



July 28, 2026
Frequently Asked Questions Received



SECORD KEY POINTS:

- 1) The plan to begin fill Secord to summer level for April 15, 2027, is still on schedule.
- 2) FLTF indicates Secord Lake is currently about 4-1/2 feet below normal summer lake level. Meaning about 1-1/2 feet below normal winter lake level.
- 3) This coming Winter 2026-27 lake level will remain in the current state we have experienced over the past few years.
- 4) Unlike the other 3 lakes, Secord dam was already elevated including at the winter level, it does not require a two-week pause period during refill.

Q1: When will Secord dam be substantially complete and what does that mean?

Substantial completion is the dam is functioning to impound water at the lake level. If one recalls the Sanford Dam update slide from the July 2026 FLTF webinar they listed the last of the items it was working on after substantial completion.

For Secord, FLTF had indicated substantially complete would be September 2026 with **lake fill occurring in April 2027**. EGLE/DNR regulations do not allow lakes to fill from Oct 1 to April 15 to protect hibernating wildlife and private property from ice damage.

The week after the gates were installed, FLTF issued the following on July 24, 2026:

“Property owners may notice that the gate in bay 2 of Secord Dam is being removed. The gate passed quality assurance tests before it left the factory, but unfortunately when we tried to install it, two pieces did not fit together correctly. We will ship both halves of the gate back to the factory over the next few days so repairs can be made in their facility rather than trying to address the issue in the field.”

“We hope to have the adjusted gate reinstalled in a month, meanwhile crews will continue working on other items while we wait. We do not believe this will impact getting the gate commissioned before the winter and **will not have an impact on the planned April 15, 2027, lake refill.**”

To reiterate, while the projected substantially complete date will move from September to before winter, the plan to begin lake fill April 15, 2027 is still on schedule.

Q2: When will Secord Lake be filled to legal lake level?

A: The plan to begin for April 15, 2027 is still on schedule.

Q3: What does “fill” look like based on the current lake level?

A: Water levels constantly fluctuate due to flow of water in and water out. As of July 27, 2026 FLTF indicates Secord Lake is currently about 4-1/2 feet below normal summer lake level.

Normal winter lake level will restart on Secord in Winter 2027-28 and 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.

Q4: Will there still be a winter lake level?

A: For this year 2026-27, NO. The lake level will remain in the current state we have experienced over the past few years. Water levels will fluctuate as in past years.

Once the lake is filled, YES. Winter level will occur from mid-December to mid-April as in past years starting in Winter 2027-28.

Q5: In a recent FLTF newsflash, there was the comment Secord is at winter level. What did this statement mean?

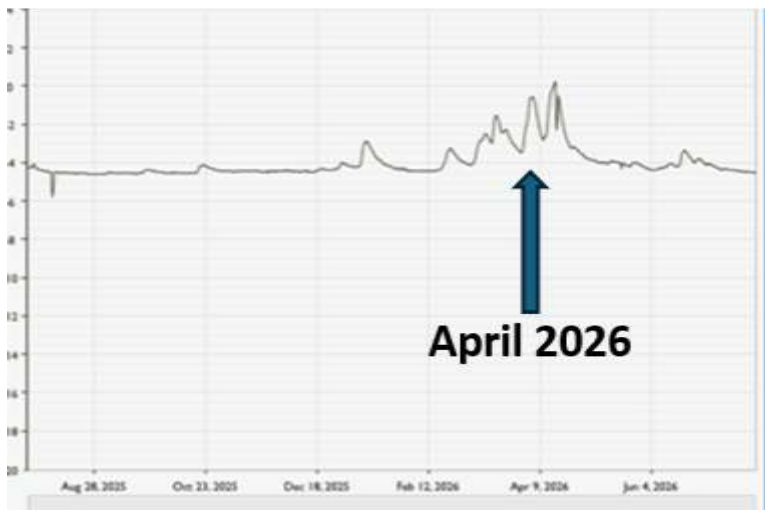
FLTF acknowledges that a clearer statement would have been “Secord has been at winter level”.

A: At completion Smallwood, Wixom and Sanford can be raised to winter level and then must hold for a minimum of 2 weeks to monitor the stability of the embankment. After two weeks, the lake can continue fill to summer level.

For Secord, due to higher water levels in past springs, the validation of the embankment is already complete. This past spring Secord’s level exceeded winter level, and the embankment was properly evaluated.

Secord Lake Level

Source: FLTF



Because Secord Lake is already elevated including at the winter level, it does not require a two-week pause period during refill.

Assuming normal snow melt and spring rain, Secord could fill to normal summer level in 7 to 14 days.

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

A: The water will divert through the low channel outlet, with the primary spillway able to impound water, so the gap in the auxiliary spillway where water flows today can be closed. The gap will be closed with a combination of steel and concrete, just like the rest of the auxiliary spillway. A heavy cofferdam will not be needed based on the width of the gap and relatively low follow rate.

Should you have additional questions, we welcome them at SecordLakeAssociation@gmail.com

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 15 at 10 AM – Secord Township Hall.

Saturday, Aug 15

Saturday, Sept 12

Saturday, Oct 10

SLA Golf Outing – Saturday, Sept 19

SLA Chili Cook Off – Saturday, Oct 17

