

Spillway Permit Application Status: On Monday, August 29th Lapham Engineering submitted the following information to EGLE in connection with our request for a permit to begin spillway repairs:

1. Our revised Spillway Repair Plans (24 pgs. of revised construction drawings prepared by Lapham);
2. Wells Creek Hydraulic Analysis (81 pg. report prepared by Ayres Associates); and
3. Discussion of Tail Water Depths for Type III Basins (18 pg. report prepared by Lapham)

We are hopeful that the submittal will lead to the issuance of a permit in the coming days. As soon as we have tangible new information we will provide another update. The information noted above is the 12th formal submittal noted on the construction plans, and we have also provided additional submittals of supplemental information. The numerous submittals are the byproduct of responding damage caused by a 500-year storm, updating a 50 year old dam system to current standards, the risk associated with the ~25 miles downstream of the Rifle River Basin, and the resulting “critical project” designation assigned to our application by EGLE. While we are all eager to receive a permit, it is imperative that we respect the process.

Michigan Enhancement Grant Application: On Friday, August 19th, State Senator Jim Stamos’ office provided a request for a revised (for FY ’23) grant application form and project budget for the \$800,000 grant that has been allocated for FLPOA. With the help of Project Manager Dennis Monsere, and a few of the Directors we have completed the documentation that I will submit the requested information this week. Concurrent with this process we completed the critical step of organizing all of our funding sources and uses. We summarized the values in a draft spreadsheet that was sent to the directors for review. The plan is to continue to update this spreadsheet and report the status of all phases to the Directors at each BOR meeting.

Lake Level: We have received a number of member inquiries regarding the drop in the lake level in recent weeks. In connection with the spillway repair project a temporary syphon bypass system was installed several weeks ago. The EGLE *emergency* permit to install and operate the temporary bypass syphon system is based on plans that call for our water level to be maintained at or slightly below an elevation of 721 feet. The combination of operating the syphon system (at reduced capacity) and the minimal rain in recent weeks led to a reduction in the water elevation to about 720 feet (about 1 foot below normal winter levels). We will continue to reduce the syphoning capacity until the water level returns to the 721 foot level. The Board is also gathering information to consider the possible use of a brush hog to cut down vegetation and tree saplings growing along our beaches. We are also exploring other options with our lake ecology management firm.