



FOUR LAKES TASK FORCE April News

EVENTS

May 14, 2024
Informational Webinar
5:00-7:00 p.m.

May 16, 2024
Board Meeting
12:00-2:00 p.m.
Swanton Hall

May 29, 2024
Appeal Oral Arguments

July 10, 2024
Informational Webinar
5:00-7:00 p.m.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This April newsletter provides a summary of the last month of construction progress which continues on all four dams. The court will hear oral arguments on May 29th regarding the appeal of the special assessments. We will provide a new schedule and progress update at the May 14th webinar.

- Dave Kepler, President, Four Lakes Task Force

APPEAL BRIEFING SCHEDULE DETERMINED

On March 27, a briefing schedule related to the Heron Cove Appeal was determined and agreed to by all parties. Judge Beale of the 42nd Circuit Court of Midland will hear oral arguments on May 29, 2024. The Heron Cove Association filed their Brief on Appeal on March 26th. FLTF plans to file their brief on appeal in the coming week.

Regarding the lawsuits filed by Heron Cove Association: FLTF has not been served with the new lawsuits but is aware that complaints were filed in Midland and Gladwin circuit courts. The new complaints appear to be premature as there is a pending administrative appeal in Midland Circuit Court before Judge Beale. Once FLTF is formally served, we will respond in court.

FOUR LAKES' DAMS ANTICIPATED WORK SUSPENSION SCHEDULE

DAM	SUSPENSION DATE AND DESCRIPTION
Secord	July 2024 Shortly after the completion of the auxiliary spillway and stabilization of the primary spillway
Smallwood	August 2024 After auxiliary spillway is complete and the primary spillway is stabilized
Edenville	May 2024 Phase V (final phase) of the Edenville Dam, planned to start by May (pending permit), is now delayed until financing September 2024 After completion of the current embankment improvement project (Phase IV)
Sanford	December 2024 After completion of the current east side work

UPCOMING MILESTONES

Begin Sanford primary spillway work

Complete Smallwood cofferdams so work can begin on the primary spillway

Complete Secord auxiliary spillway by end of April

Edenville Phase V EGLE Permit

SECORD DAM



Work on Secord Dam is nearing completion to accommodate the suspension period. This work includes forming and installing walls in the auxiliary spillway chute as well as preparing and pouring a concrete spillway stilling basin and the stilling basin steps. Once complete, the auxiliary spillway and basin will allow minimum river flows during the suspension period. Various structures, pipe and filter material are being installed in the right embankment. As material is installed, the right embankment is backfilled and graded for stabilization.

SMALLWOOD DAM



The bypass siphon systems were successfully installed to maintain minimum river flow during the suspension of work. The siphon system allows crews to complete concrete work on the dam itself. The auxiliary spillway chute is complete. Work on both cofferdams upstream and downstream is ongoing.

EDENVILLE DAM



As discussed in earlier reports, current ongoing activities at Edenville are limited to restoration of the existing embankment and installation of a “cutoff wall” in the embankment to prevent seepage of water through the embankment if/when the reservoir is refilled. The cutoff wall was completed in November 2023 and embankment restoration, which includes stone filter installation, embankment reshaping and upstream rip-rap placement is 65% complete. The remaining 35% of activity should be completed in September 2024, at which time construction activity at Edenville Dam will cease. The EPA made comments on the Phase V permit. FLTF is working with EGLE to complete the Phase V permit in the next month.

SANFORD DAM



Dewatering consisted of erecting a watertight cofferdam upstream and downstream of the spillway and powerhouse and pumping the water out. An unusually high amount of water leakage occurred between the steel sheet piling panels which required the joints of the sheets to be sealed. The sealing activity caused a slight delay in completing this important activity.

The project team adjusted the existing construction schedule to coordinate with the ongoing suspension of project activity. Top work priorities are on existing low level outlet demolition, right embankment excavation, primary spillway demolition and construction along with required spillway pier modifications. Left embankment work will be limited to installation of a flood wall and operational access improvement only. All long lead procurement of materials needed for work planned after December 2024 have been stopped.