

PRESS RELEASE

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Secord Lake Association Invests \$17,000 in the Restoration Efforts for Secord Lake

(Secord Township, MI, July 2023) – At its recent meeting, Secord Lake Association approved an investment of \$17,000 to help restore Secord Lake and prepare it to receive water. Phil Dast, president applauded the fundraising efforts of the volunteer non-profit as he presided over the Member meeting.

Secord Lake Association will make an additional \$5,000 contribution to Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF). “Our organization supports the efforts of FLTF to restore Secord Dam along with the 4 Lakes system. FLTF has secured over \$5 million in private donations to date. It has a current fundraising campaign with the goal of securing an additional \$1 million in private donations. We are pleased to participate again”, Dast commented. This brings the total contributions by Secord Lake to FLTF to \$45,000 over the past several years.

Private donations to FLTF provide flexibility to meet grant matching funds requirements and can be used for expenses outside of the parameters of the operations and maintenance special assessment or construction grants. Some of the private funds helped with the stabilization, engineering and permitting along with site improvements for the Secord Dam project.

In response to a members’ suggestion, Dast indicated the intent of the organization is to make another donation to FLTF later this fall after two more fundraisers coupled with a better understanding of the investments the association will make to support the Retake Our Lake campaign.

The Secord Lake Association has a campaign underway called Retake Our Lake. This campaign is volunteer driven with coordination between property owners and the townships to help prepare Secord Lake to receive water.

“We are proud to see so many property owners stepping up to remove nuisance trees. Our campaign leans heavily on the concept of ‘neighbor helping neighbor’ in partnership with the three townships surrounding Secord Lake”, said Jeff Sorensen, Retake Our Lake campaign chair.

Sorensen went on to say, “We are allocating up to \$12,000 in programs to offer grants to our Members that seek permits for lake improvements at their property and we are providing funding to help our Lake Neighborhood Captains pay for tools, materials and supplies for Secord Lake Association clean up events. “In

addition, we will leverage a direct mail campaign to get the word out to property owners regarding what they can do now to clean up the area in front of their properties.”

Secord Township Supervisor Joel Vernier added, “Secord Township appreciates the partnership with Secord Lake Association. While our township has the funds to contract to have the nuisance trees cut from the three sand bar public gathering spots located on the lake within the township, it’s the volunteers that will complete the clean up to make the sand bars as safe as possible”.

Dast mentioned a partnership program has been created with Oak Ridge Tree Service, located on Secord Lake, to help deal with larger tree trunks and debris. There is a team working over the summer to finalize the plan to be executed once there is safe ice this coming winter.

Secord Lake Association has two fundraisers scheduled. The 3rd annual Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, September 23rd at Gladwin Heights Golf Course. The 2nd annual Chili Cook Off will be held on Saturday, October 7th at Lost Arrow. To learn more please visit www.SecordLakeAssociation.org.

The Secord Lake Association is focused on preparing Secord Lake to receive water.

About Secord Lake Association:

Secord Lake Association is a volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on the restoration of Secord Dam by supporting the efforts of the Four Lakes Task Force. To date we have helped secure grants to help rebuild and have plans in place to Retake Our Lake to help prepare Secord to return to legal lake level.

To learn more about the Retake Our Lake campaign, visit <https://www.secordlakeassociation.org/restoring-secord>

As a non-profit volunteer organization, we raise awareness and conduct fundraisers to help the Secord Lake community for generations to come. www.SecordLakeAssociation.org

About Four Lakes Task Force:

Four Lakes Task Force is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization managed and operated by lake residents and industry experts. It serves as a "Delegated Authority" for Midland and Gladwin counties to administer and oversee the maintenance and operations of the four dams and lakes, so the lake communities can enjoy the water long into the future.

To learn more: www.four-lakes-taskforce-mi.com/

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