

FOREST LAKE PROPERT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

SPILLWAY REPAIR PROJECT UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2021

The State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD), DNR Dam Safety Unit issued a correction request on September 22, 2021. Our engineer, Lapham Associates, provided the requested documentation and a virtual meeting with EGLE, Lapham, and FLPOA Board members was held on October 11, 2021 to discuss the submittal, address any concerns and attempt to stimulate more timely progress. Additional information was submitted to EGLE after the virtual meeting. Three separate State Agencies have reviewed the documents for dam safety requirements (hydrology, hydraulics, structural and geotechnical), wetlands impact and floodplain requirements.

Draft comments on the October submittal were received from EGLE on Nov. 9, 2021 for the dam safety and wetlands issues. Comments regarding the floodplain issues should be complete next week and another formal correction request by EGLE will be issued. There are no further wetlands issues to be addressed and the remaining dam safety comments appear to be relatively minor. If there are no further floodplain issues we should be into the final phase of the permitting process which includes a 20 day public notice period.

Lapham Associates is preparing a response to the draft comments received to date and has indicated that they are ready to issue the project for bids in December. The Board will also review the possibility of soliciting bids before the start of the 20 day public notice period if the public notice period is delayed. The bidding process and award of a contract will require approximately 6 weeks and therefore a conservative date for Contract award would be early February, 2022. Construction of the access road and some demolition work may be initially possible depending on weather conditions. However, major construction work will probably not start until late spring. Lapham Associates estimates that the construction project will require at least 3 months to complete under ideal conditions. Material and labor shortages may extend the construction time significantly.

A draft time extension request for the USDA grant has been submitted for review with an anticipated construction completion date of late August, 2022. This date may be adjusted when additional information is available but it appears very likely that for the best case scenario we will not be able to raise the lake level until mid or late summer or not at all for the 2022 season.

A request for additional USDA grant funding will be prepared after bids for the spillway project are received. There is no guarantee that additional funds are available, and if funds are available, FLPOA will be responsible for 25% of the additional construction cost in excess of the original grant amount.

Forest Lake Property Owners Association Board of Directors