

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

The administrator of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Parks Division said Friday that NGPC is still waiting for the final plans that would repair gates and refill Champion Lake.

Jim Fuller said a draft of the plan has been sent to both the Department of Water Resources and the Corps of Engineers for review.

“The Corps has requested additional information,” he said, which is holding up finalization of the plans.

Fuller said he doesn't foresee the project starting before spring now.

The project consists of several different parts. The first, Fuller explained, is a new design for the gates at the dam, one of which was damaged during flooding in June, 2007. The new design will allow water to move through the three gates and an additional area.

The gate damaged during the flood will be repaired to allow it to be opened and locked in place, Fuller said.

Dredging the lake is also in the plan. Part of the silt dredged will be used to build a berm of about a quarter circle in the lake bed.

The total cost of the project is projected at \$222,217.

Champion Lake was allowed to empty following the flood, at the request of the Department of Environmental Quality.