



2025 Year In Review

December 21, 2025

It was December 7, 2020, when the counties gained ownership of the 4 dam properties and bottom lands via condemnation from Boyce Hydro. We are 5 years later, and after a one-year delay due to legal challenges creating an estimated \$18 million in costs, Secord dam is in the final phase of reconstruction with the current estimate of substantial completion September 2026. [You can learn more about the final phase from our recap published in June 2025.](#)

The 2025 Year In Review will not dwell on the construction suspension as there is ample information available (we issued almost 30 publications, available on our website at the Resources tab, and held more than 6 informational sessions). We will focus on the positive actions of the Secord Lake Association (SLA) in our mission to RestoreTheLakes.

Our tag line is **Our Members Make A Difference**. As you read about the year, realize these contributions are from people you may know. They may be your neighbors. Within the Association, they are all friends with a common love for Secord and a powerful desire to see our lake life return while reducing assessments and retaining property values for ALL.

The other question this review may answer – “Why join the Secord Lake Association?” If you like the things you read, we welcome you to become a part of it.

Advocacy For Additional Funding

We celebrate the active leadership SLA Members continue in the **RestoreTheLakes** campaign. This campaign, begun with a vision by Cliff Houser in April 2021, created alignment with all 4 Lake Associations, the Counties, Townships with elected officials to seek support. Collectively the Lake Associations, with help from Members and the community, delivered over 23,000 individually addressed / signed letters to elected officials (those letters stacked would be over 5-1/2 feet tall). This campaign helped the FLTF secure the \$200 million grant from the State. This grant allowed construction to begin on Secord Dam in Fall 2022 without any construction assessment from property owners.



Congressman John Moolenaar, Karen Moore Chair Gladwin County Board with SLA Members Joel Vernier, Phil Dast, Jeff Sorensen, Chuck Sikora, Mike Szuch and Ken Wills



MI State Reps Mike Hoadley and Bill G. Schuette

As mentioned, the legal challenges made it difficult for our elected officials at the state and federal level to secure additional support.

With the legal challenges resolved by the courts, in 2025 FLTF received grants of \$12 Million - - \$9.8 Million from the State of MI and \$2.25 Million from Federal. These funds will help reduce capital assessment costs for ALL.

We thank MI Rep Bill G. Schuette, MI Rep Mike Hoadley and MI State Senator Roger Hauck and US Congressman John Moolenaar for their ongoing support.

Secord Dam Pontoon Tour - A huge shout out to our sponsors of the **2nd Annual Secord Dam Pontoon Tour**. Not only were people able to get up and close to the dam from the water with a guided tour, but it also turned into a neighborhood block party.

To tie back to **Advocacy**, a key member and her family from Congressman Moolenaar's office attended. Based on feedback, we plan to do this again this coming year at Secord Lake Marina – On the Water. More details to come.



Retake Our Lake Clean Up Efforts - this plan coordinates property owners, the townships, and the SLA on efforts to prepare Secord for full lake level. Beginning in the fall of 2022, we thank the vast majority of property owners for their management of nuisance trees in front of their lake property. [To learn more click here.](#)

This past year the Secord Lake Association provided funds and coordinated the cutting of nuisance trees in the public boating lanes along West River Drive and the area around the Park Road DNR Boat Launch.

In addition, SLA volunteers cleaned up Tire Island of nuisance trees. The effort to Retake Secord is a collective initiative with plans to continue through the return of legal lake level. Thank you for your help.



2025 FUNdraising - The Secord Lake Association (SLA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization.

Our fundraising is focused on Lake Improvements with the allocation of funds / resources. In addition to fundraising, SLA funds also include membership dues, donations, sales of merchandise, and Sponsor support. Please support the local businesses listed at the end of this section that support our efforts to restore Secord.

This section will highlight our 2025 FUNraisers and provide a recap of how these funds will be invested in the future of Secord Lake:

[To learn more, click here](#)

SLA Golf Outing raised \$13,231

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - - 2026 Date is September 19th

Congratulations to our 1st place team of Chris Szpara, LeeAnn Campbell-Clayton, Brian Harnos, and Mia Harnos.

2nd place went to Brian Gellings, Dan Oguin, Bryan Deiner, and Pat Madden.

10th place went to Craig Whipple, Adam Schroth, Alex Wells, and Larry Schroth.

Closest to the pin went to Paula Arnold and Tom Irving.

Longest drive went to Korrin Fry and Glenn Belcher.



[To learn more, click here](#)

SLA Chili Cook Off raised \$10,011

WATCH FOR THE 2026 DATE at THE SECORD LAKE EAGLES

2025 Winners!

1st Place – Courtney Friedle

2nd Place – Jim Braidwood

3rd Place – Christopher Ochab



We thank all of those that prepared Chili this year. Their collective investment of time, ingredients and talent allow the Secord Chili Cook-Off to start the Fall season. Note, we missed a few of the Chili Cooks as they snuck next door to catch the Michigan Game.



SHOUT OUT TO THE CHEFS! Courtney Friedle, Jim Braidwood, Christopher Ochab, Kelly Russel, Mark LeBlanc, Kim Fair, David Smith, Lauren Spanske, Christine Grace, Jacob Ballard, Jackie Beck, Joe Mireles, Jim O'Connell, Denny Harris, Dennis Przywara, Dave Wetherell, Dean Moore, Jeff Sorensen, Kris Panetta, Susan Krey

Special thanks to our Sponsors - You are appreciated and valued!

Please support these local businesses that support our efforts to restore Secord.



SLA Investments In Secord

We are blessed and appreciate the support shown by our lake community, Members and Sponsors. Money raised over the past several years due to fundraising efforts allows our 2025-26 plan to allocate \$66,000 to specific areas.

Our team identified key areas of required investment and focus for the Association over the coming year or so. If you are interested in helping with any of these categories, please let us know:

RETAKE OUR LAKE \$33,000 Allocated – we have been at this since fall 2022 and are overall pleased with the way a vast majority of property owners have stepped up to manage the lake bottom in front of their places. We appreciate the collaboration of the three townships to continue to treat nuisance aquatic weeds and thank Secord Township for their assistance in cutting nuisance trees on the three public sandbars that everyone on this lake can and does enjoy. The sandbars have been maintained by volunteers (THANK YOU) and there is more to be done before full water. We allocate funds for other clean-up efforts required before full lake level and we are planning for the unknown when the lake is full. You can review the Retake Our Lake plan and the team is working to create the plan for the final sprint to the finish line. If you want to help, please contact Ken Wells at SecordLakeAssociation@gmail.com [To learn more click here.](#)

THREE TOWNSHIPS – in October 2024 we told the three townships if they have a lake improvement initiative where we could help, we would like to learn more. At this point, we are exploring with Bourret and Clement Townships on how we might assist with upgrades of their existing boat launches. For those that attended the Secord Dam Tour event, you saw the Secord Township Rescue Boat and a demonstration of the Rescue Drone. **We donated \$1,500 to Secord Township to support their rescue equipment and training efforts.**

GOOSE MANAGEMENT \$5,000 Allocated – anyone that has goose poop in their yard understands this one. We have a high-level plan that outlines the stages we must follow to seek a permit. This is an area we realize we may need more investment in the coming years. [To learn more click here.](#)

FIREWORKS ON THE LAKE \$6,000 Allocated – based on feedback there is interest in getting this annual tradition back. This initiative is called *Quake On The Lake* and has received \$2,351 in additional donations from Brent Wilson and Scott Grattopp at Secord Lake Marina – On the Water bringing the current total to \$8,351. If you would like to donate, please contact Brent Wilson at SecordLakeAssociation@gmail.com

FOUR LAKES HOUSING SUPPORT FUND \$5,000 Donated – last year we stated there will be situations where financially challenged people with HOMESTEAD properties may have difficulty paying their annual assessment. There is a program, funded completely with private donations (NO SAD \$) to aid those that qualify. We want Secord to be represented, and we are blessed as an association to be able to participate in this program. **Our private donation of \$5,000 received a match providing \$10,000 toward this initiative.** [To learn more click here.](#)

DAM RECREATION PLANNING \$5,000 Allocated – this is an area we expect a lot of questions on, and we have more work to accomplish. Each lake is asked to create a recreational plan with each lake association tasked with helping. We are pleased to have Mike Szuch on our SLA Board. Mike is an engineer that is familiar with these types of plans. Mike will work with our Board, the townships, counties, and EGLE to prepare the plan. FLTF and Spicer have agreed to assist. We want to make this clear - - **there is NO PLAN or DESIRE to add a boat launch.** We are in the initial planning stages. Let us give Mike time to form the team and plan. We will keep everyone informed.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT IN 2026

- 1) **Monthly meetings with FAQ sessions in the months of April through October 2026.**
- 2) **Continued SLA communication** to complement the FLTF efforts to keep all informed of relevant information pertaining to Secord Dam and the journey to full legal lake level.
- 3) **Continued focus** and communication regarding how property owners can help with the **Retake Our Lake** campaign.
- 4) **Continued advocacy at the State and Federal levels for assistance programs and additional grants.**
- 5) A new committee, the **Secord Lake Fishery Advisory Committee** has been created by the SLA. The purpose of this committee is to partner with the DNR Fisheries Biologist to champion and communicate proper management of the Secord Lake fishery for generations to come. We have met with the DNR along with the FLTF and other Lake Associations. We have a follow up meeting planned for early 2026 to focus on Secord. More to come in the New Year.
- 6) At least **three Secord social or FUNdraising events** are planned for 2026.

Our Members Make a Difference! From ongoing advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels, to social events to bring our lake community together to include **FUN**draisers, to the SLA investing back into the Secord Lake Community. If you like what we did in 2025, please join us in 2026.

Individual Membership is just \$25 a year or \$35 for a Family Membership. We welcome you to join the SLA TEAM! Join [HERE](#).

You can learn more at www.SecordLakeAssociation.org

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