



25-June-2022

## Operations / Maintenance Assessment is a Key Next Step

As we approach the Gladwin County and Midland County votes on July 12, 2022 to implement the Operations / Maintenance assessment, there is a lot of information available. There are links below so you can review the materials. Here are key take aways:

- 1) We learned during the letter writing campaign, this is a connected waterway (Tittabawassee Water System). Each dam is reliant on the other to operate properly and safely. The counties own and will manage the dams as a system, not individual impoundments.
- 2) Both Midland County and Gladwin County have been assessed an “at large assessment” for dam maintenance and operations which is paid for by each county separate from the lake owners’ maintenance and operations assessment. For the three years, Midland County (with one lake) is assessed \$164,220. Gladwin County (with three lakes) is assessed \$140,760.
- 3) While the assessment is planned to go into effect in Dec 2022; Secord and Smallwood are scheduled to return in 2024; Sanford in 2025 and Wixom in 2026. The Operations / Maintenance assessment will be reviewed and modified in the summer 2024.
- 4) The \$200 Million MI Grant provides funding through construction. There will not be a construction assessment until the 2024/25 timeframe.
- 5) Secord and Smallwood are currently in the permitting stage. Without permits the process cannot move to construction. There are numerous permits required from various regulatory agencies. Some permits require that funding for Construction and Operations/Maintenance/Repairs be in place for the permit to be approved. If there is no funding in place for Maintenance and Operations, the progress may stop.
- 6) The \$200 Million MI Grant is for construction. It does not cover other costs.
- 7) Restoration construction work on Secord and Smallwood is now expected to pull ahead and we may see construction work on the Secord Dam in 2022, provided we obtain approval of the Operations and Maintenance SAD and we obtain the permit approvals. The state funds are designated for the 2023 construction plans but is currently not part of the 2022 budget. Funds to be used for construction of dams in 2022 will be voted on at the next board meeting.
- 8) FLTF and others are seeking additional grants to cover costs which are not covered by the \$200M grant from the state of Michigan. As a connected system, future grants will benefit all property owners and may reduce the future construction SAD. This is one of the many benefits of the 4 lakes being treated as the Tittabawassee Water System.
- 9) There will be a need for ongoing funding for operations, maintenance, and repairs over the lifetime of the dam structures which will be regularly addressed with the Operations and Maintenance SAD. This has always been part of the FLTF planning.

In the coming years, once the lakes are restored, and all cost / grants are accounted for, the FLTF has indicated there will be time to review costs associated with Operations / Maintenance & Repairs and make any adjustments to the future Operations and Maintenance SAD in accordance with actual costs incurred. The legal process to determine the special assessment role provides the opportunity to do so.

We continue to focus our energy / resources to restore Secord in 2024. You can learn more here:

[assessment computation of cost letter final 6.12.22.pdf \(four-lakes-taskforce-mi.com\)](#)

[restoration and financing plan update final 3.pdf \(four lakes-taskforce-mi.com\)](#)

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