

An aerial photograph of Berlin Lake, showing a large concrete dam with multiple spillways. The water is a light greenish-blue. The surrounding landscape is filled with trees in various shades of green, yellow, and orange, indicating autumn. A road and some buildings are visible near the dam. The text "WELCOME TO THE BERLIN LAKE VISIONING WORKSHOP" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**WELCOME
TO THE
BERLIN LAKE VISIONING WORKSHOP**

JULY 10, 2017

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

- Participants hear and share values and interests related to their future visions of Berlin Lake and the area downstream.
- To identify and discuss areas of particular interest and preferences for potential improvements

INTENDED OUTCOMES OF MEETING:

- Common understanding of varying interests
- Information to create a pathway forward that allows USACE to best meet the needs & concerns of the lake users, as well as USACE authorities

AGENDA

Welcome & Overview

Session 1 Breakout Groups - Identification of interests to guide future uses of Berlin Lake

- Introductions
- What about Berlin Lake (and the area downstream) is most important to you (and your organization)?
 - What should Berlin Lake be like in 10 years?

Presentation - Overview of Berlin Lake management & future possibilities

- Key components of Berlin Lake use & management
- Potential improvements already seen at other lakes
 - Questions & Answers

Session 2 Breakout Groups – Brainstorm improvements to Berlin Lake to meet interests

- What could be improved and what is working well at the lake and its downstream reach?
- What information might be needed or is available to inform any future plans or changes?

With respect to the following topics:

- 1) Protecting Environmental Quality & Enhancing Public Lands,
- 2) Creating Safe & Memorable Experiences,
- 3) Cultivating Partnerships,
- 4) Leveraging Emerging Technologies.

Recap, Discussion, and Path Forward

- Recap of Breakout Groups
- Plenary Discussion for any remaining discussion items
 - What USACE expects to do next
 - Questions?

Adjourn

Session 1 Breakout Groups

Identification of interests to guide future uses of Berlin Lake

- Introductions:

Name, Org, and in 1 sentence: What should Berlin Lake be like in 10 years?

- Discussion Question:

What about Berlin Lake (and the area downstream) is most important to you (and your organization)?



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BERLIN LAKE

WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE LAKE DO YOU ONLY SEE YOUR REFLECTION?

Kevin Heatley - Supervisory Natural Resource Manager

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Berlin Lake

10 July 2017



“The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.”



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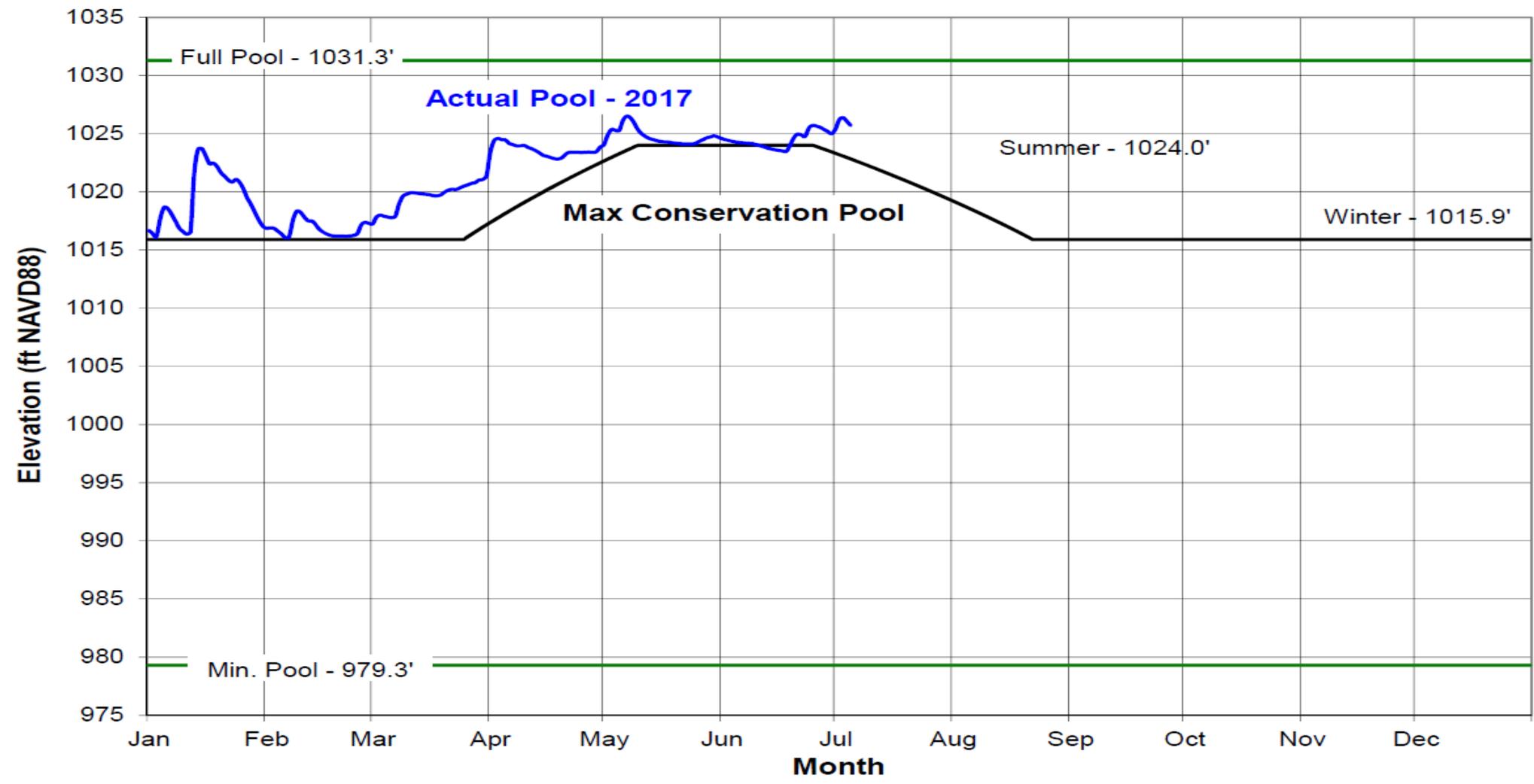


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5-Jul-2017

Berlin Lake



BUILDING A FUTURE FOR BERLIN LAKE: WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES?

Use your worksheets to take notes!



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COMPONENT #1: USE SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE PUBLIC LANDS

OBJECTIVE 1: Inventory natural and cultural resources

ACTION 1: Provide initial description of biological and cultural resources

ACTION 2: Submit updated Operational Management Plans for approval

OBJECTIVE 2: Identify unique project assets and threats

ACTION 1: Engage internal or external subject matter experts regarding identified issues

ACTION 2: Research Best Management Practices (BMPs) for identified resources

ACTION 3: District Biologist reviews plans

OBJECTIVE 3: Achieve and maintain desired natural and cultural resource conditions

ACTION 1: Engage specific conservation organizations (Federal and State agencies, Academia, Non-profits)

ACTION 2: Train lake staffs

ACTION 3: Execute plans and BMPs

ACTION 4: Leverage available skill sets and equipment across projects, acquire new equipment that can be used at multiple lakes

ACTION 5: Implement Annual Work Plans

COMPONENT #2: CULTIVATE VOLUNTEERS, PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, AND GRANTS

OBJECTIVE 1: Partnering for a shared public land management ethic

ACTION 1: Establish the benefits of partnerships and utilizing other DOD resources for cost-effective for project work

ACTION 2: Establish Cost Sharing projects where USACE shares a common boundary with other federal and state agencies.

ACTION 3: Educate NRM Professionals on authorities and policy (Volunteer and Partnership PROSPECT Course in LRP, June 2018)

OBJECTIVE 2: Establishing the right partnership, at the right place, at the right time

ACTION 1: Establish LRP grant PDT or partner with USACE District that has successful grant-writing program

ACTION 2: Involve Public Affairs for District opportunities/successes; PAO can guide public interest to individual projects

ACTION 3: Establish Point of Contact (D.O./Area Office) for project staff to facilitate partnerships and grants

OBJECTIVE 3: Sharing and Growing the Successes

ACTION 1: Facilitate opportunities with action groups and conglomerations (PA WILDS ASSC, Laurel Highlands Assc, Allegheny Watershed Improvement Needs Coalition (WINs) Local Sportsmen/ Conservation Clubs, Youth Field Day, Forest County Conservation District rehab of outflow camping area/ road rehab)

ACTION 2: During each quarterly CoP call, a lake will share a success story concerning volunteers or partnerships, so other lakes can apply their experience

ACTION 3: Establish District Intranet Page to capture and catalogue individual project opportunities/successes/limitations

COMPONENT #3: PROVIDE SAFE, MEMORABLE CONNECTIONS AS PART OF MULTIPLE DESTINATION POINTS

OBJECTIVE 1: Ranger Safety

ACTION 1: Assure SPEAR, Pepper Spray, and Verbal Judo instructors refresh every Ranger skill set annually

ACTION 2: Promote routine self defense, threat awareness, and physical training techniques

OBJECTIVE 2: Visitor Safety

ACTION 1: Ensure consistent visitor assistance experience (playground inspections, boat patrol manual)

ACTION 2: Actively engage emergency management partners (Water Safety Council)

ACTION 3: Implement a District water safety plan

OBJECTIVE 3: Connect With Other District Lakes and Locks

ACTION 1: Create intra-district consistency

ACTION 2: Develop an engaging, connected experience (Pittsburgh District pin or bumper sticker for visiting all lakes)

ACTION 3: Implement 'Sister Lakes for Locks' program (Partner for NRM/REC/ES opportunities)

ACTION 4: Increase visitation, especially in lesser-developed areas, and promote year-round recreational opportunities

OBJECTIVE 4: Serve as Part of Multiple Destination Points

ACTION 1: Become leaders in local Tourist Promotion Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce, Regional Planning Commissions

ACTION 2: Engage local and regional outdoor recreation organizations

COMPONENT #4: LEVERAGE EMERGING TECHNOLOGY TO TELL THE CORPS STORIES AND ENHANCE VISITOR EXPERIENCES

OBJECTIVE 1: Assess Interpretive Services Capabilities

ACTION 1: Ensure public outreach actions are in accordance with USACE policy and regulations

ACTION 2: District Project Delivery Team (NRM, PAO) analyzes methods and techniques, makes recommendations

OBJECTIVE 2: Enhance Public Outreach

ACTION 1: Educate NRM professionals on emerging technology

ACTION 2: District hosts Interpretive Services Outreach Program PROSPECT course in 2019

ACTION 3: Promote regional outdoor recreation activities on social media

ACTION 4: Share success stories on local news outlets coordinated with PAO

ACTION 5: Develop / update Information and Visitor Centers

ACTION 6: Include interpretive programming in every OMP Annual Update



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Session 2 Breakout Groups

Brainstorm improvements to Berlin Lake to meet interests

With respect to the following topics:

- 1) Protecting Environmental Quality & Enhancing Public Lands,
- 2) Creating Safe & Memorable Experiences,
- 3) Cultivating Partnerships,
- 4) Leveraging Emerging Technologies.

- What could be improved and what is working well at the lake and its downstream reach? [think about the opportunities!]
- What information might be needed or is available to inform any future plans or changes?



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INTENDED OUTCOMES OF MEETING:

- Common understanding of varying interests
- Information to create a pathway forward that allows us best meet the needs of the lake users/best meet concerns

NEXT STEPS:

Following the meeting, all materials will be posted at:

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/Berlin-Lake/>

and an opportunity for submitting further comments will be available.



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