



Four Lakes Task Force

Edenville Dam Failure Leaves Houses and Private Infrastructure at Future Risk to Erosion

Four Lakes Task Force Local Sponsor for Federal EWP Program to Assist Residents

Background

The Edenville Dam failure left miles of shoreline along the Tittabawassee River eroded. Immediately following the dam failure, Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF) compiled initial damage assessments for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and identified, at the planning level, that a \$20 million investment is needed to stabilize bank erosion, and \$4.5 million to remove debris within the four lakes.

This investment is necessary to protect homes, property values, private infrastructure, natural resources and public safety. This investment is not for stabilization of the dams, which is being addressed independently of the residential properties. The erosion is putting hundreds of properties at further risk and immediate efforts are needed to mitigate this risk. Generally, the highest priority areas are the outer bends of the river, where high banks are eroding. It is common to have 5 to 20 homes on these river bends, thus making it difficult for an individual landowner to solely address erosion and individually protect their property. Also, major debris accumulations exist and many require heavy machinery to remove, thus debris removal can be beyond the scope of a typical resident's capabilities.

After assessing initial damages, FLTF coordinated with numerous federal agencies including FEMA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). It was determined that NRCS was able to provide assistance through its Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. To assist residents, FLTF is the local sponsor for the NRCS EWP program, and needs to secure funds to stabilize erosion and natural resources. The EWP program provides a 75% match and the local sponsor must secure remaining funds.

FLTF held public engineering fairs for residential property owners to attend, present their problems, and ask for assistance. Also, FLTF held online public meetings and provided information on its website where property owners could request assistance. To date, approximately 366 individual landowners have contacted FLTF and

requested their property be considered for stabilization of erosion. FLTF, in collaboration with Midland County, set up a GIS (geographic information system) system to track and map these locations.

FLTF submitted the locations to NRCS engineers, who are completing field reviews of each location and determining if the location is eligible for the EWP program. Basic eligibility requirements are private infrastructure or homes that are at future risk. Not all locations are eligible, however, in the case of Sanford and Wixom Lakes, many requests made to NRCS have been determined eligible.

Progress Summary

- 366 property owners contacted FLTF
- 11 project locations have received initial reviews and are being processed representing:
 - 76 properties eligible
 - 96 properties not eligible
- 195 remaining properties are on the list to be reviewed for eligibility
 - Expected to yield another 24 eligible projects so far
- Average \$186,000 per project
- For the projects already approved, local match needed is \$615,000 (includes paying for 25% of the construction cost and for engineering, permitting, administration and other non-eligible costs)
- Estimated cost for stabilization and debris removal, based on current participation: \$7.1 million
- Local share based on current participation: \$2.5 million (includes the 25% match and a 10% budget for non-eligible expenses associated with administering the program)

NRCS EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

Site No.	Description	Approximate Number of Impacted Landowners
1.	Anderson Drive	10
2.	Lakeshore Drive Culvert	22
3.	Grace Court	8
4.	Donald Drive	8
5.	Anderson Drive - South*	10
6.	Island Drive*	2
7.	Weeping Willow*	11
8.	5800 Meridian Road*	6
9.	Birchwood Culvert	3
10.	Hooks Culvert	2
11.	Peterson Drive Outlet 1 & 2	3
12.	24 Future Project Locations	195



Conclusion

Erosion stabilization is the responsibility of Boyce Hydro, however the company is doing nothing to address these issues. The NRCS deemed many of the erosion areas as critical and should be addressed as soon as possible. It appears that money from Boyce Hydro for erosion, if any, will be determined by the Bankruptcy Court. This is likely to take time. In the bankruptcy hearings, FLTF will claim that erosion stabilization expenses should be covered by Boyce Hydro insurance. FLTF is also actively seeking other funding sources to reduce costs to property owners. However, at this time, FLTF does not have the money to cover the 25% local match and does not want to lose the 75% funding from the NRCS to address eligible erosion issues. Therefore, FLTF is asking property owners to participate and provide the 25% match, as this may be your best opportunity. If future funds do become available from Boyce insurance through bankruptcy or other sources, FLTF intends to allocate the funds back to the property owners who contribute towards the local match requirement.

As a landowner, you have the option to pursue alternative, more desirable options. The position of FLTF is to take advantage of the 75% funding the NRCS can provide for sites that have severe erosion. If you wish to participate, please go to bit.ly/erosion-financing for information on payments and program enrollment.