

## **Jess Whittemore's response to Morgan France's Report 4 – March 29, 2014**

Apr 3 (2 days ago)

### **Jess P Whittemore**

Morgan's volunteerism is very commendable but his product comes up short of achieving goals that help anyone. Commendable, in that it appeared that he tried to not affect other Lake stakeholders as much as he could and short of his goal by certainly affecting other stakeholders negatively and likely making lake levels lower not higher as desired.

One correction to Morgan's comments that needs to be repeated is that the existing water appropriations permit is a highly evolved water budget based on extensive scientific research which achieved on average an additional two feet of lake water depth in late summer at its inception in 1995, its just not what the lake stakeholders want now, they want more. To this end Morgan's "water reallocation" proposal appears to attempt. As I have said on every occasion, there is no science that can achieve higher lake levels in late summer without taking water from other stakeholders, and I can see plenty of this in Morgan's reallocation proposal. Not only does he propose to do away with usable TER releases for white water boating, he still uses whitewater releases as the lake level governor just as the existing Permit does now.

I agree with Roger who said water temperature couldn't be controlled with the bypass tube. Morgan postulates that Brookfield profit loss by using the bypass tube can be offset with higher profit discretionary release generation. That is likely a very wrong assumption and probably the main flaw with Morgan's reallocation plan. Morgan suggests that whitewater releases be "spread out over the season" I don't know what that means but we like the schedule just as it is.

Morgan states that no White Water releases would be missed if the water was kept in reserve, that's exactly what the present water budget does; no releases would be missed if the water is kept above the lower rule band. In the case that lake inflow drops to drought conditions, Morgan's water reallocation plan only gives Brookfield a better tool (additional water) to keep water levels much closer to the lower rule band instead of holding a cautionary reserve above, like they do now. The water that Morgan thinks he has saved, would probably guarantee lower lake levels while using whitewater releases as the trigger or governor to stay right on or near the lower rule band, a loose / loose scenario for Lake and White Water interests. Be careful what you ask for.

Morgan also assumes that longer discretionary releases have more value to white water boaters than TER releases. He's very wrong, no one can predict a discretionary release, not even Brookfield. Predictability brings far more people to Friendsville, TER releases are as predictable as the next day's weather, which is pretty good. Since there would be far less discretionary releases than TER's on drought years in his , this might be the biggest reallocation of water between stakeholders in Morgan's whole plan.

At my first DCL WL sub-committee meeting, Bob Browning said, "no one is here to try to take anyone's water". Up until now, I have witnessed alot of presentations focused on support and development of Morgan's reallocation proposal. The reallocation proposal, draft number 4 "takes" water from Whitewater recreation and will have a major detrimental effect on Friendsville's economic future. Since Bob B, our chairman set one of our meeting goals to not take water from each other, I have adhered to just that and instead proposed action which improves shallow coves lake access without any affect to other stakeholders. With all due respect to Morgan's mountain of hard work, he needs to go back to the drawing board.

My proposal of 3/11/14 to improve water depth conditions in shallow coves through legislation, which would allow docks to be pushed out much further than presently allowed will give property owners the option to obtain more water at the end of a slip than Morgan's reallocation plan attempts to achieve, it also does away with the need for astronomical dredging costs and potential damage to the health of the lake. My plan helps shallow cove property owners enjoy the lake access longer into the season and obtain higher property values with no effect on other lake stakeholders what so ever.

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