



MEETING NOTES

Client: Kinkaid Reed Creek Conservancy District (KRCCD)
Project/No.: Kinkaid Lake Vision Plan
Subject: Vision Plan Stakeholder Meeting #1
Date: 7/30/2026
Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Location: KRCCD Office - 1763 Water Plant Road Murphysboro, IL 62966

The following is a summary of the meeting held on the date above. This record is not a direct transcript, but rather a summary of the discussion including next steps. Please notify Antero Group of any changes needed within five (5) business days of the issuance date. If no comments, additions, or corrections are received within five (5) business days of issuance date, these minutes shall be deemed approved.

ATTENDEES

- JT Jenkins - KRCCD
- Ken Carr - KRCCD Board
- Mike Layne - KRCCD Board
- Greg Legan - KRCCD Board
- Tony Mileur - KRCCD Board
- Dave Arbrey - KRCCD Board
- Gary Raines - Raines Technical Services
- Dena Haun - Carbondale Tourism
- Brett Doerr - Kinkaid Lake Village Marina & Campground
- Eric Stead - Cedar Lake Supervisor
- Shawn Hirst - IDNR
- Samantha Kellerman - IDNR
- Shannon Beaty - Shawnee Muskie Hunters
- Leonard Pitcher - US Forest Service
- Chad Deaton - US Forest Service
- Scott Crist - US Forest Service
- Brian Croft - Touch of Nature, SIU

ACTION ITEMS

Description	Lead
Send survey link to the stakeholders	Antero
Draft the baseline assessment report	Antero
Coordinate next stakeholder meeting	Antero

SUMMARY

• Plan Overview

- The project team reviewed the project goals, timeline, engagement strategy, and current conditions.
- The project team provided an overview of survey responses received to date.
 - The most popular activities are camping, fishing, and motorized boating.
 - The highest rated recreation sites are the spillway, Paul Ice, and Glenn Schlimpert.
 - Top desired new features at the lake are upgraded bathrooms, fishing piers, and public beach access.
 - Survey responses indicate a strong awareness of the environmental importance of the lake.
- The project team reviewed the open house results.
 - Community members envision more recreational opportunities for non-boaters and continued environmental stewardship of the lake as vital to the long-term success of the lake.

• Stakeholder's Plans and Priorities

- Kinkaid Reed's Creek Conservancy District
 - The KRCCD's current priority is completing the Kinkaid Lake Vision Plan to determine future priorities, while maintaining existing recreation and managing erosion sites.
 - Protecting water source and quality.
- US Forest Service
 - The US Forest Service conducts forest management including prescribed burns, streambank stabilization, timber harvesting, and invasive plant treatments.
 - US Forest Service recreation improvements in the Kinkaid Lake area include an investment of \$350,000 on rebuilding and rerouting trails for mountain biking. The Forest Service recognizes that the Johnson Creek and Buttermilk Hill recreation sites are underutilized and are open to ideas. Buttermilk Hill's access from land is limited due to private ownership of a large portion of the access road.
 - The US Forest Service expressed openness to exploring partnerships with KRCCD and IDNR related to infrastructure, recreation, and concession opportunities.
 - US Forest Service is currently working on a watershed restoration master plan for their jurisdiction of the Kinkaid Lake watershed, which will include soil, botany, erosion, and recreation with a 10-year scope of work.
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
 - IDNR is responsible for taking fishing samples, managing the spillway fish barrier, and stocking the lake with muskie in the fall.
 - Stakeholders noted that Kinkaid Lake is known for its bass and muskie fishing, with private tournaments occurring throughout the year.
 - IDNR has fish stocking data for the last 30 years.
 - It was noted that additional coordination with IDNR will occur throughout the planning process to gather input on broader agency priorities, management considerations, and potential opportunities related to Kinkaid Lake. IDNR will also have opportunities to provide additional input during future stakeholder meetings.

• Discussion

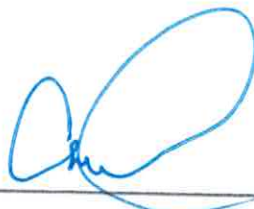
- What is working well?
 - Stakeholders highlighted the lake's water quality as a significant asset.
 - Stakeholders identified KRCCD's board and management structure as a strength.
 - Stakeholders are highly invested in the future of the lake and demonstrate a strong willingness to collaborate.
 - Stakeholders noted that recent hiking and mountain biking trail improvements may help attract additional types of recreational users.

- Kinkaid Lake is one of the only locations in Southern Illinois for free water soloing.
- Streambank and gully stabilization projects have been successful in limiting erosion and sedimentation.
- Stakeholders identified the lake's limited private development as an important characteristic.
- What are some challenges Kinkaid Lake faces?
 - Stakeholders identified funding as the largest challenge facing the lake.
 - KRCCD received an OSLAD grant for the Glenn Seeber area; however, additional funding is needed to complete the project.
 - Some funding opportunities may be limited due to current match requirements
 - Awareness of Kinkaid Lake sites and opportunities could be improved through additional marketing and outreach.
 - Jurisdictional boundaries surrounding the Lake are not known to all visitors.
 - Stakeholders identified an opportunity for greater coordination among jurisdictions in marketing the lake's recreational assets and programming.
 - Stakeholders noted limited awareness of the two boat ramps located in no-wake areas near Sharp Rock and Johnson Creek.
 - Rend Lake's trail and kayaking brochure was identified as a potential example to consider.
 - Recreation assets generally experience lower use outside of peak summer weekends. The Conservancy District would like to pull more diverse user groups outside of the busiest hours.
 - Stakeholders noted that Kinkaid Lake is perceived as being less accommodating for small watercraft than nearby lakes. As a result, many small watercraft users choose Lake Murphysboro or Cedar Lake instead.
 - Stakeholders noted a decline in camping activity at the US Forest Service's Johnson Creek campground.
- What are some opportunities for Kinkaid Lake?
 - A private donation campaign may provide an additional funding opportunity.
 - Creating a resource inventory/asset map could help people know what is there, while also informing of each jurisdiction.
 - Stakeholders identified potential opportunities to expand amenities and activities for non-boating visitors.
 - Stakeholders suggested multi-day kayaking programs that could incorporate travel between campsites.
 - Stakeholders identified a potential opportunity for a 20+ mile through-hiking route in the area.
 - Disc golf on the western side of the lake could be another potential opportunity.
 - Sand volleyball courts near the marina and campground areas are ideas for another non-boat recreation option.
 - Stakeholders noted the success of kayak rentals at Cedar Lake and suggested exploring a similar program at Kinkaid Lake, particularly within no-wake areas near Paul Ice and Glenn Schlimpert.
 - Locker storage and gear rentals at the marina were identified as potential opportunities.
 - Cabin camping was suggested as a potential way to encourage weekday visitation.
 - Stakeholders noted that the restoration of Grassy Lake may create an opportunity for Kinkaid Lake to attract additional small-watercraft users during the interim.
 - Updating wayfinding signage may help people find where the different boat docks, camp sites, and other amenities are located that already exist at the lake.
 - Stakeholders discussed opportunities to better coordinate and promote marina events and live music with other recreational activities.

- Volunteering
 - The US Forest Service noted opportunities for volunteers to assist with activities such as soil sampling and monitoring.
 - Potential volunteer opportunities with IDNR related to fish sampling and stocking were discussed.
 - Stakeholders noted a history of Eagle Scout projects in the area.
 - Stakeholders discussed challenges with maintaining consistent volunteer participation and suggested that providing food, coordinating with established groups, or incorporating volunteer activities into larger community events could help increase participation.
 - The Muskie Hunters' annual cleanup was identified as a potential model for community volunteer events.
- **Long Term Health of the Lake**
 - Water quality and quantity were identified as important considerations for Kinkaid Lake's long-term future.
 - Concerns were expressed regarding eutrophication and emphasized the importance of continued monitoring.
 - Stakeholders discussed how sedimentation, runoff, and other human impacts can affect the long-term health of the lake, while erosion and runoff mitigation can help protect it.
 - Stakeholders identified the condition and future needs of the water plant as an important consideration for the lake's long-term future. The plant was constructed in 1974 and underwent full-scale renovations in 1994.
- **Next Steps**
 - Antero will send out a link to the survey to the stakeholders.
 - Antero will plan to have a draft of the baseline assessment report by the end of September.
 - Antero will coordinate with KRCCD and the stakeholder group to schedule a virtual stakeholder meeting in October.

**** END OF NOTES ****


 Secretary - Greg Legan


 President - Anthony Mileur