



Future Editors

December 8
RP Olson

December 15
Louis Pinkerton

December 22
Stephen Podrygula

Greeters

December 5
Jo Khalifa
Wendy Keller

December 12
Mike Klier
Rena Korslien

Upcoming Programs

December 5, 2011
John Martin
Meteorologist
NWS, Bismarck

December 12, 2011
Change of Pace
Singers

December 19, 2011
Robyn Schmalenberger
Warden
ND State Penitentiary

December 26, 2011
NO MEETING

Rafferty and Alameda Dams

Written by Jim Olson

When Rafferty and Alameda Dams were completed more than 20 years ago, they came under the management of an international agreement.

That operation manual served the Souris-Mouse River valley well for many years. Yet 2011 showed that the developers of that plan had given little consideration to high water volume situations.

The result was the build-up of a mountain of water behind those dams – water that was ultimately released suddenly after a major rainstorm in southern Saskatchewan.

That’s why it is critical that steps be taken now to re-visit the rules that will protect the valley from future flooding, especially with the knowledge that experts tell us we are in the midst of a “wet cycle” in our region.

US Senator John Hoeven says the current budget requires the Secretary of State to review the operations manual. Other political leaders have pledged to push for new rules for the river. Better river management is instantaneous, free flood control and should be implemented as quickly as possible.

But what plan makes sense? I humbly suggest the following, simple management rules:

Enhance and strengthen the levee/flood wall system along the river to hold back 12,500 CFS – less than half the 27,400-30,000 CFS now under consideration for

a new levee system.

Every fall and winter, adjust the levels of Rafferty and Alameda Dams to one meter below their Full Supply Level (the target level for summer).

Through the spring and early summer, set the dams’ releases at the exact volume of inflow. This would keep the reservoir levels steady and in the case of 2011 would have resulted in flows under 10,000 CFS in Minot through April, May, and the first half of June.

The dams would have a maximum outflow of 11,000 CFS, meaning when inflows exceed that number, the level of the reservoirs would rise and we would be getting the “flood control” America paid millions of dollars for.

This 11,000 CFS maximum allows Lake Darling Dam to be used to tailor flows to deal with the brief surges of water from the Des Lacs River.

Using the “flood of record” in 2011 as a guide, this system would have been able to hold back the huge mid-June rainstorm with outflows capped at 11,000 CFS. And the Canadian reservoirs would not have reached their maximum levels.



Secretary's Corner

11/28/2011

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP: 99

ATTENDANCE: 60%

GUESTS: Tara Miller, guest of Milt; Al Hanson, guest of Steve Kukowski

JUNIOR ROTARIANS: Earl Parker Scott, Tiffany Dostert, Zachary Burkart, Dylan Weber, Chyna Lynner, and Travis Olson, all MHS

WE MISSED YOU!

Albertson	Grundstrom	Lien Jr.	Sommers
Aldrich	Herron	Lundeen, J. & J.	Syria
Anderson	Hinzpeter	Madhok	Thomas, W.
Christianson, M.	Jensen	Magaster	Tonneson
Davison	Johnson	Mittelberg	Wentz, G.
Dick	Khalifa	Olson, C.	Wentz Jr., T.
Dohms	Korslien	Olson, David	Winkle
Duncan	Kramer	Olson, J.	
Effertz-Hanson	Krause	Rafferty	
Fedorchak	Kurth	Schobinger	

Rafferty and Alameda Dams

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In short, this suggested plan meets everyone's concerns: fish/wildlife/recreation interests have reservoirs kept very near their optimal levels – assuring the desired levels in the summer.

People concerned about flooding have peace of mind knowing the largest water volume ever recorded on the system would be controlled with no flooding.

To me, this is the kind of overall solution our leaders should be fashioning – not an oversized levee system that slices Minot in half and ousts families from their homes.

It would keep neighborhoods intact, reduce the number of “buyouts” needed to near zero, and greatly reduce the overall cost of meeting the goal of protection from the worst flood we've ever seen along the Mouse River in the US.

The Prairie Flower is the official publication of Rotary Club of Minot, Minot, North Dakota. It is published every Thursday. Annual membership dues for the year 2011-2012 in the Rotary Club of Minot, ND are \$588. 10/24/11 Stacy Askvig, Secretary.

Kalyan Banerjee of Gujarat, India— President, Rotary Int'l
Tom Riley of Fargo/Moorhead—Governor District 5580

The Rotary Club of Minot meets 12:00 to 1:10 p.m. every Monday at the Grand International of Minot.

Board of Directors: Ron Merritt, President; Dusty Zimmerman, President-Elect; Gen Guidinger, Vice-President; Stacy Askvig, Secretary; Dave Lehner, Treasurer; Teal Myre, Past President.

Directors: 2012-Marie Effertz-Hanson and Peter Hankla; 2013-Jo Khalifa and Roscoe Streyle; 2014—Mike Berg and Linda Langmaack.

Standing Members: Peter Hankla, Exchange Students, Ken Kitman, Scholarship Fund; John MacMartin, Rotary Foundation.

Birthdays

December 6
Roger Winkle

December 7, 1937
Dean Somerville

December 7
Tom Rafferty

Anniversaries

None

Fines

If you had good news to share and supported Shop Small Business Saturday you were exempt from fines.

\$2.00 each

Insurance;
If you shopped on Black Friday

\$1.00 each

If you skipped Thanksgiving and went right to decorating for Christmas; if you took time from family on Thanksgiving to shop; if you went to someone's home for Thanksgiving dinner; and if you are not cheering for the Bison.

TOTAL FINES:
\$146.00