



Summary of Secord Lake Association Meeting – June 15, 2024

We held our 3rd meeting of the new season. We appreciate the positive energy and engagement that filled Secord Township Hall. We provided an update on the Secord dam restoration as a significant milestone was reached with the completion of the Auxiliary Spillway. We discussed our current challenges and opportunities.

There are no new developments in the legal opposition to the funding to complete construction. We are waiting for the judge to render a ruling. At this point, Secord dam is scheduled to have construction paused in September. We are hopeful the legal wrangling will be resolved to avoid additional delays and added cost to construction. We will provide an update as soon as more information is available.

Lake Improvements → Wait and See Mode

Our Members Make A Difference - - - we are blessed - - - THANK YOU!

We will continue our:

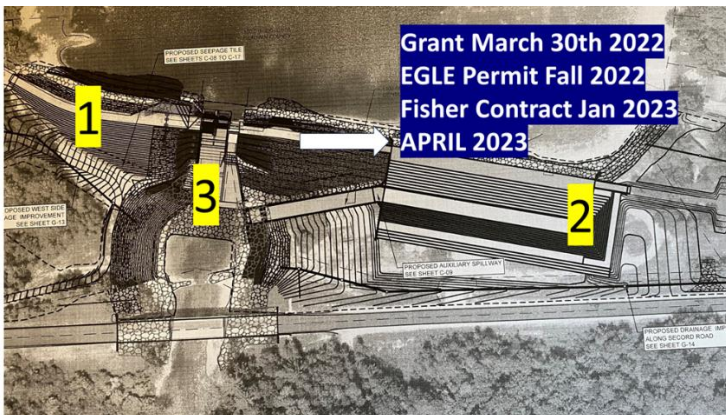
- Retake Our Lake initiative
 - \$ for volunteer clean up efforts
 - A grant program for Members that need to secure EGLE permits for beach / dock / seawall improvements
- Communication / Outreach to the Secord Lake Community.

We have explored additional options:

- Another donation to FLTF
- Support of Secord Fire Rescue Boat engine
- Annual Goose Round-Up
- Participation in a program for assessment assistance for those in need

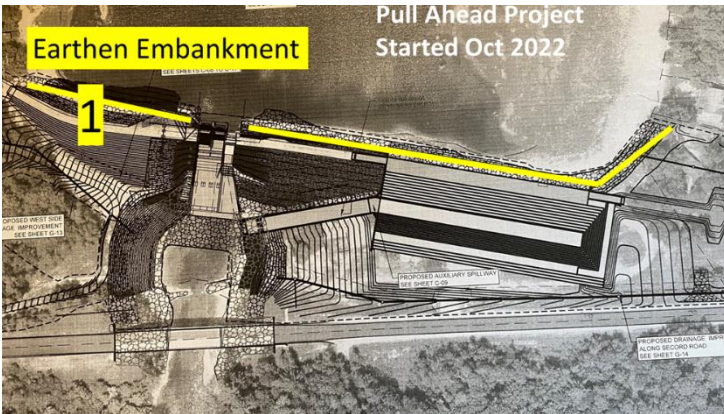
Brent provided an overview of the financial position. He thanked Members for their generous support and mentioned several new Members and renewals were received the past month.

He mentioned with the current legal situation the Board is in a “wait and see mode” regarding bringing ideas to utilize funds for Membership to consider. We look forward to sharing more ideas once we have a clear path forward for Secord.



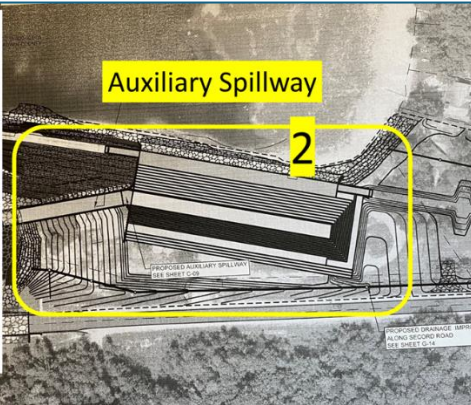
Chuck and Jeff provided a construction update. We were reminded EGLE issued an order in June 2021 requiring three safety upgrades to Secord dam. (1) the embankment needs to be reinforced; (2) an appropriate auxiliary spillway built and (3) appropriate upgrades to the primary spillway to included new gates.

We used engineering drawings shared by Mike in April 2023 to provide the update.



The pull ahead project to install the sheet piling to enforce the embankment is complete.

- 1) Meet or exceed EGLE Dam Safety Requirements
- 2) Protect Second Dam Road Bridge
- 3) Utilize the small footprint available to build the Auxiliary Spillway



While Facebook contains “dam safety experts” that criticize the auxiliary spillway, the spillway was designed to meet three major criteria.

- (1) To meet or exceed EGLE dam safety standards.
- (2) To PROTECT the Second Dam Bridge.
- (3) To utilize the small footprint available to build the auxiliary spillway.



The auxiliary spillway is complete. This past week a major milestone as water is diverted to bypass the primary spillway and is running down the auxiliary spillway to the river below.

Chuck was onsite when the gates were closed as the water ran down the new auxiliary spillway. He shared a video that has been posted to our Facebook page.

Mike shared as a professional engineer involved in infrastructure projects across Michigan the significance of this milestone. He reinforced the complexity of the auxiliary spillway due to the constraints outlined. He also shared perspective regarding “time.”

Mike went on to explain the Gordie Howe Bridge was connected this past week joining the two sides of the Detroit River. Mike was on a team that began some of the planning work. That work began in 2005 - - - almost 20 years ago. The key point, engineering like what we have on Secord dam takes time and money to complete. The fact Secord is moving to the next phase of construction in about 4 years is a significant accomplishment in the complex work of infrastructure engineering.

Phase 3 of Secord Dam Restoration
This is expected early / mid June

- Cofferdam in place, pour select concrete in the Primary Spillways to stabilize it.
- Divert water flow through new Auxiliary spillway by lowering a section of wall.
- **Water level at the dam projected to rise 1 foot.**
- **Some gently sloped shorelines / sand bars may see water move up to 4 feet closer to shore.**
- This will allow for Primary Spillway upgrade and installation of new Gates.

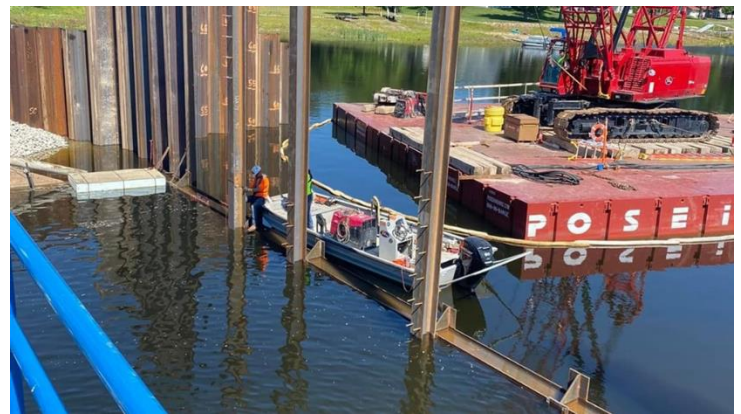


We encourage you to clean lakebed areas of nuisance trees prior to June. It will be difficult should the water cover them.

Secord dam has moved to Phase 3 to bring the primary spillway to current standards and install new gates.

FLTF ordered the gates several years ago and they are scheduled to arrive this summer.

We have witnessed the lake level rise due to the water being diverted. This was communicated to the lake community by the association over the past year.




Two coffer dams (a temporary dam) will be utilized to hold back the water around the primary spillway to provide a safe, dry environment for construction. One will be on the lakeside of the dam and the other on the stream side.

The current water level is expected to remain at current levels until construction is completed. We will also continue to provide updates on the progress of phase 3.

What Else Can We Do?

Retake Our Lake



What YOU Can Do in Front of Your Place.

- Volunteer Effort
- Neighborhood Captain
- Neighbor Helping Neighbor
- Professional Contractors Available
- You CAN cut Stumps, You CANNOT Dig them out
- Details on SLA Website

If we don't continue to manage the nuisance trees, they will win.

We were reminded of the need to continue to manage nuisance trees. Comments were made that overall, lake property owners have stepped up to manage the lakebed in front of their properties.

There was discuss regarding property owners that have not addressed their lakebed. The team will continue to communicate the need to the lake community and will explore additional ideas.

A thanks to Joel as Secord Township Supervisor for the partnership to clear public gathering spots of nuisance trees to include the public sandbars; West Branch point and bay; the southern West River Drive side and a large area along south Lakeshore Drive.

We also thanked the team of Paul, Don, and their family / neighbors for their continued management of the main sandbar. A shout out to the West River volunteers that cleared Tire Island this past Fall. The combined efforts of the townships, property owners and SLA volunteers is preparing Secord to safely receive water.

We realize there is more to do, however, we celebrate success and our volunteers!

You can read a copy of the Retake Our Lake plan prepared by the lake association in conjunction with FLTF, Spicer Engineering and EGLE. This plan was created in December 2022 and is still relevant as it explains what property owners “can do”.

https://www.secordlakeassociation.org/files/ugd/cd86dd_192eb9e8bdcd46659ff5397c3ad16371.pdf



Our Members are aware and supportive of the efforts of our team to continue to seek funds to help reduce the assessment for **ALL** property owners.

This work started in May 2021 and continues as we utilize our learning and relationships.

We continue to meet with key elected officials at the State and Federal level to seek funding for the special assessment district.

An unfortunate reality of the current situation. Our state representatives Mike Hoadley and Bill Schuette Jr indicate the current legal challenge to the project has their “hands tied” in Lansing. There is no appetite by other legislators to engage in discussions about additional funding due to the uncertainty. To illustrate the point, Bill tried to get an appropriation from the EGLE budget for \$50 million to help offset construction costs. That motion was defeated. We hope both Mike and Bill Jr win their elections in November so they can continue to support our efforts and try again.

THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

We are engaged with the teams from both Congressional representatives Kildee and Moolenaar. Each year, members of Congress can direct federal resources to local projects. Representatives Kildee and Moolenaar submitted funding requests to the House Appropriations Committee. **We are pleased to learn collectively they have requested allocations of \$5.25 million to the Four Lakes Special Assessment District.**

As Sanford is in Congressman Kildee’s district, he requested \$3 million to be used for mechanical, electrical and plumbing improvements on Sanford Dam.

As Edenville is in Congressman Moolenaar’s district, he requested \$2.25 million to be directed for architectural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing on Edenville Dam.

“This will help offset the cost of restoration of Secord, Smallwood, Edenville and Sanford Dams,” said Dave Kepler, president of the FLTF, “The Four Lakes Task Force will specifically leverage this funding for items necessary for the operations of the dams. **Federal investments in the project help lower the costs to property owners in the Four Lakes Special Assessment District.**”

We will know if the requests are approved when the overall congressional budget is approved so it may be some time before we hear.

The way the FLTF is funding the overall projects allows all property owners to benefit from grants and donations. You can learn more here: [Congressmen Kildee and Moolenaar Request Funding for FLTF Projects - FOUR LAKES TASK FORCE \(four-lakes-taskforce-mi.com\)](https://four-lakes-taskforce-mi.com)

Join The Secord Fun!

4th Annual Golf Outing

DATE: September 21, 2024



3rd Annual Chili Cook Off

DATE: October 12, 2024



Our meetings, updates and social functions are available and open to **ALL**. We look forward to the Secord Lake Community joining in these fun events.

Brent is coordinating our 4th annual Golf Outing at Gladwin Heights. The outing is **OPEN TO ALL** with room for 36 teams. Brent indicated a sell out last year and there are already 4 teams signed up for this year. **PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.** Click [HERE](#) to learn more

Paul is coordinating this year’s 3rd annual CHILI COOK OFF. This year’s event will be held at the Secord Eagles. The CHILI COOK OFF is a fun event that is **OPEN TO ALL**. Paul informed us over the weekend that Chad and Rich have agreed to bring their high energy to the event again this year as our MC’s / DJ’s. More details to come.

Mike is organizing a popular raffle item - - - the Booze Basket. If you want to donate a bottle or mixer toward the basket, Mike will be happy to accept your donation on behalf of the association.

These events are made possible by the generosity of our sponsors. Marti is spearheading this area and will be reaching out to existing and new sponsors. A single sponsorship is for both events, placement on our website page and a Facebook thank you posting.

We seek volunteers to help with these events. If you have an interest, please reach out to us.

secordlakeassociation@gmail.com

OUR MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE - - Membership is not required to participate, however, it is appreciated. An annual membership is just \$25 or 5 years for \$100. You can learn more:

<https://www.secordlakeassociation.org/membership>

DNR Forestry Clearing

While not a “lake” issue, this is an area of interest for the Secord area. We appreciate Ken for his active participation in the association. He is engaged in understanding why areas are left in the condition they are after the clearing of trees. And how improvements can be made to provide a clear, safe environment to allow the forest to regenerate while the public can safely walk the area without risk of injury.

State	vs	Private Clearing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piles of logs everywhere • No Or Minimal Quality Trees Remaining • Large And Deep Ruts From Equipment • Unwalkable, Limited or NO Access 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth Terrain • Strategically Remaining Quality Trees • Smooth Grassy Areas Promotes New Growth • Open Access For Walkers, Hikers and Hunters
		

After research, Ken brought to the attention of the DNR the difference in how land is left after clear cutting by the State vs Private Contractors.

In working with the DNR, they discovered situations where the contract outlining how the area is to be left is not being followed or enforced.

Ken has action steps in place with a local DNR official to learn more and to implement improvements to the process.

FOREST MANAGEMENT CONCERN – Ken Wells

DNR Commitment From Their Web Page The DNR is committed to providing for the conservation, protection, management, **use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations**. Its vision is vital, healthy and abundant forests that provide social, economic and ecological benefits to all.

My Concern There may be a disconnect between the DNR stated commitment and reality. The condition of the land after foresting is complete appears almost inaccessible. This is a result of piles of wood, stumps, many logs and ruts. In my opinion these conditions deny people the opportunity for a quality outdoor experience until which time the forest has completely regenerated itself; which will take many years.

Action Taken

- 1) Presented my concerns at a public DNR meeting with the **Timber & Forest Products Advisory Council**
- 2) I was told the local Unit Manager would reach out to me to develop a better understanding of my concerns.
- 3) Secured Secord community input, support and suggestions on Facebook.
- 4) Met with the **Gladwin Unit Manager Blair Tweedale** and learned details on the forestry process and contracts.
- 5) I then identified three areas of concern and asked Blair to review the state of these forest projects vs the contract commitments.

Note on The Contracts The contracts with the forest clearing companies can include very specific requirements regarding piles of sticks (aka “slash”), ruts, stumps and trees to remain or chipping requirements. For example piles of sticks and logs should be spaced out and not continuous, ruts should not be deep or long, stumps should not exceed two feet tall etc.

FOREST MANAGEMENT CONCERN – Findings & Call to Action

Meeting With Blair Tweedale I expressed concerns regarding three areas and asked him to review the areas and provide me feedback. I received the following information back.

Lakehore Drive & M-61

- This sites is still in an 'active' status. The site is going to be chipped, which involves another crew to come in.
- The wet/ soft spots should be avoided. However, if possible, the equipment operators will work to smooth out rutted areas.

M-61 west of Deer Rd

- This area too may be chipped still. It is currently under contract.

Ridge Rd East of Three Rivers

- Slash is piled at landing to prevent vehicular traffic down the closed access road in the area.
- Regarding wet rut spots, I (Blair) will be heading out that way to look at the ruts to see if we can do anything to correct it.

Call to Action

I will follow up regarding the input received and also continue to look for other possible areas with violations. I will also be reviewing future plans to try to influence “chipping” as a consistent requirement. Some piles for small game are understood as needed. Rows and rows of trees on the ground, piles of stumps and ruts that are violations are not.

Ask of Community Let me know via Facebook PM of areas of concern and reach out to Blair and express your concerns. If possible attend the upcoming open house to learn more about future plans and express your opinions.

<p>Blair Tweedale, Gladwin Unit Manager Michigan DNR- Forest Resources Division 801 N. Silverleaf St. Gladwin, MI 48624 989-426-9205 x. 226-7640 tweedaleb1@michigan.gov</p>	<p>Open House Tuesday July 9th, 2024 3 pm-6pm: Gladwin Compartment Review OPEN HOUSE. Topic: Discuss 2026 planned management activities. This an in-person public comment opportunity.</p>
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If you have questions regarding this topic (DNR Forestry Clearing), please contact us and we will connect you with Ken.
SecordLakeAssociation@gmail.com

During the Q&A session, we received feedback from Members, coupled with several questions and suggestions regarding the current legal situation. We will report back with an update once the Midland Circuit Court renders a ruling.

This current legal situation is yet another test of our resolve to restore Secord. There has been so much progress made since the summer of 2020 to work through the complexity of engineering and funding to get to this point of the project.

There were several questions regarding construction phase 3. To summarize:

- The current water level is expected to remain until construction is complete. There may be modest fluctuations due to precipitation. We realize some people need to adjust their temporary docks due to the water's rise.
- We are working with our local lake experts (Scott and Mike) to determine the potential impact winter ice may pose. Our plan is to engage Warren from Spicer Engineering, with Scott and Mike to help us understand 2024-25 winter water levels. More to come as some Members have questions / concerns regarding their docks / lifts.

The increased water level will invite more boaters. While the Association cannot regulate, **we suggest people with boats on the water SLOW ROLL. There are still stumps beneath the surface that will cause damage to your engine, or your passengers if you hit them hard.** While some trees and stumps have been marked by individuals, not all have. The stumps we saw before the water modest rise are still there. The lack of safe ice this past year did not allow for any cutting by the Association.

Second reason for the **SLOW ROLL** suggestion - - - **EROSION. Shorelines are not protected by sea walls.** Be courteous to your neighbors by not causing a wake that can damage other's property. A **NO WAKE** relaxing boat ride will be safer while reducing for our friends and neighbor's expensive shoreline erosion caused by boat wakes.

At this point, due to the legal challenge negating the FLTF from obtaining additional funding to complete construction, work is scheduled to pause at Secord Dam in September. First, we hope this does not happen. Second, if work is suspended the dam structure will be in a state to be safely maintained and monitored until work continues. We will keep you updated.

With the move to phase 3, there is anticipation by Members should there not be a delay, water may return in 2025. At this point, the FLTF indicates completion of Secord Dam with all permits fulfilled in the November 2025 timeframe. We can be optimistic the timeline could be compressed, but there are many moving parts and variables. The largest being the delay caused by the legal proceedings. At this point, it is simply too early to speculate. We will keep you updated.

There was discussion regarding how to get property owners that have not dealt with nuisance trees to do so. The Association has no ability to regulate or enforce compliance, we will continue to make suggestions. We can each take it upon ourselves to inform and perhaps help our neighbors. One of the keys to success has been "Neighbor Helping Neighbor." We believe this an appropriate course of action. We are open to ideas and the team will explore additional ideas suggested.

We continue to seek additional support and funding to reduce assessments for ALL. We continue to seek legislation to help seniors and disabled that meet certain requirements. We are exploring possibilities to join a foundation to provide assessment assistance to those in need. WE ARE FOCUSED ON HELPING ALL, not just a select group of people.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 20th at 10 AM – Secord Township Hall.

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