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February 15, 2021

United States Army Corps of Engineers
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**RE: USACE Shoreline Management Plan
 Comment Period open until February 15, 2021**

There is a significant and growing demand for additional public and private access to Lake Sakakawea. The location of the viable and available shoreline access locations around the lake remains generally undefined. Reviewing the *USACE Appendix F -Shoreline Management Policy, January 2021* presents an opportunity to assist in identifying both the existing and determining new public/private access locations. The mapping provided in this shoreline management plan should be revised. It also needs to be made publicly available so it can be used to identify areas to fill the public access needs and enhance the economic value of this great resource.

After reviewing *ATTACHEMENT E – SHORELINE USE CLASSIFICATION MAPS*, we found them lacking in detail as it relates to shoreline management. Currently the only three classifications on these maps are *Limited Development Area, Protected Shoreline Area, and Transferred Lands (Pub. L. 98-602)*. Therefore, it is requested the following classifications be added, as each represents a known shoreline use on Lake Sakakawea:

- North Dakota State Parks
- Public and Private Leased Lands
 - A table should be provided noting the lease holder and term.
- Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)
 - A table should be provided noting the lease holder and term.
- Private Developments with shoreline access
- Private Developments without shoreline access

As part of this revised mapping, we request the USACE identify those locations providing public/private access from existing development sites to the lake. It is anticipated these locations are in relative proximity to the individual developments. As such, some developments may not have what residents consider a “suitable location”, however they should be identified. The residents within each development could then consider options, if any, regarding the ability to secure improved access. It is likely some sites are better suited for public access but have limitations that could restrict such use.

It is requested the updated GIS mapping information be publicly available for community economic development and planning purposes. Understand the FOLS believes private access is not defined as “individual” access as these are public land lands and should be available for public or reasonable joint private uses.

Another concern we have heard, is when an access application is submitted, or questions raised regarding access communications from the USACE is inadequate. Each requestor should be provided a written record of decision to document reasons for either approval or denial. If the application is denied it is requested the USACE provide information on the available mitigation measures that might allow the denial to be reversed and access allowed. This response should be included as a requirement in the Shoreline Management Plan.

Given concerns expressed regarding access around the lake, we believe an open house on the 2021 Shoreline Management Plan is warranted. This should include an open public discussion to allow our organization and the public a better understanding as to how the USACE manages the Lake Sakakawea shoreline.

Respectfully,



Terry Fleck, Chairman
Friends of Lake Sakakawea

CC: Andera Travnicek, Director, North Dakota State Parks and Recreation District
Jessie Kist, North Dakota State Water Commission
U.S. Congressional Delegation, State of North Dakota
Lieutenant Governor Brent Sanford, State of North Dakota