

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NELSON COUNTY
210 B Ave W, Ste 201
Lakota, North Dakota 58344

Ronald Dahlen
Donald Fougner

Odell Flaagan, Chairman

Maynard Loibl
Harold Bergquist

Honorable Senator Conrad and Committee Members:

For the record, my name is Odell Flaagan, Chairman of Nelson County Commissioners and Park Board.

I am here to discuss the flooding issues of Stump Lake in Nelson County.

- Our first road was lost in May 2005 when the lake was at 1425 feet. This road is now 27 feet under water.
- We have lost many farmsteads including thousands of acres of tillable farmland since the lake started to rise.
- As of August 4, 2010 we have 573,083 acres of water in Stump Lake that covers 16,756 acres.
- We have lost many thousands of dollars of property tax due to decreased land valuations.
- We have one east-west county road left on the north side of Stump Lake, which is in trouble, causing concern about the accessibility for fire, ambulance, school buses, mail carriers and our agriculture base.
- As of today we have three new housing units being built on the south shores of Stump Lake, one major camper park on the north side and our county park which has 85 permanent camper sites and 45 additional weekend sites.
- A major concern of the Developers and the County is we don't want the lake to become a lagoon or just a holding pond.
- Nelson County is proposing to the State Water Commission and The Corps to build a control structure in the Tolna Coulee just northwest of Tolna in our County Road 4, Leval Township, Section 29/30. This location is approximately 1 1/2 miles southeast of the property owned by the City of Devils Lake.

- The proposed outlet would be at 1446-1448 feet so the water would stay at a natural flow through the Jerusalem Coulee to the west outlet of Stump Lake.
- We feel that if the outlet breaks out naturally, we would lose three of our major county roads north and east of Tolna including the railway trestle and eventually take every road between Stump Lake and West Fargo.
- Nelson County feels the cheapest way to avoid this scenario and have no pumping costs to the State of North Dakota is to control the flow of water to the Sheyenne River.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation, Senator Conrad and Committee members. We appreciate your time and effort and support of Nelson County.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelson County Commissioners

Odell Flaagan
Chairman