



April 15, 2023 Member & Informational Meeting RECAP



Secord Township Hall was almost to capacity for this first meeting of the 2023 season. After some brief business, Phil Dast kicked off a presentation designed to cover several topics to include questions sent in by members ahead of time. Phil also moderated a half hour open Q&A session at the conclusion of the one-hour presentation.

Before we jump into the main topics covered, we thank those who were able to attend. Your enthusiasm, attentive listening and questions are appreciated. We were humbled by the comments received, the number of people that renewed or became new members and the volunteer lists that are filled with your names.

For those that could not join us, the following is a summary. We plan to hold another information townhall style meeting on Saturday, May 20th – 10AM Secord Township Hall.

TIMELINES - - The Race Within the Marathon

Using a timeline, Jeff Sorensen explained how the Secord Lake Association has been in a “Race Within the Marathon”. The timeline below represents months within the “marathon” to Restore Secord with **red** letters to represent key milestones. He emphasized that without the significant funding secured by the FLTF with the assistance of the RestoreTheLakes campaign (initiated by the Secord Lake Association (SLA)), the timeline discussion would be a completely difference conversation. The **red** letter milestones were explained as follows.

2020					2021					2022					2023					2024																																	
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A – June 2020 → FLTF Sets a Goal to Rebuild Secord in 2024.

The dams are privately owned, and the Counties did not own the dam properties.
 After the FERC ordered draw down, the former dam owner did not allow FLTF engineers on the dam to understand damage.
There was no significant funding - - cost estimate eclipsed \$300 Million for all 4 dams.
 Dams needed to be stabilized for safety - - tens of \$\$ Millions needed to do so.
 The 4 Lakes area was still in shock with many recovering.

B – Dec 2020 → Counties Acquire Dams via Eminent Domain

FLTF engineers gain access to the dam properties to understand damage.
 This represents a delay of about 6 months at the beginning of the marathon.

C – March 2021 → FLTF Initial Plan to Rebuild Dams:

Secord Dam to be Restored in 2024
 100% Property Owner Funded
 Financing USDA Loan by Lake
 Assessment over \$2000 / Yr. For Some Property Owners
No Significant Funding - - - FLTF Seeking Grants
Seek Help from Property Owners to Raise \$

2020				2021				2022				2023				2024																																							
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A				B				C				D				E				F				G				H				I				J																			

D – May 2021 → Secord Lake Association Launches RestoreTheLakes Campaign

SLA Understands to **Obtain a Construction Permit from EGLE 3 Things Need to be in Place:**

- 1) 100% Engineering
- 2) \$\$ for Construction
- 3) \$ for Operations, Maintenance & Repairs

All 4 Lake Associations join along with township, county, state and federal officials.

May 2021

A detailed PLAN was Created and Implemented by the Secord Lake Association To Support the FLTF to Obtain Support and Significant Financial Assistance



Campaign

- Grass roots -- we seek active participation
- The message matters ... Everything communicates
- Simple and easy to understand
- Explain clearly what needs to happen
- Is not controversial -- no chance of a lost meaning
- Is fresh -- hard to be against -- not negative
- Is focused on an outcome, not an entity or person



To consolidate the effort and allow each Lake Association to participate - - The RestoreTheLakes Campaign was created.

CALL TO ACTION

Please contact to request a Plan using the form on this website ... There is already in motion.

www.RestoreTheLakes.org

Contact Lists / Flyer Prints / Letter Samples / Signatures

Advocating to RestoreTheLakes

Advocates/Supporters of Secord Lake Association, Smallwood Lake Association, Woodm Lake Association, Hayford Lake Association, and the Secord Lake Association.

Supporter/Member: Gary Brown, Bill Lutz, Brian Lewis, and others.

Think a Campaign Needs One:

RESTORE THE LAKES

1. Identify the problem

2. Identify the solution

3. Identify the goal

4. Identify the action



E – March 2022 → \$200 Million State Grant Award

The Grant is not a “wheelbarrow of money”. It has stringent requirements. The State of MICHIGAN Grant requirements are:

- The Grant is to the delegated authority for the **4 Lakes Special Assessment District**.
- The Grant is **only for construction of the dams**.
- Grant recipients **must** be able to demonstrate a 20% match via SAD or other.
- Grant funds appropriated are subject to **applicable federal audit and reporting requirements**.
- The project tentative **completion date** is September 30, 2026.

- To Get an EGLE Permit:
- 1) 100% Engineering
 - 2) \$\$ for Construction
 - 3) \$\$ for Operations / Maintenance

March 2022 → \$750,000 Federal Grant Award for Dam Safety Equipment for Secord and Smallwood

2020					2021					2022					2023					2024																													
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A					B					C					D					E					F					G					H					I					J				

G- July 2022 → Counties Approve Plan to Rebuild the Dams

- To Get an EGLE Permit:
- 1) 100% Engineering
 - 2) \$\$ for Construction
 - 3) \$\$ for Operations / Maintenance

H – Nov 2022 → ELGE Issues Second Construction Permit

- To Get an EGLE Permit:
- 1) 100% Engineering
 - 2) \$\$ for Construction
 - 3) \$\$ for Operations / Maintenance

After the \$200 Million Grant for construction, the FLTF and Spicer Engineering believed their plan could finish construction in early to mid-2024 allowing for a possible legal lake level that summer. Unfortunately, construction contractors indicated during the bidding process that the timeline could not be met.

I – Dec 2022 → FLTF awards Second bid to Fisher Contracting

Second Bid - - 13 Companies Interested / 8 Qualified

In simple terms the bid sought three things:

- 1) A **price** to complete the Scope of Work based on the final construction Engineering Plan approved by EGLE.
- 2) A **date or timeline** to have the work completed, with a targeted date that would allow for a possible 2024 summer fill.
- 3) **Value Engineering** or proposals, not in the bid specification to improve the project implementation.

When the bid window closed, FLTF received 2 bids. **Neither bid met the requirements of construction timelines as both extended to late 2024.**

Bid Options . . .

FLTF indicates the bids were disappointing on both the Costs and the Timeline. FLTF had three options:

- 1) **Reject both bids** and start the bid process over - - would result in at least a 6-month delay.
- 2) Pick Fisher as the **lowest** responsible bidder - - Fisher was \$7.5 Million lower for the Second project.
- 3) **Pick Fisher and pursue a Target Costs Estimate (TCE) Model** to create a partnership where all parties have incentive to work together to lower the cost of the project while preserving the integrity of the final project.

Rejecting both bids and starting over was not a viable option.

Rejecting both bids and starting over was not a viable option. FLTF elected to award the Second project to Fisher with the TCE model.

FLTF understands the disappointment. It has the primary focus of implementation on Secord Dam, and it did everything it could, including the pull ahead projects. While Secord Dam will be restored in 2024, the FLTF worked hard for a spring or even early summer fill on the Northern Lakes. FLTF is disappointed the very early 2024 construction timeframe could not happen.

There is a plan in full motion to restore Secord dam in 2024.

You can read more about the bid process along with frequently asked questions with these documents prepared by the Association.

[FLTF Awards Bid for Secord](#)

[FAQ February 7, 2023](#)

J – April 26, 2023 → FLTF Informational Webinar

Wed April 26th 5 – 7 PM

FLTF will discuss restoration phase funding estimates and the capital assessment

Learn More at the FLTF Website



We will publish a summary and plan to discuss at our May 20th meeting.

TODAY **The Race within the Marathon**


2020					2021					2022					2023					2024																							
M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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<p>Secord Dam is on the Road to Restoration in 2024</p> <p>\$200 Million Grant Allows for Construction</p> <p>Secord EGLE Construction Permits Acquired</p> <p>Secord Construction is Under Way</p>																																											
																																											

DAM Construction


We discussed that these dams were built about 100 years using construction methods of that time. The maintenance and repairs on these dams were significantly less than today's standards due to the private ownership of the structures. Hence, the high hazard dam needs to be brought up to today's standards.

Mike Szuch is a professional engineer who lives on Secord that has worked on many large infrastructure projects around the state. He is a member of our Board. Mike reiterated the three key things EGLE requires in upgrades to Secord Dam before EGLE will issue a permit to allow the lake to fill.

May 2022



INDEPENDENT FORENSIC TEAM
FINAL REPORT
INVESTIGATION OF FAILURES OF EDENVILLE AND SANFORD DAMS



May 2022

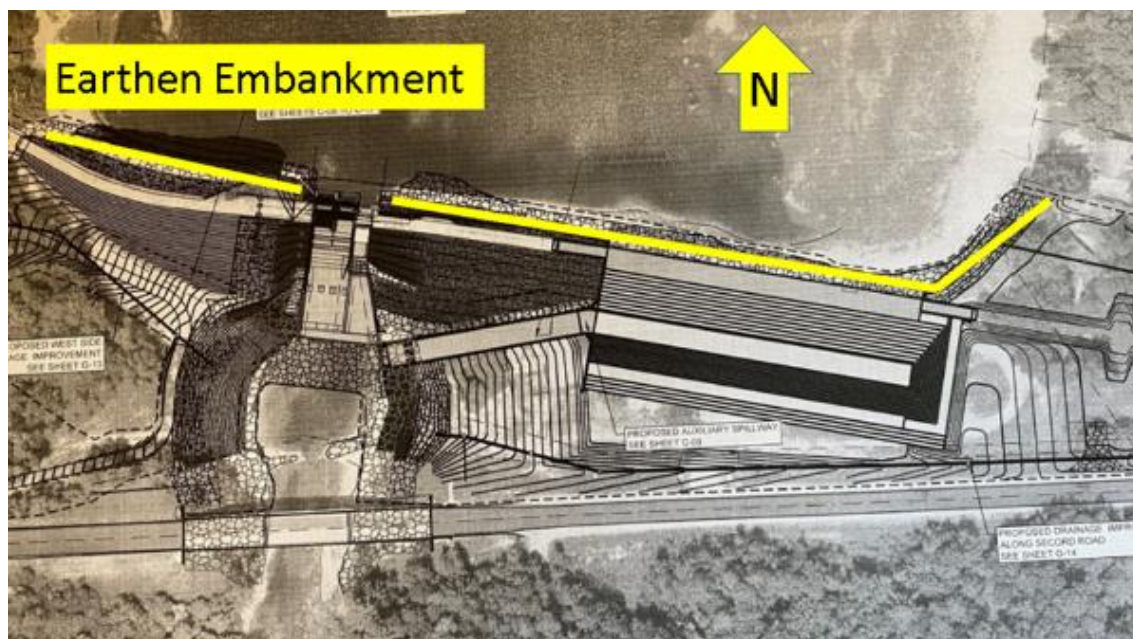
To obtain the regulatory agreement to fill Secord, at a high-level what 3 things need to be completed:

- 1) The length of the Secord Dam earthen embankment needs to be strengthened, and
- 2) An appropriate auxiliary spillway needs to be constructed, and
- 3) The primary spillways and gates need to be upgraded.

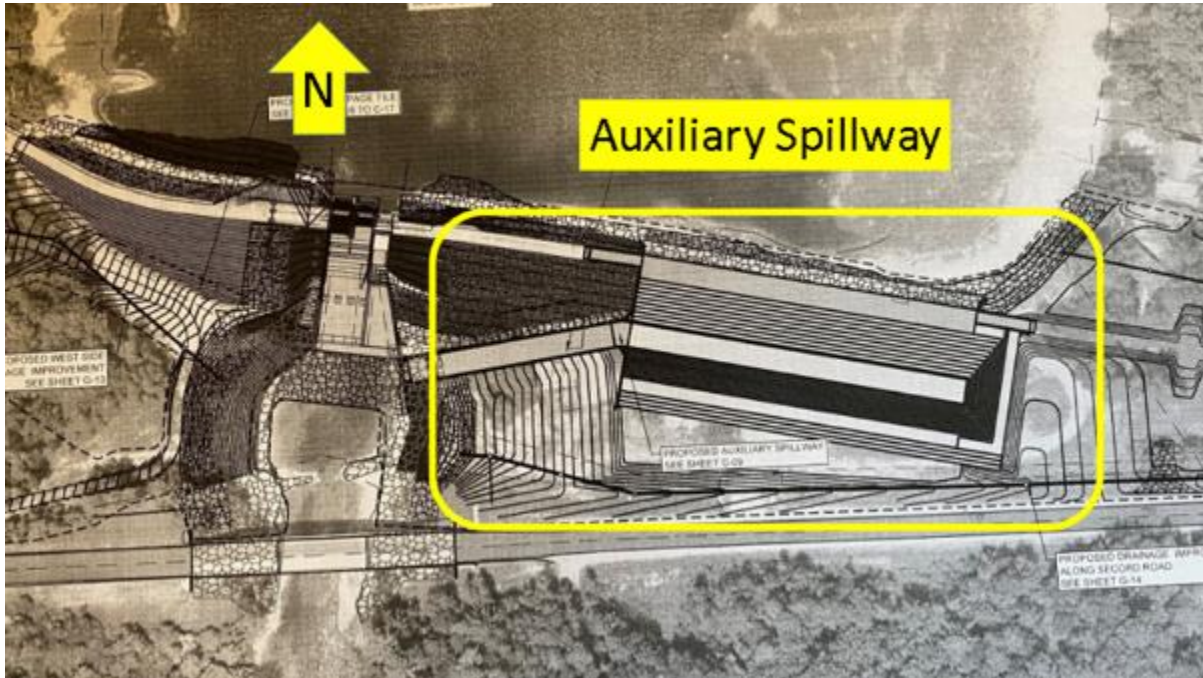
FLTF shares their Engineering work to date factored these Secord issues into their work. Essentially, they took a calculated risk with Engineering work, and they won! 24

Using drawings of the dam, Mike explained in simple terms the work that is underway to meet the requirements established by EGLE. These key points are identified by the corresponding drawing below.

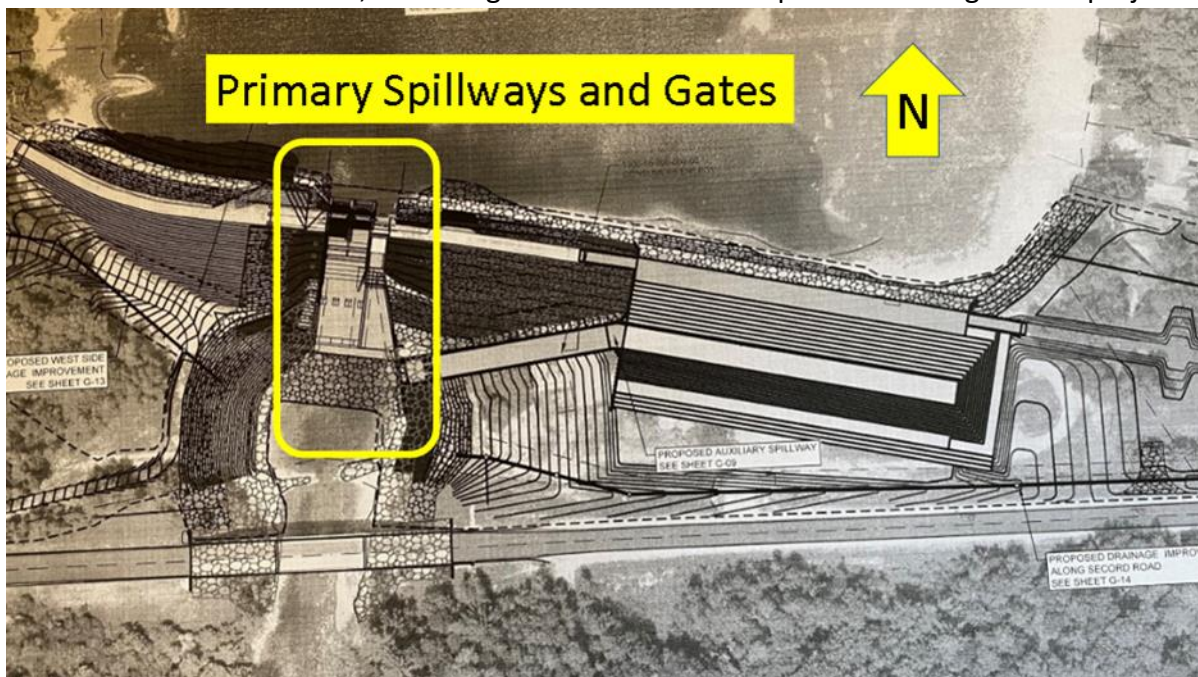
- A) The **Earthen Embankment** is being strengthened by the placement 497 steel sheet pilings. These pieces interlock and are driven into the bedrock.



- B) The **Auxiliary Spillway** is new to Secord Dam. It is designed to safely manage overflow. This concrete structure will be about the size of a football field and will have stair steps to help reduce the velocity of water should it flow over the Auxiliary Spillway. It will also include what Mike calls a “Toboggan Run” to disperse the overflow water into the river below the dam. This is a significant engineering / construction project.



- C) After the Auxiliary Spillway is complete, work to rebuild the **Primary Spillway and install new Gates** will begin. Mike explained how the Primary Spillway has been overlooked in discussions to this point and how that will be rebuilt. New, modern gates will be added as part of this stage of the project.



Mike shared there are three ways to get construction updates:

- 1) The Secord Lake Association will continue to provide updates via News You Can Use. Sign up for email updates at our website www.secordlakeassociation.org
- 2) The Secord Dam 24 HOUR LIVE CAM is running. The Association donated toward this installation. Go to YOUTUBE and search for Secord Live Camera.
- 3) The FLTF will issue monthly updates. You can access these via the FLTF. Below is the update Mike explained dated April 14, 2023 with a Secord Update from the Project Construction Manager.

Friday, April 14th

NOTES FROM GROVER
the Construction Manager

SECORD

Fisher Contracting completed driving the steel sheet pile in the crest of the embankment on both the west and east sides of the dam

The auxiliary spillway steel sheet pile construction will commence this week.

The portable concrete batch plant will be mobilized to the west side of the dam next week.

497 steel sheet piles have been drove into the crest of the embankments.

Secord RETAKE OUR LAKE Campaign

Joel Vernier started our education last summer on nuisance trees and weeds. He helped spotlight the need for a proactive Secord Lake plan to help prepare the lake to safely receive water. Feedback was received from members over the summer / fall 2022 as property owners began to address the lakebed in front of their lake homes.

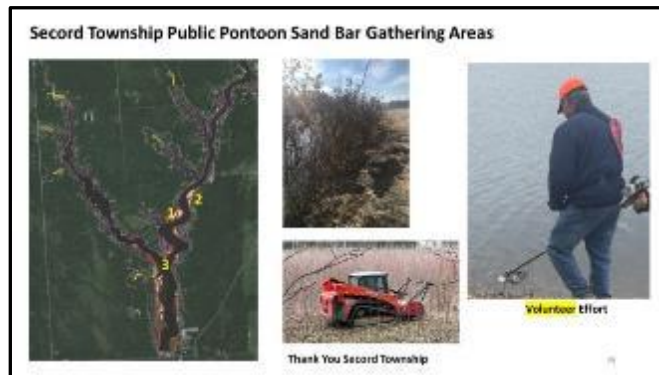
Joel explained how the nuisance trees continue to grow in height and girth with the importance of dealing with them now, rather than waiting. Homeowners are responsible for their lake front clean-up of new growth.



There has been a lot of work done over the winter to develop a plan based on member input. The committee started out as the Nuisance Tree and Weed Committee but changed their name to reflect the campaign to cover all of Secord Lake called **RETAKE OUR LAKE**.

The RETAKE OUR LAKE plan was reviewed with feedback provided during meetings with FLTF, Spicer Engineering and EGLE. Secord Township is partnered with our Association and has invested to mechanically cut large flats containing nuisance trees and the 3 public sandbar areas located within the township. We thank Joel and Secord Township for their partnership to help make these sandbar areas as safe as possible for waders, swimmers, and families when the water returns.

Clarification: While Joel is the Secord Township Supervisor, he is also on the Retake Our Lake Committee. This plan is designed to be executed across the entire Secord Lake community. With 69 miles of shoreline and 1100 acres of water, the entirety of Secord Lake will need a coordinated effort. This will take a volunteer effort to RETAKE OUR LAKE. NOTE: You do not need to be a member of the SLA to volunteer or help.



This plan requires everyone to work in concert. While some of the work will be hired out to professionals, thanks to fundraising efforts of the Association, most of the work will rely on volunteers. We covered each component at a high level and had copies of the Secord Lake RETAKE OUR LAKE Plan for participants to take.

You will find a link to this plan at the end of this document. Please read it to learn what you can do in front of your property, how neighbors can help neighbors and what other areas of the lake are being addressed. Please check the Association website for updated plans as we are learning as we move forward.



Click [HERE](#) for the most recent Secord RETAKE OUR LAKE plan

Q&A Session

Phil moderated a session where questions were taken. In reflection, the questions were “how” questions. How do we get rid of the tree debris? How can we reduce the amount of mulch and sticks that will be floating when water returns? How can we manage the public boat launches in the future? How can we secure additional grants to help reduce the cost?

There were several questions for Mike regarding the dam construction, process, and timelines for specific sections of the project. As the FLTF construction update Mike reported on was just released the Friday evening before our meeting, we have some research to do in this area. We look forward to continuing to provide monthly updates as we all get to watch the Auxiliary Spillway construction as the next phase.

We also had other engineers in the room that had an interest in the overall engineering plan and offered suggestions or questions we can ask the FLTF to gain a better understanding of the project and timelines.

Tami O'Donnell from the Wixom Lake Association, who also serves as a Gladwin County Commissioner was asked questions regarding how the Wixom Lake Association manages their lake bottom cleanup efforts. Tami talked about the importance of volunteers working together. She went on to share all the efforts at Wixom have been volunteer driven or paid for via fundraising efforts by their Association.

Tami described how they use Wixom Social to help connect the lake community with fun events leading to increased membership. If anyone at Secord is interested in starting something like this, please contact us at secordlakeassociation@gmail.com

During the presentation regarding lake improvement projects, Joel mentioned the township in conjunction with the FLTF is exploring a grant from the DNR SPARKS Program to possibly build a park with a handicapped accessible fishing pier and perhaps picnic areas. There were several questions regarding the park. Joel reiterated this is exploratory and the grant is the key to moving forward. Should a grant be awarded, the township will hold a public hearing for input before moving forward. Spicer Engineering has indicated they will

donate design and engineering services should the DNR SPARKS grant materialize. Tami added that all 4 Lakes are seeking grants as there is a desire as part of the overall restoration plan of the 4 Lakes to include handicapped accessible fishing areas.

We will be positioned to discuss the financial picture after the FLTF April 26th webinar. We had questions regarding the assessment and committed to follow up after the FLTF releases that information.

There are questions we need to research. These questions include the location and operation of the portable cement plant. We will also research questions regarding the bid and opportunities for incentives to finish early / under budget or penalties should the schedule be missed.

We also received additional questions after the program conclusion. We have captured these and plan to issue a Frequently Asked Questions publication in the coming weeks.

To learn more about the Association, or to sign up for email updates, please visit us at www.secdlakeassociation.org or visit our Facebook page.

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