

Waynoka Regional Water and Sewer District (WRWSD)

Version #1 9/25/23

Why is Lake Waynoka's water level lowered?

Members have asked many questions about lake lowering policies. First, it needs to be understood that the WRWSD, a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, is a completely separate operating and governing entity from the WPOA. Second, everything WRWSD does both with water and sewer is based on requirements in our permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). The lowering of Lake Waynoka twice a year is driven by our wastewater (sewer) permit requirements.

All wastewater from residences and WPOA facilities ends up in the lagoon as treated effluent, thus the lagoon is basically the final stop in our wastewater treatment process before the effluent is released into Straight Creek. The lagoon is approximately 9 acres and is about 12 feet deep.

The OEPA only permits the District to drain the lagoon between November 1 and April 30 each year. To allow everyone uninterrupted use of the WRWSD sewer system, the lagoon is drained twice a year (once starting in mid-November for 6-8 weeks and once in April lasting 2-3 weeks depending on volume). The April draining creates as much capacity as possible to accommodate seasonal summer usage. When the lagoon is drained, we are required to dilute the lagoon discharge with water from Lake Waynoka at a 10:1 ratio per OEPA permit. The OEPA requires us to take samples daily throughout this process reporting the weekly findings.

The duration for these draining/lowering events is not precisely defined because it is dependent on how much volume we have and the rain we may get during these periods.

The WPOA has no responsibility for the lake lowering process described above. This is entirely a WRWSD driven process which is mandated by the OEPA. The only time the WPOA steps into the process is during the fall drainage. Once the lagoon is drained, the WPOA decides whether to keep the valve open (keep lowering Lake Waynoka water level) or shut the valve. The WPOA typically makes their decision based on pre-determined and pre-communicated intentions to allow windows of opportunity for things like dock and dam maintenance.