



FLTF Informational Webinar Recap March 4, 2026

This provides key points from the FLTF informational webinar held Wednesday, March 4, 2026. We encourage you to listen to the entire 1 hour 45 minute webinar, which includes a lengthy Q&A session at the link below: <https://www.four-lakes-taskforce-mi.com/document-library-21/march-4-2026-webinar>

FLTF provides construction updates by dam. At the 50-minute mark of the webinar FLTF shares more on timing, and construction for Secord Dam.

TIMING

- Timing for Secord substantial completion remains **Sept 2026**. Crews are beginning to prepare for gates.

ASSESSMENT

- FLTF went into detail during the first 50 minutes regarding project costs, grants, assessments, and next steps with bond issuance. If this is an area of interest, we encourage you to listen to the webinar at the link provided above.
- There will be more information provided to property owners by mail and FLTF website in early April.

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

A: Once construction is substantially complete, and EGLE issues a permit, fill can take place. FLTF indicates assuming the construction schedule remains, and EGLE issues permit, the plan is for this coming fall.

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 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 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. We followed up after the webinar. To address this specific question, as of Saturday (March 7, 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 December 2026.

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

As stated, FLTF **cannot** fill per the permit 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, even if it could get to the winter 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 will begin to communicate their plans for the coming season to customers and the lake community in April.

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 make sure to share details. When the primary spillway is complete the water will divert through the new gates. What we experienced in June 2024 will take place in reverse.

The water will divert through the new gates; the lake level will lower a bit so the gap in the auxiliary spillway where water flows today can be closed. Likely it will be a combination of steel and concrete. When completed, the water will return to its level today. Or EGLE could issue the permit allowing fill to normal summer lake level around this time. More to come as details become available.

Q7: As a property owner, what can I do over the next 6 months to prepare for full legal lake level?

A: 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).

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, June 20
Saturday, August 15
Saturday, October 10

Saturday, May 16
Saturday, July 18
Saturday, September 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

< END >