

My friends,

Many of you know that I accepted a request to join the board 2 days before the storm in May 2020. Talk about being thrown into the lion's den! The entire board immediately acted on this disaster facing all of us here at Forest Lake. Having experience with federal grants had me looking almost immediately at what was available and USDA was there from day one. We have obtained other monies through various state grants which will aid in the financing of the spillway project.

My wife Jodi and I have been here for 22 years with the last eight being permanent. We love it here and the people that go with it. I believe in giving back to the community that I live in and always have. I've been on many boards besides here at Forest Lake and still currently on the board of directors of the Great Lakes Sportsman Foundation. I like to play golf but I'm much better on the 19th hole than actually playing the game. I still like to hunt and fish and have my hunting camp in Tawas. We have a lot of fun there and take some good deer which is secondary to the camaraderie we share. Enough about this.

I want everyone to know this. We have great people on the BOD and we all have a common goal. We want the spillway done so we can get our lake back. I promise you all that I/we will not rest until that goal is achieved. We have gone where no board has gone before with no template showing the way. I can tell you this project has consumed me like nothing I have ever been involved in before. We as board members will not quit until Forest Lake is whole again. That is a promise.

Gene Ross