

FLPOA Spillway Project Update  
December 21, 2022  
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On December 20<sup>th</sup>, a project update call was hosted by Spicer Group and GEI Consultants regarding our spillway project. Participants included several representatives of EGLE, USDA-NRCS, Lapham and FLPOA. The updates included numerous hypothetical scenarios that could possibly delay our project further. Those scenarios will be summarized below. The overarching conclusion was that due diligence scheduled for completion during the next four weeks will clarify the revised project scope. Following the meeting Dan LeFevre was able to have several one-on-one phone conversations with the key project members from Spicer, USDA-NRCS and EGLE. Our project may move into two new phases:

1. An interim stabilization phase to be completed in 2023 that will repair our damaged spillway and allow for the return to normal lake levels; and
2. A long-term upgrade phase to include possible upgrades to the inlet system (i.e. the existing 50-year old dam structure

Next steps:

- Additional soil borings are needed beyond the ten completed during the summer of 2020 when access to the site was limited prior to the installation of the construction road. Spicer and GEI intend to use the additional soil boring data to support the revised conceptual design that is currently in process. The borings are expected to be completed in January of 2023.
- Topo survey of the earthen dam area on which our existing damaged spillway is located. While this area was surveyed in previously by Lapham Associates, it is most time and cost efficient to complete a new survey in January of 2023 than to point-check data on the prior survey data.
- A Spicer Group / GEI risk assessment is in process to review the siphon system and its prospective performance during hypothetical elevated water conditions spring runoff events.
- A Spicer Group / GEI risk assessment is in process to review the inlet system supporting our current dam and to further assess for additional damage that may have occurred since the May of 2020 storm as well as performance relative to standards being considered by Michigan legislature.
- Conceptual design of spillway repairs and upgrades is underway, and a revised design will be presented to FLPOA and USDA-NRCS in mid-January.

From FLPOA's perspective, the news that the Michigan legislature was considering new dam safety standards and that our design standard may need to exceed the "storm of record" was a new development. Many hours were invested to learn how a heightened standard may impact FLPOA. Given the safety risks associated our existing spillway damage, the advice of Spicer Group is to pursue the interim stabilization phase noted above (#1). The data collected in the next steps will clarify if a long-term upgrade phase (#2) will be required. If the second phase is required, FLPOA may need to explore financing options including additional grant funding or a prospective special assessment district. The FLPOA Board believes the data collection steps will position us to make educated decisions on our next steps. If the project takes on a significant increase in scope, we intend to schedule open membership meetings and invite our engineers to help us understand our options.

Lastly, some promising news regarding funding! Yesterday we received notice from EGLE that our \$2.3 million pre-proposal was selected for submittal of a full application for the 2022-2023 Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program. While our final costs are still uncertain, we have numerous funding options in process.