



We provided an update after the March 4th FLTF 45-minute webinar. [You can view the original recap here.](#)

We continue to receive questions regarding the plan to fill Secord. As we are two months after the March webinar, we checked in with FLTF to confirm this information.

TIMING

- Timing for Secord substantial completion remains **Sept 2026**. Crews are preparing for gate installation.

Q1: When will Secord Lake be filled to legal lake level?

A: Once construction is substantially complete, EGLE will inspect and communicate that FLTF can bring Secord to full summer level. FLTF indicates the substantially completed schedule to be September. Meaning a window FLTF can fill to full summer level between October to mid-December before lowering the lake to winter level.

Q2: What does “fill” look like based on the current lake level?

A: FLTF indicates Secord Lake is currently about 4-1/2 feet below normal summer lake level. Normal winter lake level is about 3 feet below normal summer lake level. Meaning Secord’s future normal **winter** lake level will be about 1-1/2 feet higher than we have today.

Q3: Will there still be a winter lake level?

A: YES. For this fall, assuming Secord Lake is filled to normal summer level, the lake will lower to normal winter level in mid-December as in years past.

Q4: What about boat lifts and piers currently stranded on the lakebed?

A: FLTF indicates the substantial completion date for Secord is September 2026. While we are cautiously optimistic this is shortened, the answer to this question is important as there are hundreds of pieces of property owner equipment on the lakebed. In addition, the company owners providing hoist service seek guidance so they can plan and communicate with customers.

Our lake association continues to be in close contact with FLTF engineers as they are aware of this issue. To address this specific question, as of May 2026 there are two scenarios:

- 1) The FLTF **Secord Primary Plan** is to get the lake up to normal summer level no later than October 1, 2026. Secord will then need to be lowered to normal winter level in mid-December 2026.

This will allow property owners with equipment on the lakebed the opportunity to have it removed before winter ice.

FLTF **cannot** fill between October 1 and April 15. MI DNR will not deviate on these dates.

- 2) As FLTF gets closer to the substantial completion date, if it does not look like Secord can make normal summer lake level by October 1, then FLTF recommends leaving the lake at the current level. Meaning Secord will not be raised to winter level, rather remain at its current summer 2026 level to avoid the risk of ice damage of private property on the lake bottom.

In this scenario Secord Lake will fill to normal summer legal lake level beginning April 2027.

FLTF will continue to keep the Secord Lake community updated on their progress as they strive toward the goal to meet the substantial completion date of September 2026.

SLA Members Mike and Sharon Byler own / operate Secord Hoist Service. They are aware and in April began to communicate their plans for the coming season to customers and the lake community.

We continue to be cautiously optimistic. However, for our friends and neighbors with equipment stranded on the lakebed this is the beginning of a plan to provide the opportunity for safe removal.

Q5: How long will it take for Secord to fill to normal summer lake level?

A: If refill starts in the months of July – October, anywhere from 31 to 100 days depending on Mother Nature. If refill starts the following spring, it will take about 7 to 14 days.

Q6: The water is currently diverted through the auxiliary spillway. How will that gap be closed?

A: This will be interesting, and we will share details when available.

The water will divert through the new gates so the gap in the auxiliary spillway where water flows today can be closed. Likely the gap will be closed with a combination of steel and concrete. More to come as specifics are available.

FLTF and EGLE are aware there will be boats and pontoons on the lake around this time. FLTF will communicate timing and safety precautions to the Secord Lake community as this phase of the project nears. Our lake association will also use our resources to spread the information via our social media platforms and monthly townhall meetings.

Q7: As a property owner, what can I do over the next 5 months to prepare for full legal lake level?

A: Please remove the nuisance trees and debris from the lakebed. While weeds will die and rot when covered with water, nuisance trees will not rot. Pick up anything that can float on the lakebed and remove it to an appropriate place (if its wood a campfire may be a perfect place). Anything that floats may cause hazards to the boating lanes, other people’s piers, lifts, hoists, and cause extra work / cost for the operations team at the dam. We want to avoid floating sticks and debris from being blown by the wind into shorelines or cuts. **IF IT FLOATS, PLEASE REMOVE IT FROM THE LAKEBED.**

Help your neighbors prepare their lakebeds as well. You can view the [Secord Lake Association Restoration Plan – Revised April 2025](#)

Member meetings are open to all - -please join us at Secord Township Hall at 10 AM →

Saturday, April 18 Saturday, May 16
Saturday, June 20 Saturday, July 18
Saturday, August 15 Saturday, September 12
Saturday, October 12

Save the Dates
SLA Golf Outing – Saturday September 19th
SLA Chili Cook Off – Saturday October 17th

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

www.SecordLakeAssociation.org

Email SecordLakeAssociation@gmail.com

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