



FOUR LAKES TASK FORCE October News

EVENTS

October 12, 2023
Project Updates Webinar
3-4:30 p.m.
[Register](#)

October 30, 2023
Four Lakes Task Force
Board Meeting
12-2:00 p.m.
Swanton Memorial Center

UPCOMING DATES

November:
Special assessment
computation of costs

December:
Special assessment day
of review

January:
Public hearing for
assessment

February:
Board approval of
assessment



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The cost escalations in construction across the country have been significant and still continue. In our [August webinar](#) we covered this issue, and the potential overall impact to our projects. In the [October 12th webinar](#) we will provide updated costs and timelines for all the dams.

With Secord and Smallwood dams fully contracted and under construction, and Sanford having its bids assigned, we have more certainty on costs, and we will be over the high range of the 2022 project estimate. While we haven't taken the remaining Edenville construction completely out to bid, we will likely be over \$320 million for the entire project.

We are looking at all areas to mitigate this escalation. The critical issue is to get all the dams permitted and under construction as time is money in this market. We have been proactive on items that we could, for example we got early bids and commitments of the fabrication of gates and equipment, and pulled ahead as much work as we could permit.

We continue to look for other funding sources to lower the burden, and this will be a major focus as we get the dams permitted. I encourage you to join us for the October 12 webinar.

While we have headwinds for sure, we have an outstanding team and an engaged community to bring back all four lakes. Thank you all for your support.

BIDDING PROCESS FOR SANFORD COMPLETED

Working with Spence Brothers as the construction manager on Sanford, we completed the final round of bidding the project by breaking it down into divisions. The bids are located [here](#). While we reduced the cost by almost \$10 million from previously-rejected estimates, the total project cost is approximately \$90 million. This is \$20 million over our planning estimate in May of 2022.

FLOOD PLAN REVISIONS FOR TITABAWASSEE BETWEEN EDENVILLE AND SANFORD

A Notice of Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) will be provide in the coming weeks, as a requirement by the State and FEMA for the permitting of the Edenville Dam. Once the Notice is approved by FEMA we will publish it.

APPLICATION IN PROGRESS FOR CORPS WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING PROGRAM (CWIFP)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is providing long-term, flexible loans for dam safety projects. FLTF will submit its preliminary application this week and anticipates a response from the Army Corps by late December. If our preliminary application is approved then we will be eligible to receive funding through the CWIFP Loan Program. This loan program is far more favorable than municipal financing with lower interest rates and flexible terms that would benefit the FLTF SAD.

Dave Kepler, President, Four Lakes Task Force

UPCOMING MILESTONES

Sanford permit anticipated
mid October 2023

Conditional Letter of Map
Revision will be provided in
October

M-30 road closure
October 18 through
November 1

SECORD DAM



Concrete pours on the stilling basin continue. The lower level outlet demolition and concrete pouring are still ongoing but making good progress. Upcoming is the lower spillway chute that started excavation this week and we will be starting the micropile installations on the right abutment.

SMALLWOOD DAM



There is a lot of concrete pouring taking place at Smallwood Dam. Areas with ongoing concrete pouring include the lower level outlet walls, upper chute stilling basin, baffle blocks, and end still (pictured left). Pictured right is a crew pouring concrete for the lower spillway chute.

EDENVILLE DAM

Embankment work and installation of the soil-cement-bentonite (SCB) seepage prevention wall is now on the dam embankment west of the M-30 bridge. After this phase, the restoration of the embankment will continue through next summer.



The final phase of completing the auxiliary and two primary spillways will be sent out yet this year, with plans to start construction in the spring. We are engaged with EGLE, EPA and USFWS on permitting.

A two-week road closure is planning on M-30 at the Wixom Lake bridge starting Wednesday, October 18th to allow completion of the SCB wall. Traffic will be routed around the closure via Curtis Road, M-18 and Dale Road.



SAFETY FACT: We installed analytical instruments called Pizeometers and Inclometers at the Edenville Dam embankment while SCB cutoff wall work progresses. These sensitive instruments detect slight changes in water pressure and movement of the embankment while the heavy equipment is trenching on the crest allowing the work to be done safely and without damaging the earth filled embankment.

SANFORD DAM



No physical progress has been made on Sanford Dam since the last report. The permit submission is complete and we are waiting for approval from EGLE and the EPA - expected this month.

Contractor selection is complete. Spence Brothers and Fisher Contracting will continue to locate and prepare job site trailers for occupancy during construction in the parking area on the south end of Sanford Lake Park.

All parties understand the need to start the project in the next couple of weeks to avoid further schedule delays and cost increases.

