

Spillway Project Update
October 25, 2022
By Dan LeFevre

This morning I spoke with Ron Hanson of Spicer Group regarding a proposal for owner's representative services. Ron is meeting with his team this afternoon to refine scope of services and they will send us a proposed agreement by the end of the week. They have reviewed our recent project plan resubmittal and have had multiple conversations with EGLE, USDA-NCRS, FLPOA and Fisher Contracting. Based on our conversations thus far, the Spicer proposal is expected to include:

1. Spillway design engineering peer review and modeling to be subcontracted to GEI Consultants
2. Permitting review and consulting services
3. Construction management oversight in owner's representative capacity

On October 23, 2022, we received feedback from the manager of the EGLE Dam Safety Unit expressing safety concerns about the current spillway design. Indications are the current design would perform effectively during high-water conditions such as the May of 2020 storm of record, but under normal low-water conditions the water may not safely dissipate. The FLPOA Board plans to engage Spicer (and GEI) to address the safety and functionality concerns by constructing a computer simulated model of our spillway design. The model should be completed by the end of December and could support proceeding with the current design or suggest design changes. In the event changes are needed, the model will provide for a much effective mechanism to consider adjustments.

While the engineering peer review is underway, we have requested a permit to begin demolition of our damaged spillway and site balancing work to prepare for construction of the new design. The impact of winter conditions on the capacity of the syphon system are considerations that may impact the timing of the demolition of our remaining spillway chute. While unlikely in typical winter months, our remaining spillway chute may be needed during the winter months when low water flows will only support keeping one 18" syphon tube operational. This issue is being studied by Fisher Contracting, Spicer, Lapham and the FLPOA Board. Of note, we were recently advised that the firm renting the syphon system to Fisher Contracting has agreed to reduce the rental rate by 50% per day.

We are confident the experience and expertise brought to our team by the Spicer Group and GEI will allow us to solve the complex engineering challenge brought about by the 500-year storm. We are actively working with our grant partners at the USDA and the State of Michigan to update them on increased construction and engineering costs that have already been identified. All indications are the spillway project will be 100% funded from grant sources, and that the \$652k FLPOA special assessment monies allocated for the project earlier this year will be available to reallocate to our dredging project as originally intended. We continue to have many moving pieces, but we are working the problem as hard and as transparently as we can.

Thank You
FLPOA Board of Directors.