

Philpott Lake  
Master Plan Update  
Public Meeting #2  
September 28, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

**Word of welcome from Chris Powell – public meeting to discuss the Philpott Lake Master Plan Update.**

- **Purpose of the Meeting (Julie Flesch-Pate)**
  - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is proposing to update the existing Philpott Lake Master Plan. Since the last approval of the Master Plan in 1982, the USACE has adopted new land management policies and land classifications, so the Master Plan needs to be updated in order to comply with current policies.
  - The purpose of this second public meeting is to afford stakeholders another opportunity to provide input on this update and the proposed changes to the land classifications.
- **Overview (Julie Flesch-Pate)**
  - The Master Plan (MP) represents a comprehensive, programmatic approach to maintain consistency in the applied management of resources at Philpott Lake and includes information regarding:
    - Land classifications and recommended future uses
    - Resource specific objectives, site management and enhancement opportunities
    - Recommendations on implementing the Master Plan’s policies
    - Potential environmental effects associated with proposed Master Plan changes, as part of an agency’s overall planning and decision making
  - The evaluation of the proposed Master Plan is keeping with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.
- **The Master Plan Update Process (Julie Flesch-Pate)**
  - Various alternative options, including the “No-Action” alternative, were evaluated for potential impact on the human environment. The Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) describes current environmental conditions and trends and considers possible changes relative to the adoption of the proposed Master Plan update.
  - The Programmatic Environmental Assessment is currently in draft form and is subject to a 30-day review period.
- **Primary Goals of the Master Plan Update (Julie Flesch-Pate)**
  - The Master Plan was initially developed and is being updated to respond to changing conditions at Philpott Lake and to direct future land use and improvements. It broadly classifies land at Philpott Lake to ensure continued focus on flood risk management, hydropower generation, environmental stewardship, and outdoor recreational management.
  - The primary goals are to prescribe an overall land use management plan, resource objectives, and management concepts.

- **Master Plan Update-Key Points (Julie Flesch-Pate)**
  - The proposed updates to the Master Plan represent a land management shift away from a construction-based activity to a more policy-based land management approach that is supportive of low-density recreation and wildlife habitat protection.
- **Programmatic Environmental Assessment-Key Points (Julie Flesch-Pate)**
  - The range of alternatives includes the No-Action Alternative, the Preferred Alternative, and a variety of alternative options based on varying land classifications, resource objectives, and park site development needs identified during the project scoping process. The data collection, public comments, and findings of the planning team revealed that one action alternative would meet the purpose, need, and objectives of the master planning process. This alternative is the Preferred Alternative.
  - Preliminary Finding of the environmental review: “While minor impacts will be imposed on several resource/policy areas, there will be no significant or adverse impacts from the proposed action, and no mitigating actions will be required.”
- **Public Survey Analysis (Amanda Zullo)**
  - Survey was open from November 18 – December 17, 2020
  - 255 survey participants
  - Overall, participants agreed that the USACE is meeting its objectives at Philpott Lake
- **Ways to Participate:**
  - Review all project materials online:  
<https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-Dams/Philpott/Philpott-Lake-Master-Plan-Update/>
  - Participate in the Open Comment Period: 30-day review period (Fall 2021) for MP and Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) documents
- **Question and Answer Session**
  - Q: In a nutshell, can someone explain what changed from the 1982 Master Plan to the 2021 Master Plan?
    - A: In general, it went from allocations to classifications. Most notable change is in the area around the dam region, from low density recreation to high density recreation. Picnic areas were reclassified as well, from either low density to high density or high density to low density. Water classifications were all changed as well- the original plans did not have classifications associated with those areas.
  - Q: Thanks for including us. It is hard to have any specific questions until the document is completed. The document will be posted this week?
    - A: Yes, that is correct. Both the Master Plan and Programmatic Environmental Assessment will be uploaded to the project website on Oct. 1 and be available for open comment until Nov. 1
  - Looks like Ryan's Branch is - Yellow - Low Density?
    - Not a lot of facilities, just a boat ramp and picnic table – nothing is going to change, just how we classified the area.
- **Meeting Conclusion and Takeaways:**

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- Chris and Julie both encouraged meeting participants to read through the updated Master Plan and provide any comments or feedback during the open comment period.

Add slides as an attachment or post slides separately. I just want there to be a way for those that visit the website to see the presentation.