

March 8, 2021

## **OAK CREEK WATER RESOURCE BOARD OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR LAKE METIGOSHE DAM**

The existing Lake Metigoshe dam was constructed with assistance from the North Dakota State Water Commission in 1961. Its purpose is to facilitate regulating water levels on Lake Metigoshe for recreational and sporting purposes, as well as helping control flood waters downstream on Oak Creek.

The Lake Metigoshe concrete dam structure is 50 feet in length and approximately 3 feet in height and incorporates the use of stoplogs. The stoplogs are in 5 equal length horizontal sections. Five 6- inch stoplog boards (bridge timber) are located on five 10- foot sections and is the primary control for regulating Lake Metigoshe water levels and in times of flooding on Oak Creek.

Once water begins to flow over the 6- inch stoplogs, board action will be taken to independently remove stoplog boards as needed to help maintain a lake level not higher than the top of the remaining boards. When, for a period of a minimum of one week, a constant lake level has been maintained at or lower than the center 6- inch stoplog, all stoplogs may be put back into position.

When water is released from Lake Metigoshe, the landowners will be notified downstream from Lake Metigoshe through Duck Lake, the City of Bottineau and Gardena area to its confluence with Willow Creek. Notification will be made through the Bottineau County website. All canal gates located along Oak Creek will remain open unless consulting engineers instruct the Board to monitor and control as deemed necessary for the safety and protection of life and property.

In the fall, at the end of the recreational season, the center stoplog board is removed to facilitate a draw down of Lake Metigoshe to an elevation of 2138, the height of the concrete dam. Also in the fall, if the water is below the stoplogs, they may be left in place to capture the spring run off.