

Bowl Dam Users Meeting Minutes - 10 Oct 2019

Note Taker: Wayne Skinner

Commenced: 5:30pm

Attendance:

Chris Jones
Crow Tribe
Mairead
Wayne Skinner
Mog & Keith

Apologies:

Roger Ball,

Agenda:

To understand the issues with the Bowl dam and offer solutions to remediate.

Discussion:

Chris provided a history of the dam including the issue with the western wall sliding into the dam thereby reducing its capacity. This bank is now stable.

Chris also pointed out that the dam was very low. It was mentioned that the depth is about 2 metres at the moment.

An issue exists in respect to filling the Header tank, in that pumping does not fill it. It is understood that various members tanks are filled during the pumping process thereby emptying the header tank.

Other issues exist in that the lines from the header tank pump pass via many sites prior to reaching the header tank. There has also been a recent redirection of the pipe to the header tank that exasperates the problem.

Leaks have occurred in the past and some sites had set up watering systems that function when the pump is running.

Discussion on expanding or deepening the dam suggested that there is a risk to the Dam integrity should the clay seal be broken. This risk exists for both deepening and expanding.

A suggestion was made to dig a separate dam next to the existing dam.

Chris suggested building another dam near the camp kitchen thereby reducing the number of sites relying on the header tank/bowl dam and making the

system less complex, multiple smaller systems would be easier to manage and trace issues.

Mention was made of the unhealthy condition of the Header tank, it has not been cleaned out since installation.

Conclusion:

After discussion, it was agreed that the risk was too high considering the cost to expand or deepen the dam.

Other options were explored including:

Conduct a check of the Header tank and existing pipes/connection to understand how the tank is filling/emptying.

Clean the header tank to ensure it is in a healthy condition.

Alter the input connection into the header tank to the top rather than the bottom as it currently stirs up the mud in the tank.

Conduct a survey/site visitation to determine usage of the Bowl Dam and Header tank.

Implement controls on usage during Dry/Drought condition.

Separating the sites at the outback from the Bowl Dam and Header tank.

Build another dam near the Camp Kitchen.

Meeting concluded at 6:30pm.