Producers were not interested in this practice. Those producers that had cropland didn't want to give up the acres and those that had pastureland didn't want to maintain extra fence to keep livestock out of riparian areas. Even with incentive payments and cost share for the practices through programs such as the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) producers expressed little interest in the practice.

Grass Seedings

Producers were not interested in this practice. Those producers that had cropland didn't want to give up the acres and those that had pastureland didn't want to maintain extra fence to keep livestock out of riparian areas. Even with incentive payments and cost share for the practices through programs such as the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) producers expressed little interest in the practice.

Agricultural Waste Systems

Producers were not interested in this practice because of the cost involved, even with cost share. Owners of many of the smaller operations in the project area did not feel they would not be able to recover the cost of the system before they retire.

Dredging Sediment from Lake Faulkton

Several breakdowns and weather related delays resulted in the activity becoming completed behind schedule. Drought conditions lowered water levels to the point where the dredge could not reach some areas of planned sediment removal which resulted in the project not meeting 144,000 cubic yards of sediment milestone. In addition, once the holding ponds were drained, it took longer than anticipated for the ponds to dry enough so that reclamation could begin.

FUTURE ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The holding pond reclamation site will be monitored by the members of the Lake Faulkton Restoration Committee, Faulk Conservation District and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and Faulk Conservation District will be responsible for ensuring the BMPs installed are properly operated and maintained for the duration of their life spans. Recommend starting a volunteer sampling group to continue monitoring the lake's water quality. Further sampling may show better water quality results since the project ended when the lake was experiencing low water levels due to drought-like conditions.

PROJECT BUDGET/EXPENDITURES

PROJECT BUDGET/EXPENDITURES

Table 2 shows the planned project budget and amount expended for each budget category. All budget amendments were approved by DENR prior transfer of funds between budget categories. The project gained additional local funding assistance from Central Plains Water Development District and producer's that participated in the Emergency Conservation Program administered by the Farm Service Agency.

Abbreviations for funding sources in Table 2:

USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	Unites States Fish and Wildlife Service
EQIP	Environment Quality Incentive Program
319 Grant	Environmental Protection Agency 319 Grant Program
Consolidate	Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program
Commission	Conservation Commission Grants Program
Cons. Dist.	Faulk Conservation District
CPWDD	Central Plains Water Development District

Table 2. Lake Faulkton Project Budget Comparison.

Item		Total	USDA	USFWS	EQIP	319 Grant	Consolidated	Commission	Local	Cons. Dist.	CPWDD
Coordinator-Salary Fringe	planned	$180,000				$180,000					
	expended	$120,506				$120,506					
Administrative Secretary	planned	$30,000				$30,000					
	expended	$15,876				$15,876					
NRCS Technical Support	planned	$60,000				$60,000					
	expended	$0				$0					
NECOG Tech. Assistance	planned	$9,960				$6,960	$3,000				
	expended	$3,000				$1,740	$1,260				
Engineering	planned	$48,000				$48,000					
	expended	$18,476				$18,476					
Planned Grazing Systems	planned	$54,088				$25,000		$29,088			
	expended	$224,694		$9,426	$5,927	$113,354		$8,738	$87,249		
Water Development	planned	$595,500			$279,750			$177,000	$138,750		
	expended	$306,317	$26,012	$2,151	$25,042	$33,282	$91,674		$128,156		
Dams, Dugouts and Cleanouts	planned	$130,500		$31,250	$25,000		$43,000		$31,250		
	expended	$124,521	$25,000	$6,775		$6,622	$41,285		$44,839		
Well Plug	planned	$10,000			$4,500		$3,000		$2,500		
	expended	$0			$0		$0		$0		
Buffers and Grass Plantings	planned	$35,875			$11,250	$6,000		$13,000	$5,625		
	expended	$0			$0	$0		$0	$0		
Conservation Tillage	planned	$30,000				$30,000					
	expended	$7,674				$7,674					
Tree Plantings	planned	$99,464			$48,000			$27,464	$24,000		
	expended	$64,667	$434		$25,347			$14,437	$23,052	$971	$426
Ag. Waste Systems	planned	$229,948			$8,000	$96,000		$77,948	$48,000		
	expended	$57,143			$24,892	$14,834		$8,846	$8,571		
Golf Course	planned	$1,000							$1,000		
	expended	$100							$100		
Holding Ponds	planned	$178,750				$64,750	$96,500		$17,500		
	expended	$276,220				$148,935	$99,663		$27,622		
Dredge	planned	$306,300				$102,000	$168,300		$36,000		
	expended	$332,913				$101,429	$161,112		$25,798		$44,574
Streambank Stabilization	planned	$10,000				$7,500			$2,500		
	expended	$9,065				$1,815			$7,250		
Lakeshore Stabilization	planned	$16,750				$7,500	$7,000		$2,250		
	expended	$22,532				$17,091	$1,827		$3,614		
Informational Brochure	planned	$2,500				$1,250			$1,250		
	expended	$648				$433			$215		
Yearly Tour	planned	$6,000				$3,000			$3,000		
	expended	$0				$0			$0		
Newspaper Articles	planned	$1,500				$750			$750		
	expended	$690				$345			$345		
Water Quality	planned	$10,000				$5,000			$5,000		
	expended	$1,922				$961			$961		
Total	planned	$2,046,135	$0	$31,250	$376,500	$673,710	$320,800	$324,500	$319,375	$0	$0
Total	expended	$1,586,964	$51,446	$18,352	$81,208	$603,373	$396,821	$32,021	$357,772	$971	$45,000

APPENDIX A
Lake Faulkton Informational Brochure

Lake Faulkton is in trouble

Sixty-four years ago a WPA improvement project was completed and Lake Faulkton was born. Over the years the lake has provided benefits that have been well worth the original investment. In fact, Lake Faulkton was and still is one of a handful of lakes in a 50 miles radius that provide opportunities for boating, fishing, swimming, camping and picnicing.

A variety of wildlife species is also sustained by the lake providing opportunities for the public to view.

Lakeside Country Club is one of the finest golf courses in this area. Who could deny that the many views of Lake Faulkton from the fairways are part of the club's charm?

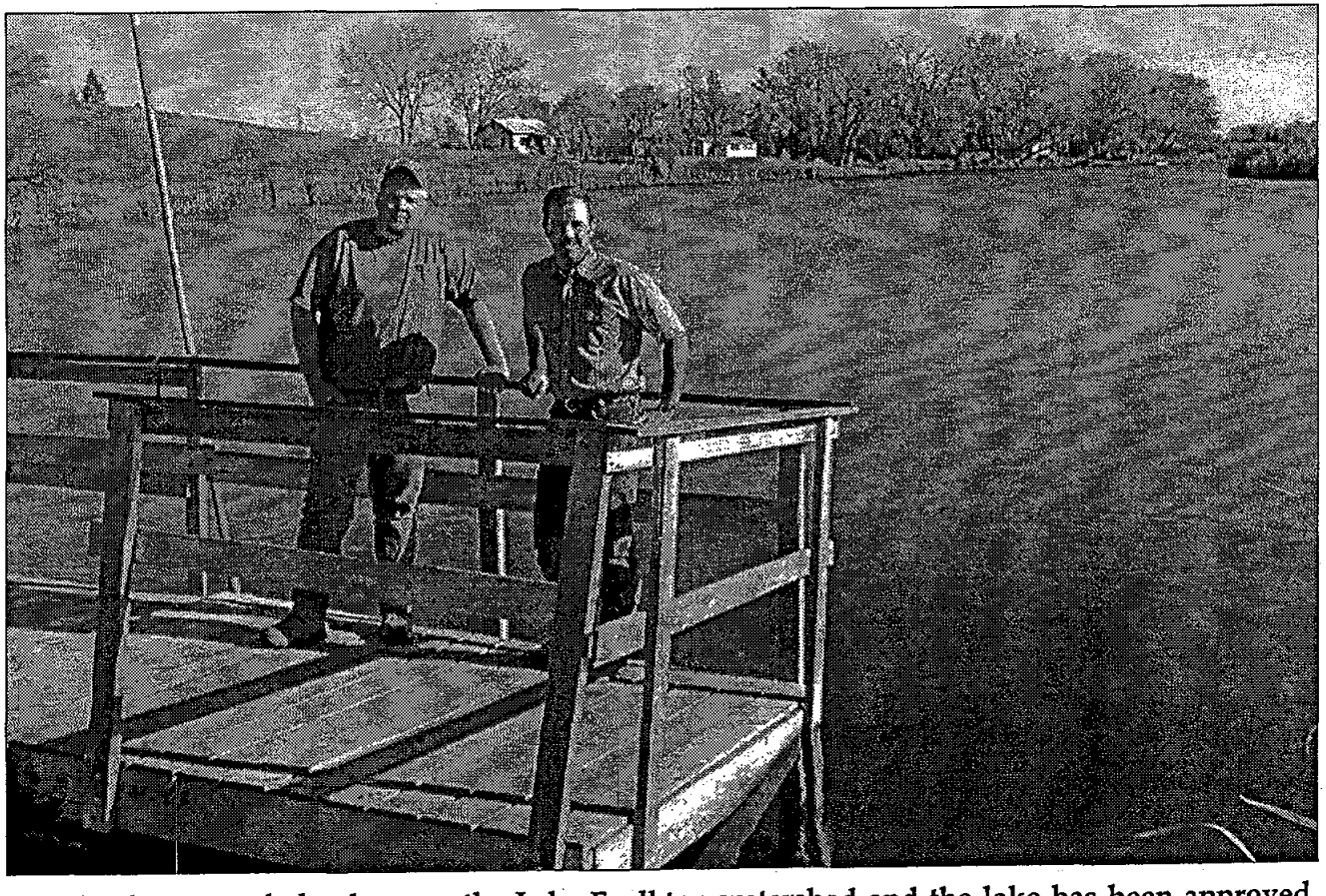
But all is not well at Lake Faulkton.

Did you know?

- ◆ 60 years of sediment loading has taken away up to ten feet of water depth.
- ◆ Shoreline erosion is causing the lake to "close in" on itself.
- ◆ There are excessive amounts of plant species that are "choking the lake to death".
- ◆ Low oxygen levels have caused periodic fish kills in the lake.
- ◆ Lake Faulkton could eventually become "swamp Faulkton"

We're asking for your help:

A local Lake Faulkton Restoration Project Committee has been organized. It is our intention to do something about the lake . . . not later but now.



A Federal grant to help clean up the Lake Faulkton watershed and the lake has been approved. Here Matt Cavenee, project coordinator and Grady Heitmann, District Conservationist for the Faulk Conservation District, are pictured at the lake's handicapped accessible dock.

We are seeking support not only from the local community, but from anyone who has had access to the lake and enjoyed its many benefits.

We have received the Federal grant money and the project has been approved. We have hired Matt Cavenee as our project coordinator. Our goal is to have the project completed within six years. It would involve matching money solicited from the community and other sources.

We need your help for this project. The lake may have provided entertainment for you while you were growing up. Wouldn't you like to see another generation have similar pleasures and memories?

We urge you to complete the form on the flap of this brochure and let us know what you can do to help "save our lake".

☐ Yes! I want to help bring Lake Faulkton back to life! (Your donation is tax deductible.)
My donation is:.....$_____

☐ Yes! I would like to pledge over the next six years (Your donation is tax deductible.)
My pledge is: .....$_____

☐ Yes! I am interested in helping, but would like more information.

Name_____

Address_____

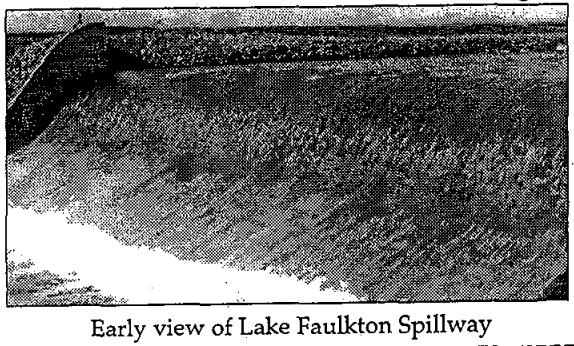
_____

Phone _____

Please return this form to:
Lake Faulkton Restoration Project
PO Box 489
Faulkton, SD 57438

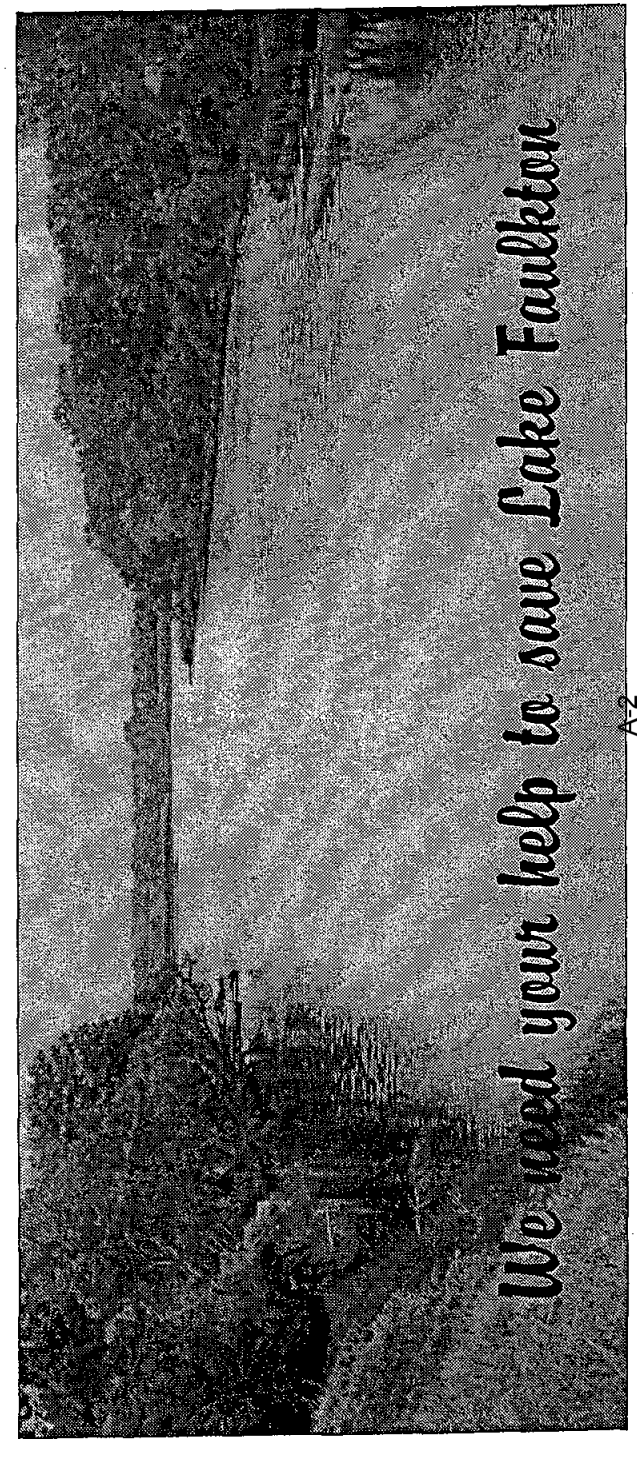
Make Checks payable to
Faulk Conservation District

Contact Matt Cavenee, 598-6549 ext. 3
e-mail: matt-cavenee@sd.nacdnet.org



Early view of Lake Faulkton Spillway

Lake Faulkton Restoration Project Committee
PO Box 489
Faulkton, SD 57438-0188



A-2

APPENDIX B
Grazing Management Meeting Notice

Lake Faulkton Grazing Management Meeting

December 6, 2004 @ 10:00 am

Faulkton City Hall

Speakers:
Dave Steffen-Rancher and Retired NRCS employee
Justin "Judge" Jessop-SDACD Grasslands Project Coordinator

- What are the goals of the watershed program?
- How does grass grow and how does it benefit the watershed?
- What are the basic steps for planning a grazing system?
- What are the benefits to the livestock/landowner?
- What type of cost-share is available?
- What are the obligations the producer is committing to(what strings are attached)?
- Group interaction on planning a grazing system (the flip chart planner).
- What is the process to sign up?

* Photo courtesy of the South Dakota NRCS website.

APPENDIX C
Newspaper Articles

New life for Lake Faulkton

Area's watershed restoration project in third, final year

By Russ Koen
American News Writer

FAULKTON — A lake that's almost 70 years old is being bathed in the fountain of youth.

On a good day, a dredging boat sucks a half-million gallons of murky water out of Lake Faulkton, and pumps the water uphill to where gravity pulls crud to the bottom of holding ponds. Clear water that sparkles when the sun shines gushes back into the lake from the ponds. The dredging process is part of a watershed restoration quarterbacked by the Faulk Conservation District. The work is in its third and final year.

People have face-lifts. Dredging could be called a bottom-lift. The dredge boat features a long snout with a massive, iron ball at the end. Dredge operators lower the snout to the lake's bottom, where the nose makes sweeps back and forth, 45 feet or so wide. Teeth on the rotating ball dig up sediment.

A pump in the back of the boat draws water and sediment up through the snout and forces the liquid through flexible pipes that stretch across the lake and up the hill to the series of holding ponds. Another pipe comes down the hill, delivering clean water back to the lake.

The decades have taken their toll on Lake Faulkton, which covers 115 acres west of town a mile or so. Dredging removes ton after ton of silt, fertilizer and manure that have been trickling into the lake since the dam creating it was built in the late 1930s. The agricultural runoff comes from 161,320 acres that comprise the lake's watershed. The runoff, especially nutrient-rich manure and fertilizer, spurs the growth of unwanted vegetation on the surface and edges of the lake and lowers its quality as fish habitat.

A few panfish and a variety of bullhead unpalatable to most human taste buds are about the only fish that thrive in Lake Faulkton, according to Jason Venjohn, coordinator of the Lake Faulkton Watershed Restoration Project. Plans are to stock the lake with desirable fish once the restoration is completed.

Meanwhile, for pelicans, its summertime and the livin' is easy. Fish are jumpin' out of the end of the pipe from which dirty water gushes into the first holding pond. Dozens of pelicans hang around the inlet and scoop bullheads into their pouch-like beaks.

Besides fish and sediment, dredging also pulls up stuff humans have thrown away or lost, such as carpets, beer cans, ropes and golf balls. Lakeside Country Club, which features a 9-hole golf course, abuts the lake.

"They say there's a car somewhere in the bottom of this lake," said Rob Ronne of South Dakota Lakes and Streams, the South Shore company doing the dredging. "We haven't found it yet, and I hope we don't." Encountering a drowned vehicle could damage the dredging equipment.

At its deepest, the lake currently goes down about 25 feet near the dam. Water starts spilling over the dam when the lake reaches a depth of about 30 feet.

Dredging appears to be leaving the lake shallower than before, but that's not the case. Removing sediment from the bottom means the lake's floor is lower than before, so the same amount of water looks like less, Ronne explained.

The watershed is receiving ample rain. But the lake has yet to rise significantly because farmland in the watershed has been so dry that it continues to absorb most of the precipitation, said Grady Heitmann, conservationist with the Faulk Conservation District.

More than lake involved

The watershed restoration includes projects designed to prevent unwanted materials from entering the lake. Government cost-sharing projects have enabled farmers and local conservation agencies to install mile after mile of water pipes to pastures, for example.

These new sources of water allow producers to divide their pastures and rotate grazing among the sections, which means more plant residue remains in each section. In turn, more residue in pastures means cleaner runoff, which eventually reaches the lake, Heitmann said.

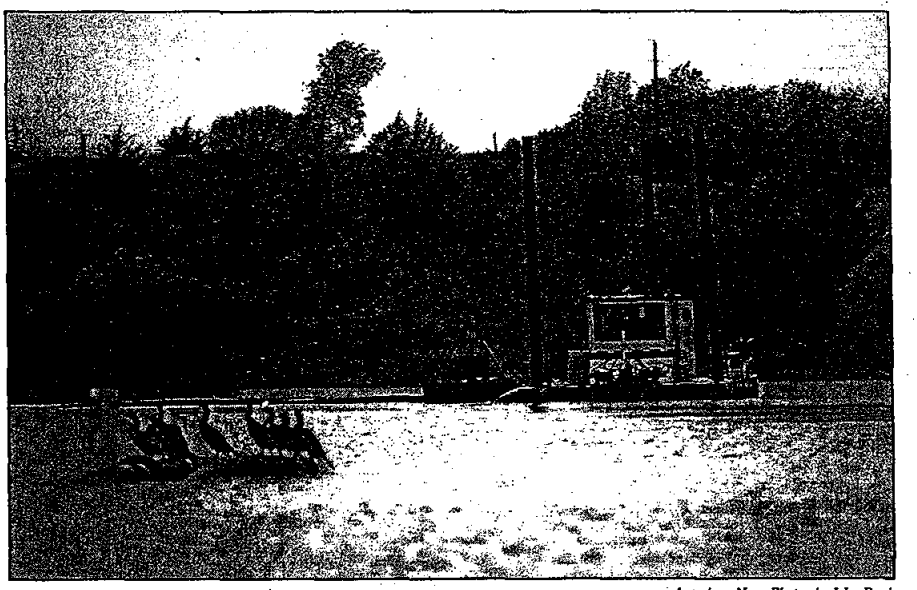
Cost-sharing has also allowed for other projects to keep the lake clean. Examples are:

- Increased no-till farming, which disturbs topsoil less than conventional farming.
- Fencing to keep cattle out of streams that feed into the lake.
- Planting of trees and installation of fabric that holds soil in place.

That project also includes stabilizing the lake's shores with rocks and stones. A variety of federal grants and local funds are financing the restoration. Total funding is approximately $2 million.

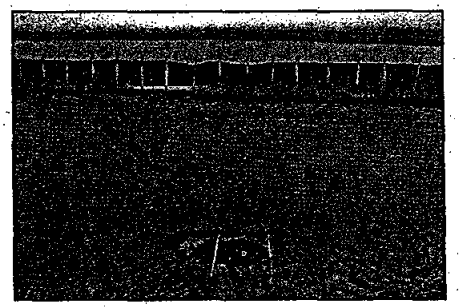
The conservation district is in charge of the restoration with assistance from the Faulkton office of the federal Natural Resources and Conservation Service.

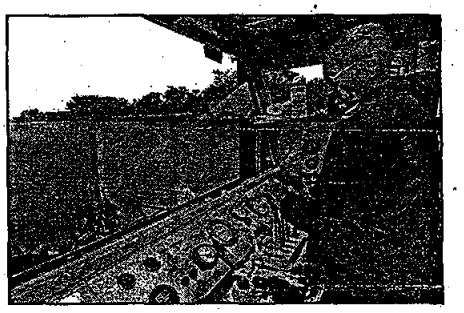
From farmers and ranchers to office workers, "It really has been a team effort," Heitmann said. "Without a team effort, projects like this aren't going to fly."



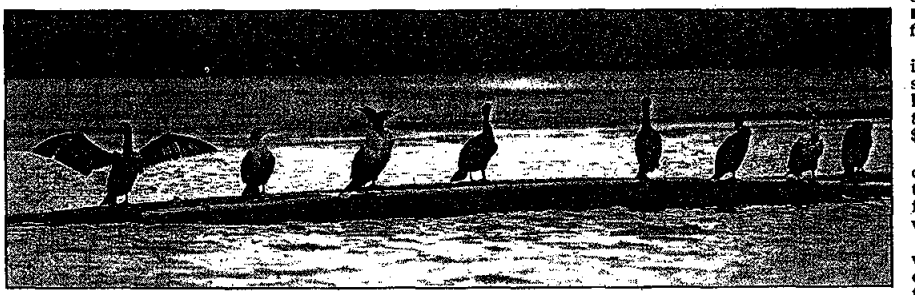
American News Photos by John Davis

Getting to the bottom of it: Runoff from 161,320 acres that make up the Lake Faulkton watershed have taken its toll since the lake was created 70 years ago. To combat the problem, the Lake Faulkton Watershed Restoration Project has hired a company from South Shore to clean up the bottom of the lake, removing unwanted silt and vegetation. The dredge boat above pumps water and sediment through flexible pipes (seen in foreground with cormorants on top) up a hill to the series of holding ponds. The sediment settles in the ponds allowing clear water to return to the lake.

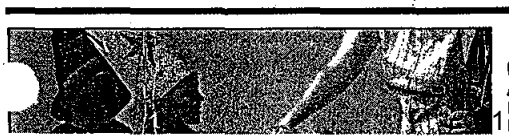




Rejuvenating Lake Faulkton: At left, clear water flows down a well leading back to Lake Faulkton after moving through a series of silting ponds near the lake. At right, Ron Winters is part of the team from South Dakota Lakes and Streams, the company out of South Shore that was hired to clear the bottom of Lake Faulkton.



Lake view: The pipes used by the dredge operating on Lake Faulkton create a perch for a flock of cormorants.



American News Photos by Dawn Dietrich

Oz Festival

At from left: Me Sther, 5, of Brainerd, Minn., Chel-

April 19, 2000

The Lake Faulkton Restoration Project

WOULD LIKE TO THANK

these individuals for their contributions to the Lake Restoration project

Barney Lesselyoung
Nick Gebhart
Lois Uphoff
Barb Nemick
Jeff Bowar
Jean Marso
Tom Melius

JoAnn Byrne
Tom & Linda Bartholomew
Faulkton Business & Professional Assoc.
Corky & Linda Roberts
Jack & Leota Turner

Contribution in memory of Larry Sievers

If you would like information about the Lake Restoration project or wish to make a contribution, contact the **Lake Faulkton Restoration Project,** Box 489, Faulkton, SD 57438
Make checks payable to **Faulk Conservation District.**

~~Duane~~ / Wayne
FYI

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JUL 2 0 2000

Faulk County Record

14

Final grant in place for $2 million Lake Faulkton watershed project

$673,710 approved!

The grant that the Lake Faulkton Restoration Committee has been waiting for has been released. The project that combines conservation practices in the 163,000 acre watershed and Lake Faulkton dredging is about to begin.

According to Grady Heitmann, District Conservationist for the Faulk County Conservation District, notification was received Friday that the EPA 319 grant had been approved.

That clears the way for plans to begin on the $2,101,500 project funded by the $673,710 EPA grant with $666,375 in other grants for a total of $1,340,085. The remainder of the project, $761,415, will come from local donations, landowner participation and in-kind labor.

First on the agenda is hiring a project coordinator. Heitmann said they already have a number of applications for the job and the Lake Restoration Committee will be reviewing them next week. "We are looking for a person with people skills and a biology type background," Heitmann said.

The people skills part will be necessary because the new coordinator will be meeting with landowners throughout the watershed. Those producers will be asked to participate in a number of programs (see box) designed to clean up the watershed and benefit both the landowners and recreational users of Lake Faulkton.

The position will be for the duration of the six year project. The new coordinator will be an employee of the Faulk Conservation District and be able to draw on the expertise and resources of the district.

When will dredging begin?

That is the most asked question he has been getting, Heitmann said. The process will first involve obtaining and preparing holding ponds for the silt that will be dredged. That may yet be possible this year, Heitmann speculates, which could mean dredging might begin next spring.

Dredging will involve removing approximately 150,000 cubic yards of silt from the lake. That silt is the cause of the major problems of water quality in Lake Faulkton because of the phosphorus content.

Dredging without the conservation measures down stream would have only been a short term solution to lake water quality, Heitmann explained.

Plenty of room for change

Heitmann notes that the Lake Restoration Committee meetings are open to the interested public. Suggestions on how to improve water quality and conservation practices in the watershed are more than welcome. "We are looking for better ideas to accomplish our goals."

Throughout the project the committee hopes to work closely with landowners, the S. D. Lakes and Streams Association and those interested in lake recreation. Keeping the public informed about project progress will also be a priority.

Talk about lake improvement and watershed practices has been continuous for the past several years and has included a comprehensive study about problems in the watershed. "We are finally to a point that here it is," Heitmann said. "We've got it, let's use it."

Conservation projects planned

Most of the landowner programs available in the Lake Faulkton watershed for helping with conservation practices will involve 75% grant money and 25% owner participation which can be monetary or labor related. Among the producer programs available that Heitmann says are winners for both the landowner/producer and recreational users of Lake Faulkton are:

Water Management

1. **Planned grazing systems:** rotating pastures based on a plan. Participants will get $2.50 per acre each year for a three year period. The plan calls for involving up to 20,000 acres in this program. This procedure allows for longer pasture grass which helps slow down runoff.

2. **Cross fencing:** goes hand in hand with planned grazing and involves breaking up larger pastures with fencing to facilitate rotating grazing fields. The plan calls for 28.5 miles of new fencing in the watershed.

3. **Water development:** of new wells, tanks and rural water hookups with either Mid-Dakota or WEB. The plan currently calls for 20 miles of pipe, ten wells and 50 tanks.

4. **Plugging ten wells:** these are abandoned wells that are open now, into which chemicals and fertilizer could leak into the aquifer.

5. **Dams and dugouts:** 15 new dams (along existing drainage areas) and 40 dugouts (either new dugouts or cleanouts of existing dugouts). The dams will act as nutrient holding ponds and at the same time provide a water source for livestock.

6. **Buffer zone:** the program calls for planting lush vegetation along eight miles of the Snake Creek where it is currently farmed right through the creek bed. It would involve a 90% cost share to reshape the creek bank plus give the owner $40 per acre for ten years and make the acreage available for the CRP program.

7. **Grass seeding:** approximately 500 acres of grass seeding is planned.

8. **Conservation tillage and no/till practices:** it is hoped to involve 10,000 acres in these conservation practices. As an extra incentive $2 per acre for a three year period will be provided. The money could go toward renting the district's no-till drills or to rent a privately owned drill. This program will be limited to 320 acres per producer.

9. **Tree plantings:** another program to help reduce open range erosion. This program will provide for about 100 acres of trees.

Nutrient Management

1. **Ag waste systems:** hopefully 16 ag waste system lagoons would be installed along the watershed at a cost of approximately $20,000 each (75% grant money). Heitmann anticipates these might be the hardest to convince producers to go for, but at the same time provide some of the greater benefits.

2. **Lakeside Country Club:** the plan would allow approximately $1,000 t help develop a plan for nutrient management at the golf course.

Make sure this guy gets briefed on what the assessment document is recommending (i.e. - where are the critical AGNPS cells ...)

American News

Saturday, August 19, 2000

Faulkton: Toxic algae found in lake

Officials are advising people to use caution around Lake Faulkton. The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources found blue-green algae in the lake, which can be toxic to people and animals.

Matt Cavenee, Lake Faulkton restoration project coordinator, said the algae develops from high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen combined with high temperatures. He said chemicals from fertilizers often cause the high levels. Lake Faulkton is surrounded by farms and a golf course.

The algae is in bloom, which gives it a bright blue and green color. Cavenee said the bloom should be done by early next week, ending the toxic threat. "People should reconsider having contact with the water until then."

Cavenee is heading the effort to clean up Lake Faulkton and the surrounding area. One of the goals of the project is reduce the amount of agricultural run-off into the lake.

Anyone with questions or concerns about Lake Faulkton can call Cavenee at (605) 598-6549 ext. 3.

Reporter Betsy Cahill; (605) 622-2316 or (800) 925-4100 ext. 316; bcahill@aberdeennews.com.

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2000 Faulk County Record

Faulkton watershed director begins duties

by Garrick A. Moritz

On Monday, Aug. 14 the Faulk County Conservation District hired a new project coordinator for the Lake Faulkton Watershed Project. Matt Cavenee, 24, born in Miller and raised on a farm near Wessington, has been hired for the position.

Cavenee, went to Southwestern Technical College in Canby, Minn. and graduated with a major in soil and water conservation. He worked in the Miller Soil Conservation District right out of college. For the past year and a half he worked at Mid-Dakota Rural Water System. Cavenee and his wife now live south of Orient. He will commute to Faulkton, while she will commute to Miller to work at the Miller Press.

Part of Lake Faulkton's problems are due to the high amount of phosphorus and nitrogen due to ag runoff from livestock, pesticides and fertilizers. All these factors lead to high amounts of phosphorous and nitrogen in the water, leading to the result of a polluted lake.

"They are going to start dredging the lake next year and that will help a lot, but it won't solve the problem," Cavenee said. "We need to sit down and work with everybody around the lake and its tributaries. Everything has to come together to get the lake and watershed cleaned up."

Matt Cavenee

And that will be Cavenee's job for at least the next six years. Most of his work will be introducing and encouraging the land owners around the lake and in the watershed to adopt the conservation practices that will keep the lake restored and clean.

Cavenee stated that anyone who is curious about the current situation of the lake or has any questions about the watershed project to call 598-6549 at extension 3.

Lake warning is terminated

Problems with blue-green algae at Lake Faulkton are over, according to Matt Cavenee, Lake Faulkton Watershed Project director. A warning against swimming in the lake was issued late last week but no longer applies.

Lake Faulkton coordinator busy visiting landowners

Matt Cavenee, Project Coordinator
Lake Faulkton Watershed Project

Since I started in August I have visited with many landowners in the Lake Faulkton watershed, but there are many more that I need to contact. The people that I have spoke to have been very receptive to our goals with the many conservation practices that we offer.

We do have a wide variety of practices, such as: planned grazing systems, cross fencing, alternative water systems, establishing riparian buffer zones, seed grass in previously farmed natural drainage channels, implement conservation tillage and no-till practices, plant trees, agricultural waste systems in the form of lagoons and stabilize eroded stream bank sites in the watershed. This is a basic list of practices and if you want more details on these practices or details on cost share amounts, I will be trying to contact the remaining producers in the watershed this winter.

We have already done some practices with a few interested producers, and these have been pipelines, tanks and dugouts. There are different cost share amounts for different practices, so if you are interested please call.

Everything has been running smoothly, but the people that I have talked to about doing a practice need to be sure to let us know when the contractor is going to start. We need to know before he is on site ready to do construction. The reason we need to know this is so we can be sure to set aside enough money so we can cost share your project. Before construction begins, we also need a contract signed between the producer and the Faulk Conservation District.

I have enjoyed visiting with the producers I have met and I am looking forward to meeting the rest of the people in the watershed. Please feel free to contact me at 598-6549, Ext. 3 if you have any questions about watershed boundaries or cost share options.

RAFFLE

Lake Faulkton Restoration Project

6 framed separate Western Reproductions by Western Artist Tim Cox

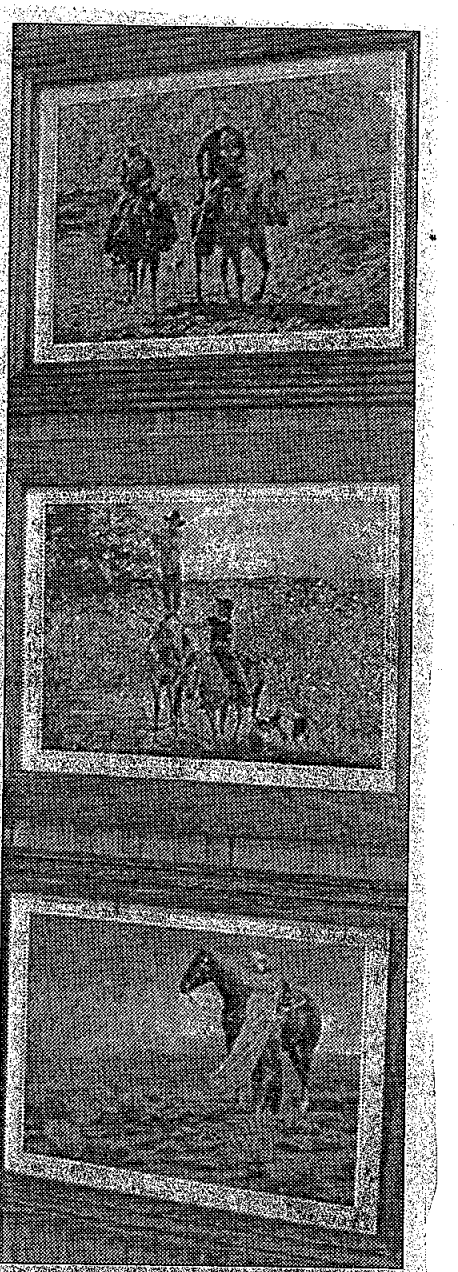
Six separate drawings

$1 per ticket or $5 for 6 tickets

Drawing to be held in conjunction with 2001 Wild West Days

Need not be present to win!

Pictures can be seen at Shelbies Flowers & Gifts, Faulkton Hardware, Faulkton Drug and the USDA-NRCS Office



Promoting Lake Faulkton project

The Lake Faulkton Restoration Project is promoting a fundraiser to help with it's on-going lake improvement project. Above are three of the framed reproductions by western artist Tim Cox that chances can be purchased. See advertisement elsewhere in this issue for details.

Starting from the top these reproductions are titled "Quality Time", Picking Green Apples" and "A Storm Across the Valley". The reproductions not shown here are "Thunderhead", "Bringing Her In" and "Cold Crossing".

The works are on display at Shelbies Flowers & Gifts, Faulkton Hardware, Faulkton Drug and the USD-NRCS office.

The Lake Faulkton Restoration Project Committee

wishes to thank all who donated to the project through their purchase of chances on the Tim Cox framed reproductions.

Congratulations to our winners:

Deb Kindelspire, Delila Coyle, Jon Scheller, Fred Myers, Celius Wherry & Linda Bartholomew

Faulk County Record Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Open House Farewell

for **Matt Cavenee**

Friday, Nov. 16th from 2 to 4 p.m.

at the Conservation Office in Faulkton

Matt has accepted a position in Burke.

Farewell hosted for Matt Cavenee

The Faulk Conservation District and Lake Faulkton Association hosted a farewell open house for Matt Cavenee (right) on Nov. 16. Cavenee has been project supervisor for the Lake Faulkton Restoration Project. Presenting him with this wildlife scene is restoration project committee member Byron Mills. Cavenee has accepted a position in Burke.

Position Open

Faulk Conservation District is currently accepting applications for a full time Lake Project Coordinator. Position is 40 hours per week. Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Management or related field. Related experience may substitute for education.

Ability to work one on one with farmers, ranchers and cabin owners. Computer skills will be an asset. Competitive salary and benefits available.

Applications are available at the Faulk Conservation District, Ag Service Center, 131 8 th Ave S., Faulkton, SD. Phone: 605-598-6549 ext. 3. Position will close February 28, 2002.

The Faulk Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer.

No. 111, April 3, 2002

Bid Invitation

Sealed bids for the Lake Faulkton, Faulk County, South Dakota, lake dredging are being sought. The project consists of construction of two major and three smaller sedimentation ponds (approximately 110,000 cy excavation), hydraulic dredging (approximately 150,000 cy) of lake sediments, and restoration of ponds and disturbed areas. The project will occur over at least three construction seasons. Anticipated project cost is expected to be between $250,000 and $500,000.

Bids will be received in accordance with the general conditions and specification documents prepared by Hodgens Engineering & Surveying, dated March 20, 2002. A copy of the plans and specifications will be available for inspection at:

Pierre Builders Exchange, Pierre, SD (605) 224-1673

Lake Area Builders Exchange, Watertown, SD (605) 886-8084

Sioux Falls Builders Exchange, Sioux Falls, SD (605) 357-8687

Aberdeen Builders Exchange, Aberdeen, SD (605) 225-4733

NRCS Faulkton Field Office, USDA Service Center, Faulkton, SD (605) 598-6549

Potential bidders may obtain plans and specifications at Hodgens Engineering & Surveying, 251 Fourth Street SW, Huron, South Dakota. A fee is required per set of plans and specifications. Plans will be available in two sizes. The fee will be $50 for "small" (11" x 17") plans and specs, $70 for "large" (22" x 34") plans and specs, or $75 for both sizes of drawings and specs.

Bids will be accepted at the Faulkton Field Office, USDA Service Center, Natural Resource Conservation Service, P.O. Box 489, 131 Eighth Avenue South, Faulkton, South Dakota 57438 until April 17, 2002 2:00 p.m. At that time, bids will be opened and read aloud. All bidders providing an email address or fax number will be provided with a bid summary.

A bid security deposit will be required. No faxed bids will be excepted.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids or parts of hereof, and waive any irregularities of any bid. The Owner also reserves the right to award the Contract to the lowest responsible bidder as may be determined by the Owner.

No. 104, March 27, 2002

NOTICE OF RECOMMENDATION

By the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Notice is hereby given that the Lake Faulkton Watershed Restoration Project has requested approval from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources to dredge Lake Faulkton. These activities are allowable under the Surface Water Quality Standards Administrative Rule of South Dakota 74:5 1:01 for the purposes of water resource enhancement or restoration.

The proposed activities will be occur in Lake Faulkton, Section 17, Township 118 N, Range 69 W, Faulk County. Activities include the removal of accumulated sediments. The purpose of the project is to remove nutrients and enhance the beneficial uses of the lake. The project has been designed so as to eliminate any long term damage to the aquatic community.

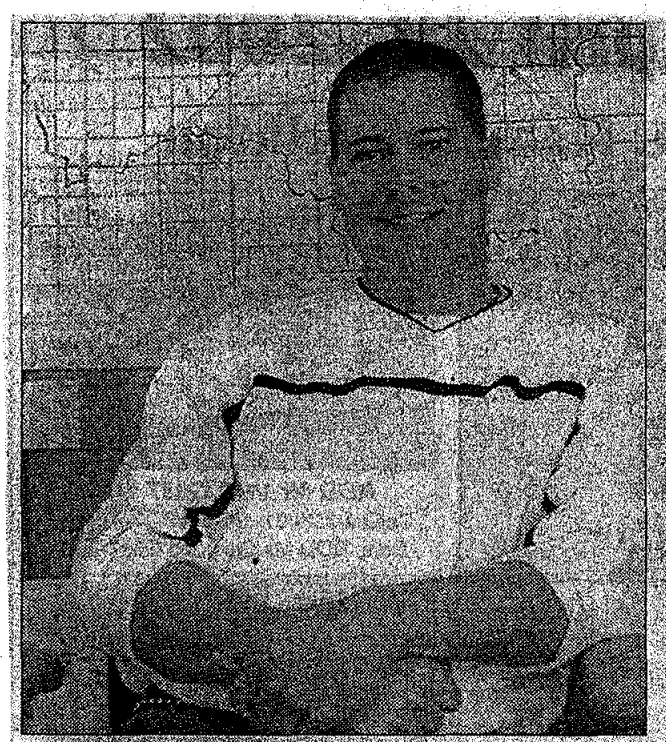
In accordance with ARSD 74:51:01:58 and 74:51:01:60, the department may allow exceedance of a standard if it is determined that the overall goals of the project justify any potential short-term detriments and if exceeding the standard is not contested by the public. Potential effects of this project may include the release of unionized ammonia or other pollutants from the sediments in concentrations which may exceed water quality standards. Although the project may resuspend or circulate existing substances, it will not introduce any new or bio-accumulative substances into the system.

It is the recommendation of the department that this project be approved. Written comments in opposition to this recommendation must be received by the department within 10 days of this published notice. If comments opposing the department's recommendation are received, a public hearing shall be scheduled before the Water Management Board pursuant to ARSD 74:03:13. Based on the record of the hearing, the Board shall then determine if the overall goals of the project justify any short term detriments and it is in the public interest.

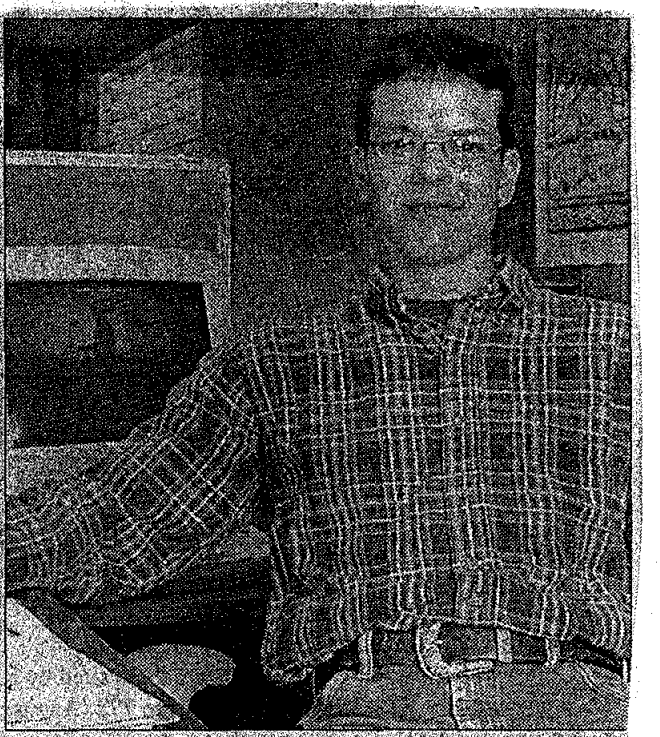
Questions concerning the project may be forwarded by telephone to John Miller at (605) 773-3351. Written comments may be sent to the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources at the following address:

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Surface Water Quality Program
523 East Capital Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Steven M. Pirner
Secretary



Kevin Stark – new Lake Faulkton Project Coordinator



Monte Steinbrecher – Range Land Management Specialist

Two positions filled at Faulk Conservation District office

A familiar face and a new one to this community have begun working at the Faulk Conservation District office.

Looks forward to work here

Monte Steinbrecher grew up in ranching country near Aladdin, Wyo. with a view of the northern Black Hills. He brings that experience and his degree in Range Science Management from South Dakota State University as qualifications for his new job with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Steinbrecher interned with the NRCS in 1999 and began full time with them after graduation from SDSU in the fall of 2000. Before coming to Faulkton he worked for the past year in Tyndall.

His job is basically helping farmers with conservation plans: designing new tree plantings, tree belts, grass waterways and alternate watering systems for livestock.

He will provide technical assistance for farmers while FSA provides assistance on the financing end.

"I'm looking forward to meeting producers and using my ag background to assist them," Steinbrecher said.

Lake dredging next

Kevin Stark is the new Lake Faulkton Project Coordinator. He is heading the project at an exciting time as today (Wednesday) bids are being let for dredging the lake.

Stark is a 1996 graduate of Faulkton High School and for the past several years has been employed by Farmers Union Oil in Faulkton, now Northern Plains Coop.

The Lake Faulkton Project involves not only dredging the lake but working with farmers in the watershed for conservation projects designed to keep sediment and chemicals from returning once the lake has been cleaned. The practices have the added benefit of preserving that land for the owners.

About 25% of the work has been completed. Stark estimates (he takes over the job from Matt Cavenee who resigned last fall). The management practices, which involve cost share programs with the landowners, include planned grazing systems, cross fencing and alternative water systems for livestock.

The dredging project will involve removing sediment from the lake bed and de-watering that sediment in holding areas. Dredging activities are now scheduled to begin by July 4 this summer. It will take two to three seasons to complete.

Stark is anxious to begin work with landowners in the watershed and communicating the benefits of the project to them and also to the community. "I'm looking forward to getting the lake cleaned up and making better recreational use of it once again," Stark said.

He will be working closely with the Lake Faulkton Restoration Committee and helping them promote cost share fundraisers for the project which is also receiving federal and state support. The project coordinator position will probably exist for about five years.

Wednesday, May 22, 2002 Faulk County Record

Present for the opening ceremony to dredge Lake Faulkton were members of the Lake Faulkton Restoration committee, Hodgens Engineering and South Dakota Lakes and Streams, SDLS (the company that will be doing the dredging work). From the left are Jay Hodgens, Hodgens Engineering; Randy Bouvette, state operations manager for SDLS; Don Brewer, restoration committee; Barney Lesselyoung, restoration committee; Donald Marquardt, executive director/general manager, SDLS; Kevin Stark, project coordinator; Roger Hunt, Hodgens Engineering; Linda Bartholomew, restoration committee; and Joan Eschenbaum, restoration committee.

Lake clean-up begins

For many years Lake Faulkton boosters have dreamed of cleaning up and dredging the lake. Now, thanks to the Lake Faulkton Restoration Committee and the Faulk Conservation District that project has begun.

According to Kevin Stark, project coordinator for the restoration project, the company awarded the bid to dredge the lake to South Dakota Lakes and Streams of South Shore. The engineering work for the project is being done by Hodgens Engineering of Huron.

Preliminary work begun this week includes:

• Preparing the holding pond areas for the sludge taken from the lake bed. About 30 acres on the southeast side of the lake will be used for this part of the project. The area will be rimmed in with dirt and then re-claimed after the project is completed.

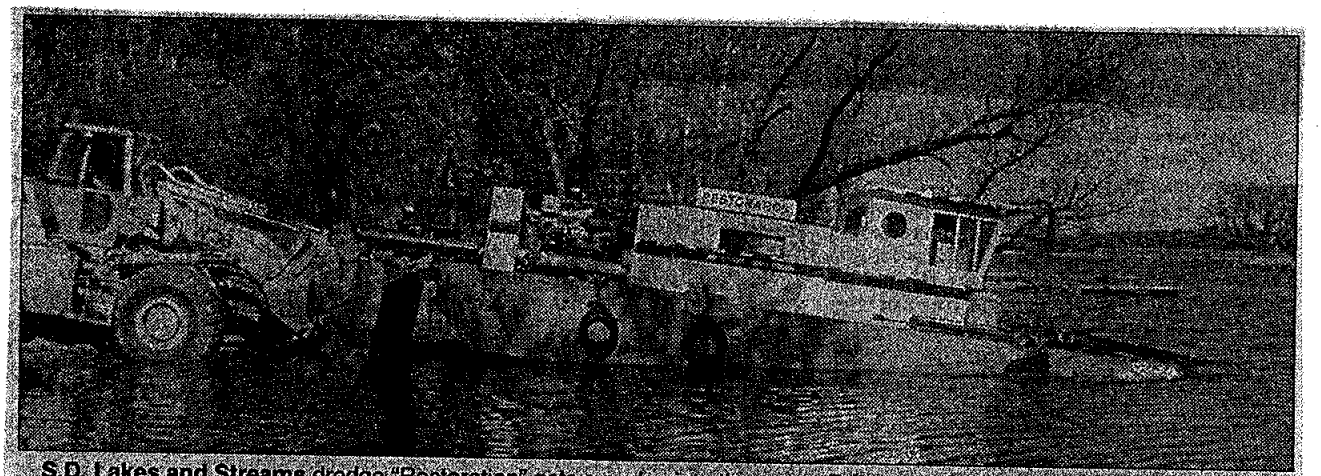
• The dredge is being repaired and should be ready for launching in the lake sometime this week.

• The pipes which transport the sludge are being fused this week.

Stark said the company has six people on the job in Faulkton right now. Two dredge operators will be here throughout this first season, which could run into November, depending on the weather. It is anticipated that the dredging operation could take up to three seasons.

Stark reports that Lake Restoration is receiving an added boost from Game, Fish and Parks who are planting trees along the side of the north edge lake road.

Faulk County Record Wednesday, June 5, 2002



S.D. Lakes and Streams dredge "Restoration" gets a nudge into the water. Restoration will be on Lake Faulkton the next several seasons, drilling into the lake bed sediment that has accumulated since the dam was built 60 plus years ago.

Dredge in place on Lake Faulkton

The dredging barge was set afloat on Wednesday, May 29.

"Everything is on schedule," said project supervisor Kevin Stark. "We're planning to start dredging within two to three weeks. Right now we have to get the ponds built, and they are working on those right now. As soon as that's done we'll get her started, and start pumping some sludge."

The funds for this much needed project come from a mix of grant money and volunteer aid. The total estimated dredging cost $474,110. The actual cost could be more or less. "Eighty to ninety percent is funded by federal and state sources, and the rest is locally funded," Stark said. But, ten percent of a half-million dollars is still fifty big ones, so the project is still dependent on local help.

"Donations are welcome at any time," said Stark. "We also ask that the cabin owners help out by maintaining their property."

Now that the barge has set sail, it will be out there for quite a while.

"The dredging will take two seasons, this season and the next season," Stark said. The final season's work involves reclaiming the land used to store the sludge.

Restoration under it's own power just after launch. Not visible is the large auger which will drill into the sediment. The auger is just under the water line on the front end of the dredge.

Also, for those curious to see the work in progress, dredge barge rides will be available.

"When the dredge gets going, anyone from the community can feel free to come out there and see what's going on," Stark said. "All they have to do is sign a waiver and you can ride on the dredge and see how it works."

Overall Stark is optimistic about the project.

"It's not going to make the lake a bathtub, but it will help restore the recreational aspects," said Stark.

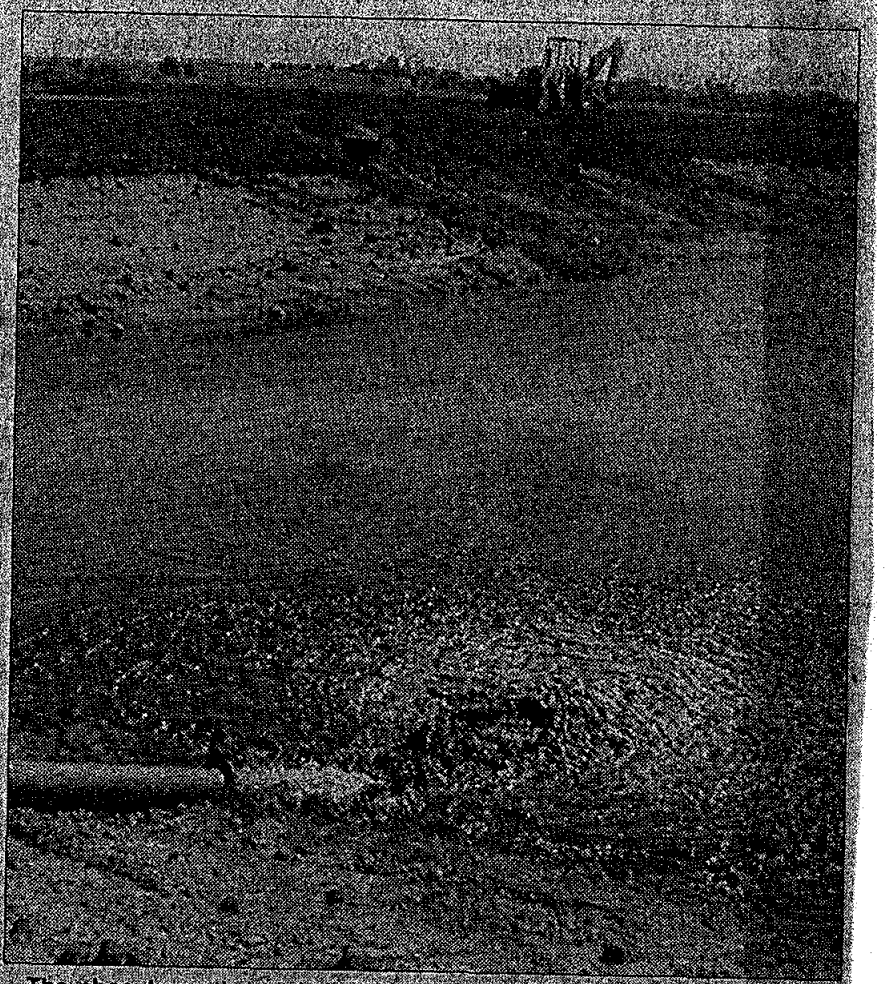
Lake Faulkton
Restoration
Rifle Raffle
The Lake Faulkton Restoration Committee offers this
Henry Golden Boy 22
Lever Action Rifle
for raffle to help restore Lake Faulkton.
Tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5 and are available at:
J & J Bar, Faulkton Drug, Faulk Conservation Office,
Cabinets & Interiors (downtown) or any member.

Sludge removal progressing in Lake Faulkton restoration

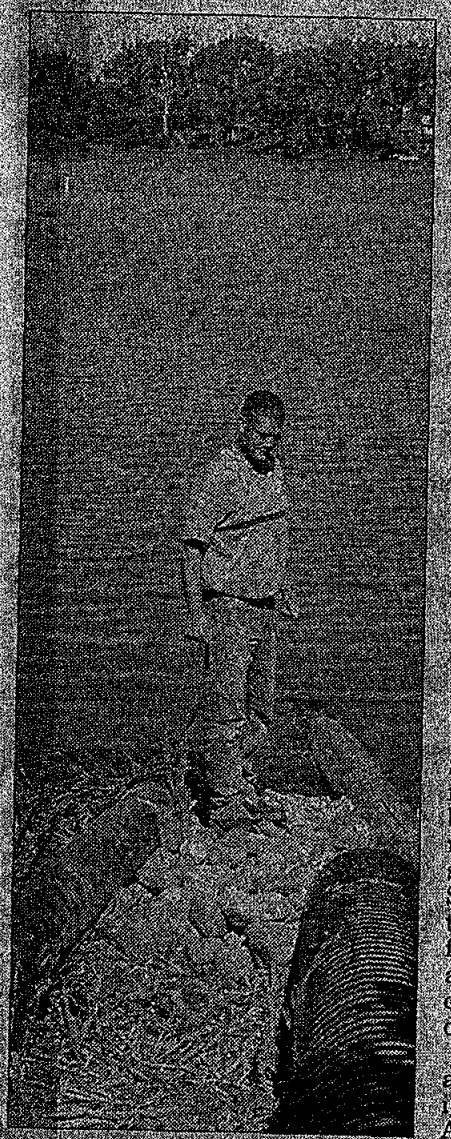
What comes out appears to be from a Texas oil field. But it isn't "black gold". It is a black sludge that has been building on the bottom of Lake Faulkton for many years . . . contributing to water quality, algae and depth issues.

What goes back in, after standing in holding ponds, is clear water.

Lake Faulkton cleanup is in full swing. The dredge "Restoration" is digging up and pumping out four to five feet of sledge from the bottom of the lake and pumping into holding ponds southeast of the spillway.



The phosphorus laden sludge being dumped into the holding ponds on the east side of Lake Faulkton resembles oil. The pumping, which has been going on 12 hours a day Monday through Friday, will soon expand to seven days a week.



Kevin Stark stands between the intake (on the left) and outtake pipes near the holding ponds on the east edge of the lake. Just visible behind him are buoy markers on the pipe that stretches all the way back to the area near State Park camping area/Lakeside Country Club.

"Many days of hard work from South Dakota Lakes and Streams made it possible for the dredge to begin its two year process of removing silt from the lake bed," said project coordinator Kevin Stark. Lakes and Streams will continue dredging until the lake freezes this fall and then begin again next spring. They anticipate completing the process in October of 2003.

There are three holding ponds and as one fills up the sledge pipe is transferred to another pond. After standing filtration the water is filtered through a screen before clear water is returned to the lake.

Two months of dirt work were needed to build the ponds which were completed in early July. The original plan called for four holding ponds, but due to an excessive amount of top soil (four to five feet in some areas) the ponds were built deeper and larger to accommodate the sediment. At the completion of the project the sledge will be packed down and the top soil returned.

After the completion of ponds the "Restoration" began dredging on July 8. In the first two weeks it pumped a total of 4,397 cubic yards of sediment from the lake. The north pond was filled on Thursday, July 24. Return flows of clear water into the lake began then. Water is now being pumped into the middle pond and as it fills the water will run through culverts back into the north pond and again back into the lake.

Jeff Vorseth, dredge foreman for Lakes & Streams, estimates that the three ponds can hold 144,000 cubic yards.

Lake restoration
(continued on page 2)

Clean water returns to the lake through this filtration screen. The clean water return culvert is just to the right of Lake Project Coordinator Kevin Stark.

Lake restoration

(continued from page 1)

Stark said that anyone interested in a tour or ride on the dredge should contact the Faulk Conservation Office to set up a time.

Lake not closed to recreation

The sludge pipe stretches from south of the State Park camping area all the way to south of the spillway. It is marked by buoys. The lake is not closed to boating or fishing during the clean up project. Those using the lake should be careful around the pipe and cross it between the markers.

Matching dollars are available for lake project contributions

The Lake Faulkton Restoration committee is seeking local support for this project which will hopefully benefit recreational use of the lake for many years to come. Your contribution can be doubled under an agreement with the Faulk Conservation District from Aug. 1 to Oct. 1 (see ad in this week's paper). Contributions received between those dates will be matched up to $5,000 by the Faulk Conservation District.

The entire project is 80-90 percent federally funded. The dredging portion of the clean-up is estimated at $474,100. Work in the watershed, using many existing conservation programs such as livestock dams and grass waterways is also taking place as part of the project.

Lake Faulkton Watershed Restoration Project

Matching Funds Challenge

Between August 1 & October 31, 2002

Faulk Conservation District
will match donations up to
$5,000 for the Lake Dredging Project.
Send donations to
Faulk Conservation District,
PO Box 489, Faulkton, SD 57438
For more information call the office at 605-598-6549 ext. 3

Lake Faulkton Watershed Restoration Project

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For more information call the office at 605-598-6549 ext. 3

Thank you . . .

to the following people and organizations who have sent contributions to the *Lake Faulkton Restoration Project!*

Virginia Gebhart
Joann Byrne
Gerald Gebhart
Susan Ripple
Lakeside Country Club
Faulkton Drug
Barney & Jeanne Lesselyoung
Tom & Linda Bartholomew
Faulkton Bus. & Prof. Assoc.
Faulk County Record
John Cooper
Marvin Young
King Insurance Agency
Margaret Palmer
Carlson Farms
Ramon Larsen

Congratulations to Joe Beadle, winner of our Golden Boy .22LR

Contributions can be mailed to:
Faulk Conservation Office
PO box 489, Faulkton, SD 57438
Please mark contributions as: Lake Faulkton Restoration

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Cookbook revenue to lake fund

Dacotah Bank of Faulkton recently added to the Lake Faulkton cleanup project fund by presenting a check for $180 to the Lake Restoration Committee. Here Dacotah Bank president Dwight Hossle presents the check to committee member Joan Eschenbaum.

The $180 comes from the sale of Dacotah Bank cookbooks where the revenue goes to community betterment projects. Donations through October will be doubled by the Faulk County Conservation District up to $5,000. Contributions to the project can be made out to the Lake Faulkton Restoration Project and sent to the Faulk Conservation District, PO Box 489, Faulkton, SD 57438.

Thank you . . .

to the following people & organizations who have sent contributions to the

Lake Faulkton Restoration Project

Joe & JJ Beadle
Dale & Jean Gutenkauf
Don Caldow
Bob Boller
Starla Fedderson
Dacotah Bank
Faulktoneers
Alden & Carmen Brown
Lutheran Brotherhood
Verne & Mickie Hansen
Jess Hansen
Cabinets & Interiors
Bormann Law Office

Matching Funds Challenge:
Faulk Conservation District is still matching donations until Oct. 31, 2002.
Please make contributions to:
Faulk Conservation District,
PO Box 489, Faulkton, SD 57438
For more information call the office at 605-598-6549 ext. 3

Faulkton fourth graders raised the most money the the "Nickels for Lake Faulkton" projected sponsored by the Lake Faulkton Association. Class members are, front left, Andrea Potter, Jared Kindelspire, Abby Clement, Kasey Schaefer, Codi Terrill and Nathan Aesoph. Center left, Shelby Eschenbaum, Susan Wik, Maleri McCloud, Jenni Pernini, Grejta Odegaard, Derrick Schilder, Jackson Rhodes and Kody Aesoph. Back left, project coordinator Joan Eschenbaum, Alex Thomas, Jake Mellus, Holly Schenk, Marcus Haberling, Luke Holt, Taylor Heller, Tyler Bormann, Chelsea Brown, Julia Drexler, Kayleen McGrath and teacher *Glenda Goldade*.

Nickels for Lake Faulkton project raises $279 for lake

Faulkton elementary students (K-6) were really busy collecting nickels during November . . . and they stored away 5,580 of them.

That translated into a donation of $279 from the "Nickels for Lake Faulkton" project to the Lake Faulkton Association.

According to project coordinator and association board member Joan Eschenbaum the money will be used to help with the local share of the lake cleanup obligation.

The top fundraising class was the fourth grade with $110.70 to their credit. They will be rewarded with a pizza party and a tour of the dredging operation when it resumes this spring. The other classes will also receive recognition, Eschenbaum said.

Update on lake project

Kevin Stark, Lake Faulkton Project coordinator, reports that the first season of dredging the lake is completed. A total of 40,257 cubic yards of sludge was removed from the lake bed.

The goal for this past season was 72,000 cubic yards, but due to the late start, mechanical problems and tough dredging conditions, the goal was not met.

Plans for next season include trees to be planted on the north side of the lake, lakeshore stabilization by the recreational park area which will include cleanout of all the cattails and rip-rap work and many yards of sediment to be removed to attempt to complete the dredging portion.

"Be looking for upcoming Lake Faulkton fundraisers which will include a weekend to Sioux Falls for a Sioux Falls Skyforce basketball game," Stark said.

Lake Faulkton Restoration Project
would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets for the Remington Shotgun.
Congratulations to Jeff Greiner on winning the gun!

FUNDRAISER

Lake Faulkton Restoration Project

SIOUX FALLS SKYFORCE WEEKEND!

- **4 Executive Skyforce Tickets**
- **2 Night stay at Ramkota**

(family fun night included)

- **$30.00 gasoline provided by Vogel's**

One (1) ticket for $5.00

Drawing to be held Monday, Jan. 27th.

Call 598-6549 ext. 3 for info. and to purchase tickets.

FUNDRAISER

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Drawing to be held Monday, Jan. 27th.

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POSITION OPEN

Faulk Conservation District is currently accepting applications for a full time Lake Project Coordinator. Position is 40 hours per week. Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Management or related field. Related experience may substitute for education.

Ability to work one on one with farmers, ranchers and cabin owners. Computer skills will be an asset. Competitive salary and benefits available.

Applications are available at the Faulk Conservation District, Ag Service Center, 131 8th Ave S., Faulkton, SD. Phone 605-598-6549 ext. 3. Position will close March 12, 2004. The Faulk Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer.

Wednesday, March 10, 200

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www.aberdeennews.com

Sunday, June 29, 2003

State: Approves water grants

The Board of Water and Natural Resources approved 16 grants totaling more than $4.7 million, to deliver safe drinking water, provide proper wastewater treatment, improve water quality and foster solid waste recycling. A grant of $180,000 went to the Faulk Conservation District for the Lake Faulkton water quality improvement project. This grant is in addition to an earlier $235,000 consolidated grant the district received in April 2000 to begin the project. The project is designed to reduce phosphorus loadings to Lake Faulkton. This grant will help the district finish dredging the lake and work with landowners to make changes that will result in better water quality coming from within the watershed. Other projects include a solid waste management grant in the amount of $15,700 to Sisseton for a recycling trailer, and a state water resource management system grant of $500,000 to the James River Water Development District. This grant is for a feasibility study re-evaluation and completion of an environmental impact statement.

Reporter Steph Lorenz (605) 622-2330 or 1-800-925-4100 ext. 330; slorenz@aberdeennews.com

Faulk County Record Wednesday, July 2, 2003

DENR $180,000 Lake Faulkton grant okayed

The state Board of Water and Natural Resources approved an $180,000 grant from the Consolidated Water Funding Program to Faulk Conservation District for the Lake Faulkton water quality improvement project. This grant is in addition to an earlier $235,000 Consolidated grant the District received in April 2000 to begin the project.

Governor Rounds recommended the funding, which was approved Friday during the board's meeting in Pierre.

"The Faulk Conservation District is working on a comprehensive water quality improvement project to improve the water quality and beneficial uses of Lake Faulkton," said Rounds. "This additional grant will help the district finish dredging the lake and work with landowners to make changes that will result in better water quality coming from within the watershed." The dredging operation had not been started this spring because the project was waiting for these funds to be approved.

The Lake Faulkton water quality improvement project is in year three of a six year project designed to reduce phosphorus loadings to Lake Faulkton. The Total Maximum Daily Load calculated by DENR requires phosphorus loadings to the take to be cut by 35 percent. The Faulk Conservation District will use this grant to finish dredging 144,000 cubic yards of silt from Lake Faulkton. The grant will also provide financial assistance to landowners and livestock producers in the watershed to install best management practices such as grassed waterways and manure management systems.

Other project funding sources include USDA EQIP, US EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source pollution control, and State Conservation Commission.

Lake Faulkton is a 115 acre reservoir located in central Faulk County. The lake has a contributing watershed of 161,000 acres.

The total estimated project cost is $934,200.

The Consolidated water funding program provides grants and loans for water, wastewater, and watershed projects statewide. The Legislature appropriates Water and Environment Funds annually to the Consolidated program through the Governor's Omnibus Water Funding Bill.

Lake Faulkton Watershed Restoration Project

MATCHING FUNDS CHALLENGE

Between Sept. 1 & Oct. 31, 2003

Faulk Conservation District

will match donations up to

$5,000 for the Lake Dredging Project.

Send donations to

Faulk Conservation District,

PO Box 489, Faulkton, SD 57438

For more information call the office at 605-598-6549 ext. 3

Wednesday, June 9, 2004 Faulk County Record

Lake Faulkton watershed gets $102,500 state grant

Governor Mike Rounds has announced that twelve conservation districts have been awarded a total of $393,850 in grants from the state's Coordinated Soil and Water Conservation Grant Fund. Locally $102,500 was awarded with $22,500 to the Lake Faulkton Watershed and $80,000 to the Upper Snake Creek Watershed.

The grants will be used to provide a wide variety of conservation practices, including reducing soil erosion, improving range and pastureland, improving water quality, and increasing wildlife habitat.

The grant funds are being matched with other money, including federal government and local funds, to provide more than $2,575,000 in projects. Overall, the grant funds are being matched at average rates of $6.50 to $1.

Attention Residents Within the Lake Faulkton Watershed

If anyone has any questions regarding anything to do with the Watershed Project, whether it be:

1. Planned grazing systems
2. Cross fencing
3. Alternative water, such as:
   a. Wells
   b. Tanks
   c. Rural water
   d. Pipe
4. Riparian and buffer zones
5. Seed grass
6. Conservation tillage (no-till)
7. Tree planting
8. Ag-waste systems

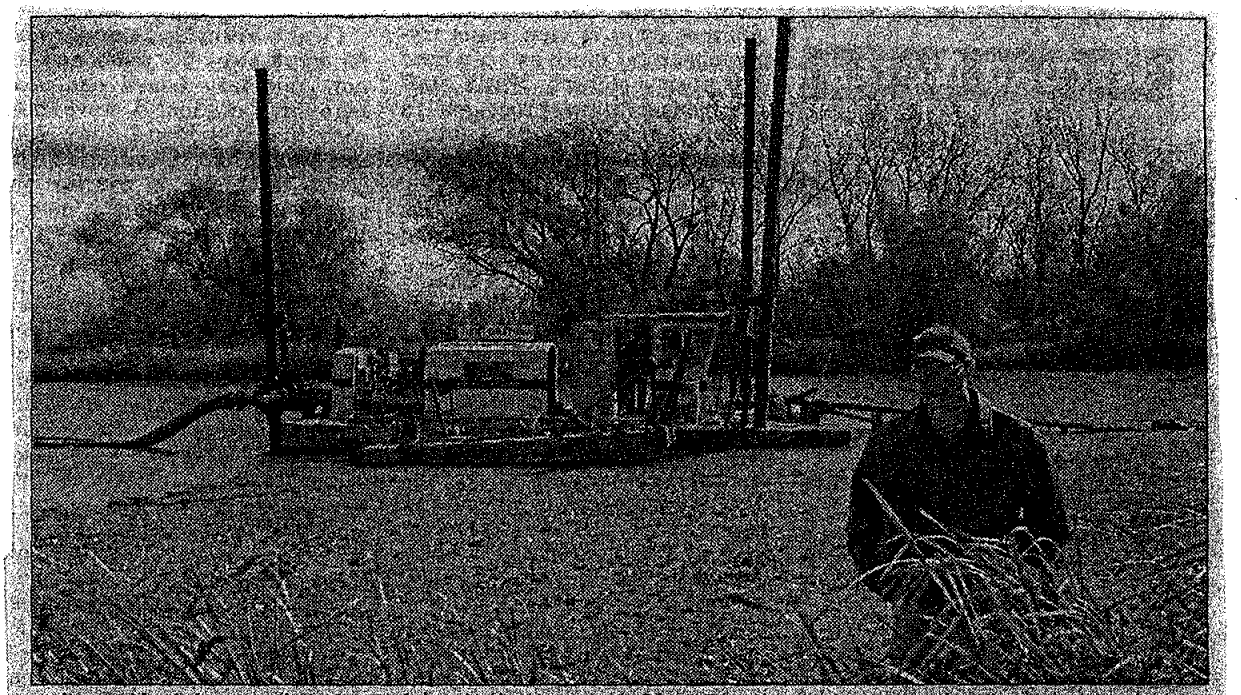
You can contact Jason Venjohn in the NRCS Office or you can call me at 598-6237 to set up an appointment.

If you are not sure if you are in the watershed, come see me, I will be glad to look for you.

I will be out to see the people in the watershed as soon as I can for a visit with you.

The Lake Faulkton Watershed Project ends the summer of 2006, so if you want something done act now, or forever hold your peace.

Faulk County Record Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2004



Jason Venjohn stands in front of the dredge barge on Oct. 15 as the work crew rushes to get as much done as possible before the cutoff day on Sunday, Oct. 17. (More photos on page 3)

Lake Faulkton's water significantly improved

by Garrick A. Moritz

As of, Oct. 17, the dredging of Lake Faulkton came to a halt.

"Quite a few people have said that they like what we've done with it," said Jason Venjohn, director of the lake restoration project. "It's in much better shape now that it's been in some time."

As of Oct. 10, approximately 76 percent of the total goal, 110,676 cubic yards out of a goal of 144,000 cubic yards had been dredged.

"We're rushing to get as much done as possible in the last few days, though we aren't likely to get everything," said Venjohn.

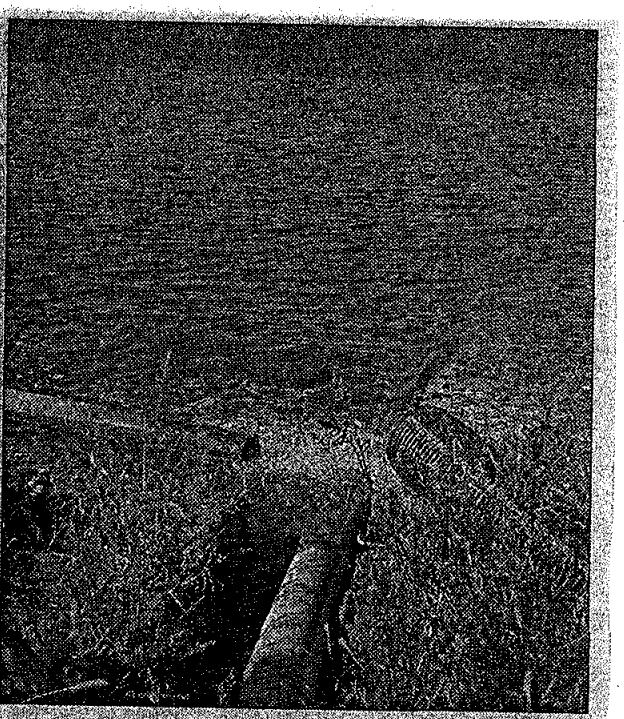
Part of that is due to low water levels, so that they physically can't dredge some areas. The rest is a matter of time and money. But Venjohn is confident that what has been done already will help the lake quality significantly.

Venjohn took the post this past April, and this year marks the highest amount of cubic yards dredged, 62,040, more than the previous two years of the project, which combined for 2002 and 2003 years was 48,636 cubic yards.

Joan Eschenbaum, president of the Lake Faulkton Association said that she's pleased with what progress has been made. "It's been a long and difficult project and we're glad that it's over," she said. "The lake is much better for it. Dale took our grandkids out in the canoe recently and we were impressed with how good things look. We saw a lot of baby turtles, that just plopped right into the water when we came by. There's definitely life out there. Now we just need to have a good winter snow to help get the water levels back up again. If we do, then I think we can see a return of recreation levels on the lake that we haven't seen for years."

Venjohn is also optimistic about the coming winter. He said that a good snowfall resulting in higher water levels will only add more longevity to the work that has already been done.

Also he said even though fish numbers are lower than in the past, the populations will increase especially if a few more fry are transplanted in. "I've seen people catching lots of bullheads of course because they survive better in the silt, but there have been some perch and panfish as well," he said. "Now we are just going to get as much done as we can this last week."



Cleaner lake is result of restoration project

(Continued from page 1) The dirty water (left) is pumped into the holding pool. "Today it looks better than it usually does," said Venjohn. "Usually it's almost black, today it's just dark grey." Right, after moving through the ponds and a series of silt filters the water is pumped back into the lake, looking as clean as it does coming out of the tap.

Two meetings for lake watershed systems set

Property owners in the Lake Faulkton watershed are invited to two meetings at Faulkton City Hall, both at 9:00 a.m. for planned grazing systems information. The first will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 17. The second will be held on Monday, Dec. 6.

"We will have two guest speakers "Judge" Justin Jessop from West River and Jim Faulstich of rural Highmore. Both know a lot about planned grazing systems," said Jason VenJohn, lake project coordinator for the Faulk Conservation District. "I encourage anyone in the watershed who is even a little bit interested to come to one or both of these meetings."

For all of those who do sign up, the watershed project will pay 60% cost share and the producer will pay 40% on projects such as: pipeline, tanks, rural water hookups, dugout cleanouts, crossfencing, trees in certain locations.

If you want something done in the watershed, you have to be signed up by January 15th 2005. There will be no sign ups for anything after that date. If you want something done, you are encouraged to attend one or both of these meetings. There will be pop, coffee and cookies served.

Questions: contact Jason Venjohn at 598-6237, Ext. 3.

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2004 Faulk County Record

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PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!

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Lake watershed project at beginning of the end

The completion of the dredging in Lake Faulkton signals the beginning of the end of the Lake Faulkton Watershed Project. While the dredging was the major component of the project, other activities in the watershed were also implemented. Those practices ranged from animal waste systems, grazing management systems, tree planting, water system improvements, dugout cleaning and no-till practices.

The project is scheduled for completion in March of 2006. Several tasks will need to be completed to successfully complete the Project. The project sponsors, Central Plains Water Development District and the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources have established a couple of priority areas. Those priority areas include the reclamation of the sediment ponds, planned grazing systems and some lake shoreline work.

Landowners and producer will need to signup for planned grazing systems no later than January 15, 2005. This deadline is necessary to allow enough time to get the planning completed and the practices implemented during the 2005 construction season.

If producers are interested in a planned grazing system, they need to contact Jason Venjohn at the FSA office in Faulkton.

There will be a Planned Grazing meeting Monday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. at Faulkton City Hall.

New accessible dock built at lake

"We have the new dock we have been waiting for," said Lake Faulkton Project Manager Jason Venjohn. Dale Simpson of Lake Louise with the Department of Game, Fish and Parks completed construction last week. The dock has treated wood and runners underneath for taking it in and out of the lake. "I originally though we were supposed to get one from the state in mid-summer of this year," Venjohn said, "so when I saw this in progress I knew it would make a lot of people happy. We have been pushing to get a new one here since before I started this job and the old one was definitely 'used up' so I hope everyone enjoys this new dock."