



BLACK HILLS FLY FISHERS

Everett Hoyt, Treasurer
Post Office Box 1621 · Rapid City, SD 57709

August 28, 2013

Mr. Terry Wolsterstoff
Rapid City Public Works Director
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Mr. Jeff Biegler
Rapid City Parks and Recreation Director
515 West Boulevard
Rapid City, SD 57701

Gentlemen:

On behalf of Black Hills Fly Fishers, one of the partners in the 2012 project to clean up Canyon Lake, I write to express our concern that the proposed project to begin in September to remove accumulated silt from the lake bed in conjunction with repair of Canyon Lake dam will be insufficient to complete the job in an adequate and professional manner. From what we have seen in the plans for the Canyon Lake project to be undertaken this fall and winter, removal of silt and muck will be incomplete in some of the shallow areas along the lake shore, where the silt is most troublesome and unappealing to Canyon Lake users. As a result of the accumulated silt and muck, and the choking weed growth present throughout the summer, water quality in Canyon Lake is unsuitable for immersion recreation purposes -- have you seen anyone swimming in Canyon Lake recently?

As you are both new to Rapid City since the authorizing of the Canyon Lake cleanup as a part of the 2012 process in 2005, let me provide a brief history of the effort. As a part of the 2012 process in 2005, SD Game, Fish and Parks and Black Hills Fly Fishers joined to propose a two-phase project to clean up Canyon Lake by providing for (1) the construction of a bypass facility so that instream flows from Rapid Creek could be diverted around the lake bed during lake maintenance activities, and (2) after construction of the bypass facility, the lake would be drained and accumulated silt and muck would be removed from the lake bed in order to restore water quality for recreation purposes. Although the problems with Canyon Lake dam were known at the time, the repair of the dam was not a part of the 2012 proposal by SDGFP and BHFF. As funding partners in the project, SDGFP pledged \$400,000 to the effort, and BHFF pledged \$20,000. West Dakota Water Development District pledged to contribute \$100,000 to the project, and earmarked the money for silt removal from the Canyon Lake -- those funds remain available for the cleanup project. At the conclusion of the 2012 process, the City of Rapid City committed \$400,000 to the project to clean up Canyon Lake.

Where do we stand today -- eight years after approval of the project in the 2012 process -- you ask? Well, the bypass facility was completed several years ago, and SDGFP and BHFF have fulfilled their financial commitments to the City of Rapid City. The City of Rapid City has also expended funds in the construction of the bypass facility, and has funding which remains available for the Canyon Lake 2012 Cleanup Project. Substantial expenditures have already been made in preparation for the final phase of the Canyon Lake cleanup; and if the project is not completed in an adequate and professional manner, those funds will not have been spent prudently, as envisioned by the project sponsors.

In short, we urge you to make the most of this opportunity when Canyon Lake is drained to complete the removal of accumulated silt and muck in an adequate and professional manner so that the

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING FLY FISHING IN THE BLACK HILLS

Printed on catch and release paper.

lake shore areas and water quality in the lake are again usable by the public for immersion recreation. To do the cleanup in an incomplete manner at this time would make the previous expenditure of funds in preparation for the lake cleanup a wasteful investment in infrastructure to support Canyon Lake.

In addition to the silt and muck removal from Canyon Lake during construction of the dam, we would also suggest that the raceways in Canyon Lake Park, which are clogged with silt and weeds, be cleaned to expedite the transfer of water from Rapid Creek through the bypass facility and through the Park waterways during the construction process.

We would like to meet with both of you, and with City Council members, to express our concerns personally and to discuss an appropriate approach to the cleanup of Canyon Lake when the lake bed is drained in September 2013 for the construction of the new Canyon Lake Dam. The opportunity to clean Canyon Lake does not come often, and we should make the most of this opportunity. Canyon Lake has been described as the "Crown Jewel" of the Rapid City Parks system – we need to be prudent caretakers of this wonderful area. When might we meet with you to discuss our concerns?

Sincerely yours,



Everett Hoyt
605-430-2150

- c. SDGFP: Carriero, Lott
West Dakota Water Development District
Black Hills Fly Fishers Board of Directors