



Secord Lake Restoration Update – Oct 28, 2022

Members of the Secord Lake Association (SLA) attended the ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM hosted by the Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF) on October 20th. This full day symposium provided the opportunity for updates from FLTF, their Engineers and various stakeholders. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) was available all day for questions and a formal presentation was made by Liesl Clark, Director, (EGLE).

Here is a high-level summary of key points related to the reconstruction of Secord Dam:

Recall, the past 2 years we shared to obtain required construction permits, 3 things need to be in place.

- 1) 100% Engineering with detailed construction and regulatory plans, **and**
- 2) Funding for construction, **and**
- 3) A flow of funding in place for long-term operations, repairs, and maintenance.

With the approval of the special assessment by the counties in July, both funding requirements are completed. The FLTF has submitted 100% Engineering plans to EGLE for Secord. EGLE has already completed the public comment period. The FLTF expects final approval from EGLE within the coming weeks. In her comments, EGLE Director Clark indicated restoration of the dams to meet today's standards focusing on safety is a priority for her team.

What's Next?

To obtain the regulatory agreement to fill Secord, at a high-level 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 gates need to be upgraded.

The FLTF obtained agreement from EGLE for “pull ahead” projects at Secord. The installation of the rock and steel sheet piling is underway. Once completed, the rock and sheet piling will strengthen the embankment. These steel pieces are 65 feet in length and are being installed by construction engineers into the glacial till below the surface. This is a fascinating project, and we plan to provide more detail.



Once EGLE approves the 100% Engineering plan, the formal bid process will begin for the balance of the project. We will provide updates as things develop.

At this point, barring raw material or other unforeseen issues, the FLTF and their Engineers project the Secord Dam reconstruction improvements will be completed at the end of 2023. Due to the number of boat lifts; portable piers and other property that could be damaged by ice, the plan is to allow Mother Nature to fill Secord Lake with the Spring thaws / rains in 2024.

Secord is on schedule to be returned in 2024 – The Secord Lake Association is beginning to focus on what is needed over the next 18 months to prepare Secord to return. There is planning work underway on weed / tree control and removal. **We seek volunteers to help prepare the lake for its return.** You can learn more at [Secord Lake | Secord Lake Association | Restoring Secord](#)