

City of Waitsburg

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David L. Reese
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Dear Sirs:

Waitsburg City Council held a special meeting in January to discuss the EWU Mitigation Study and to address your Problems and Opportunities/Reconnaissance Study draft.

We were disappointed that no one from the Flood Control District attended, but that is typical in a small town that has a host of competing organizations vying for time. The three members of that board, all Presbyterians, were attending the annual church meeting at 5th and Main.

One typo was pointed out in the report under item 7 of Touchet Valley problems. The park is officially the Lewis and Clark Trail State Park.

Under the City of Waitsburg we noted that a problem was the flooding of the local wastewater treatment plant which put that facility off line and discharged raw sewage into the Touchet River.

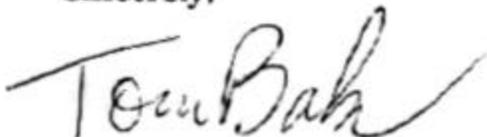
It was the feeling of our group that perhaps more emphasis could be placed on set-back levies along the Touchet, and less emphasis on dikes which always pose a problem for downstream riparian areas.

Another need to be addressed is the erosion of streamside ag land causing some sediment deposition downstream. In addition to causing some problems with farm land and native fish population, it can impact county roads and highways if the stream is allowed to cut new channels through fields.

Gentle, farmable berms appear to be a better solution along the rivers than ever-higher levees.

It was the feeling of the council members that the problems addressed were pertinent and on target.

Sincerely,



Tom Baker, Mayor