



KEY TAKE AWAYS FROM August 19th SLA UPDATE PRESENTATION



As of August 10th, FLTF indicates Secord Dam is targeted for completion in late 2024; with a construction or permit uncertainty into first quarter (Jan – Feb – March) of 2025.

FLTF Engineers indicate Secord will fill in 4 – 11 days within the March to May timeframe assuming normal rains. This provides for Secord full lake level in summer 2025 should schedules hold. See Table 1 on page two.

Inflation / Interest rates continue to be challenges - - - FLTF is active with cost mitigation and seeking additional grants & US Army Corps Loan Program to lower costs for property owners.

FLTF is working with EGLE to secure a permit to leverage the Secord auxiliary spillway when completed to allow work on both primary spillways / gates. If approved, this may increase lake level modestly in March – May 2024. **(THIS IS A COMPLICATED PERMIT REQUEST - - SEE MORE BELOW).**

As a contingency to Retake Our Lake, we are creating a sense of urgency to complete work prior to a potential modest rise in water levels in summer 2024. To learn more about what property owners can do to help prepare Secord Lake to receive water [CLICK HERE](#)

We seek your help to spread the word to your neighbors and friends.

FLTF Seeks EGLE Permit That May Allow Modest Increase in Water Level Summer 2024

Our goal is to reduce the confusion that may be circulating regarding this complicated permit request. This communication has been created in collaboration with FLTF.

FLTF submitted an EGLE Permit to utilize the Auxiliary Spillway when completed. This permit request seeks to divert water over the auxiliary spillway to allow the use of coffer dams to work on both primary spillways and gates at the same time. The objective of this permit request is to help with both the Secord construction schedule and costs.

There is a detailed explanation in Section One on page two. Here are the key points:

- 1) FLTF is seeking a permit from EGLE to leverage the auxiliary spillway to work on primary spillways and gates. This should help improve the schedule and costs. **The Permit has not been approved.**
- 2) If the Permit is approved, there will be a modest rise in the **March to June 2024 timeframe**. The FLTF is aware of boat lifts and piers - - - **water will not be raised ahead of winter ice**. To be specific, there is **NO** plan to raise the water level in the fall of 2023.
- 3) **If the Permit is approved, we will receive details of the plan to include timing. This is an extremely complicated permit request**, should it be approved by EGLE, FLTF will provide an updated inundation (water level) map for Secord based on the approved design and water elevation.
- 4) If water is raised modestly, the Permit request is to **not lower** it after work is complete.
- 5) The FLTF indicates the increase will not likely expand recreation use much.

- 6) Today, this contingency provides a sense of urgency to complete individual property owner clearing and SLA projects in calendar year 2023 or assuming safe ice for some projects over the 2023-24 winter months.

Table 1

Estimated Lake Refill Times with 50 Percent Flow Exceedance

Lake	Minimum Days at Median Flows (50% exceedance)	Maximum Days at Median Flows (50% exceedance)	Total Days if Refill Starts Between March and May	Total Days if Refill Starts Between June and October*
Secord	4	27	4 to 11	17 to 27
Smallwood	6	16	6 to 9	9 to 16
Wixom	10	58	10 to 15	29 to 58
Sanford	13	67	13 to 16	31 to 67

*Winter months (October through February) are excluded due to the expectation that environmental concerns will not allow changes in water levels during this period due to concerns related to aquatic life.

Source: FLTF Webinar 07/13/2023

Section 2

Situation:

The Secord Lake Association continues to execute a campaign called Retake Our Lake to address nuisance trees and weeds to prepare Secord to safely return to legal lake level when the dam construction is complete. You can learn more about the plan at [Restoring Secord - Weed & Tree Control | Secord Lake Assoc. \(secordlakeassociation.org\)](https://secordlakeassociation.org)

Today it is August 2023, as a **contingency** we need to plan for potential modest increased water levels in summer 2024. The FLTF shared they are working with EGLE to seek permits to support a plan for increased water levels in 2024 after Fisher completes the Auxiliary Spillway. It may be used for diverting flows away from the primary spillways as Fisher uses coffer dams to complete the Primary Spillway and Gate project. The FLTF indicates the increased water level at the dam may be around 1 foot.

While we do not know today **IF** the water level will rise, **we believe we need to plan now as if it will**. A modest increase of 1 foot will make an impact on lakebed accessibility. **If some of our Retake The Lake projects are not complete in 2023, and water rises modestly in the March to June 2024 period, we may not be able to safely access or work in some of the identified areas.** We understand should the water rise a foot as the work is completed, the lake level will remain until construction is complete and EGLE provides the permit to fill Secord to legal lake level.

FLTF Engineers indicate depending on the slope of the lakebed, a modest 1-foot rise in water at the dam would raise the water level about 4 feet closer to shore in some lower or gradually sloped shoreline areas.

One may ask how a modest 1-foot increase may impact the lake? The FLTF advises the increase will be most notable closest to the dam and will be diluted as one moves upstream. The FLTF indicates the increase will not likely expand recreation use too much.

This contingency provides a sense of urgency to complete individual property owner clearing and SLA projects in calendar year 2023 or assuming safe ice for some projects over the 2023-24 winter months.

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