

From: Tom Bach <tombach@embarqmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 12:15 PM
To: clerk <clerk@miamicountyks.org>
Subject: Golden,Ks Petition and Hillsdale Lake/Watershed

****This email originated from outside of County of Miami****

I am not an engineer, water scientist or advocate with an agenda. I'm a person who's family farm (owned since 1933) was partially purchased by the Corp. of Engineers for Hillsdale Lake in 1979. My wife and I still live on the remaining part of the farm not covered by water. Therefore, we have always had a personal interest in the Lake and it's watershed...it's future. For point of reference, we held a family membership in the all-volunteer group, Hillsdale Water Quality Project (HWQP) whose goal was to maintain and improve the water quality in the lake. (The all volunteer group was disbanded in 2015 due to lack of membership and EPA 319 funding.) I became a Board member in 1987 and then Chairman of HWQP, devoting long hours of volunteer-ism with countless others, dedicated to Hillsdale Lake. I'm no expert, but I have had a long history with local, state and federal agencies dealing with water and water quality issues. EPA Region 7, KDHE, Kansas Water Office, NRCS, Johnson and Miami counties, Edgerton, Gardner, Spring Hill, and many rural water districts have all been supporters of HWQP efforts since 1983.

I feel compelled to address the various mis-statements and assertions made by proponents of GOLDEN, KS. that warehousing will "destroy" Hillsdale Lake and the watershed. Back in about 2009 when Burlington Northern Railroad decided on developing the Inter-modal facility, they came before HWQP several times, explaining their plans and asking for the Project's suggestions in protecting the Lake and watershed, and explaining their remedial efforts to deal with impacts that development might have on the Lake. They listened to us and many others, and picked a good environmental company to carry out best management practices. That continues today. The **Hillsdale Lake Water Quality Summary**, provided by the Army Corps of Engineers for the past ten years, shows that although eutrophication and dissolved oxygen levels remain elevated, the WATER QUALITY of the Lake has actually improved somewhat, even as construction of warehousing has continued during the period, along with other impacts from Edgerton, Gardner, Spring Hill, Olathe , Johnson, Miami, Franklin and Douglas Counties. This shows, that in fact, with best management practices continuing effects to the watershed from warehouse and commercial development is probably not any more impactful than say, residential development. **OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO WATER QUALITY AND OVERALL HEALTH OF THE WATERSHED IS "SEDIMENTATION" INTO THE LAKE THAT**

CARRIES NITRATES AND PHOSPHATES, thus, contributing to eutrophication. It is incumbent on permitting agencies to see that best management practices continue.

Therefore, I am encouraged that so many people seem to realize the importance of, and the value of, Hillsdale Lake. I disagree with those proponents to the formation of said city who repeat the "talking points", as though fact, that North Point, Edgerton and warehousing will destroy Hillsdale Lake. History doesn't show this.

Respectfully,

Tom Bach
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