

Buckeye Lake Caucus, April 30, 2015 at the Riffe Center

Attendees: State Representative Tim Schaffer, Chair; Representative Bill Hayes; Representative Scott Ryan; Representative Brandon Ogden. House Aides Sam Smith and Justin Stanek.

Speakers: Director Jim Zehringer, ODNR; Director Evan Shimm, Ohio Emergency Management.

Director Sham reported that last Saturdays Evacuation Exercise was a success. It was conducted by the local emergency management teams. The next Evacuation Drill will be May 30th and will include state and local resources. The Hebron Mayor requested an Evacuation siren which cost \$25,000. The funding is as follows: Federal Money 50%; state 25%; local 25%.

Director Zehringer opened with prepared remarks. Public safety is #1. The ODNR hires the most knowledgeable people to work for them. The ODNR is in charge of regulation and recreation in all of Ohio's parks and oversees the safety of the 1500 dams in Ohio. The water is at Winter pool in Buckeye Lake and will remain so until the dam is completed. The status is that they will complete the dam as soon as they can. The ODNR is open to the public and has heard from the people want to use power boats and the ODNR created a speed zone on the Lake. Regarding the dock owners on the dam, the ODNR is doing a technical inspection of all of the docks on the dam to determine which will stay and which ones will go. They are also working with dock owners to allow floating dock for use if the water is low. The ODNR is still reviewing the cost of removal of docks and storage and have not reached a conclusion. While the water is low, the ODNR will use this as an opportunity to dredge in the speed zone, then to the islands, and then to the businesses. The ODNR is looking for more Dredge Material Relocation Areas(DMRA) and is considering working with private enterprise to move it away from the Lake. Safety of the Islands is paramount and the ODNR has given the Millersport Fire Department access to ODNR air boats for use in rescue and firefighting. The ODNR is continuing to look into fish kill. There will probably be an increase in geese population because of larger beach areas. The Governor has said that the dam project should move along safely and quickly. It is a postponed undertaking. The Design construction should be in compliance with highest standards and the possibility of multiple construction delivery method is still on the table.

Time Table: Summer, 2015 Work on Design Construction begins. Spring, 2016-Design Construction completed. Summer, 2016 Construction begins. The ODNR is interested in marketing as a region, not as a village. Any way they can help, they are here to listen. Buckeye Lake is important to the ODNR as residents and visitors.

Representative Hayes Questions: 1) "When I was a child, Americans were told how powerful the Russian Air Force was. As a kid, he FEARED that Russians were coming. Would a child in the Buckeye Lake Estate that was told that an 8' Wall of Mud and Water was coming down the road not be fearful? Since the water level is below Winter Pool, could we not tell the public what really might happen?"

Z. A. 8 foot wall of water is a reality All Winter Pool does is insure there is no leak in the dam.

Q2. It is reported that the Algae Bloom is early.

Z.A. Algae is normal, and it is good for the Lake.

Q3. Will state use eminent domain procedures to purchase homes or lots on the dam?

Z.A. We do not anticipate that. The State purchased a few properties that were on the market.

Representative Ryan Questions: 1. The timing of the announcement that the Lake level would remain at Winter Pool is such that people cannot get to their boats on lifts and covered docks. This is a serious loss of personal property for these people.

Z.A. If the mud dries, ODNR will help get other equipment in to help get out the stranded boats.

Representative Schaffer Questions: Q1. The marinas have ordered stock for a normal boating season that now is not needed. Any ideas on how to help the Marinas?

Z.A. Fred Shimp is looking into federal funds for help.

Q.2 How has the fire boat issue been addressed?

Obermiller A. There are 2 jet boats at Liebs Island and the Millersport Fire Department has been trained on the 12 foot and the 16 foot boat. The Millersport Fire Department have the keys to the boats.

Q3. Is the Lake safe now?

O.A. I defer to the fire chief.

Q4. Are air boats and amphibious vehicles allowed on Buckeye Lake?

Z.A. Air Boat are legal on Buckeye Lake. Amphibious vehicles are legal to use from the south side to access the islands.

Representative Hayes questions: Q.1. Is there a written dredging plan Where, when, and future improvements?

Obermiller A. There is a plan with no dates. Now, real access channels to deep water, then Islands, then businesses. EPA and Arm Corp permits are needed.

Q.2. When is the goal for completion of dock inspection?

Steve Bruzinski, ODNR, project manager. A. The inspections should be completed in the next 2 weeks.

Q.3. When did ODNR get the report from the Army Corp of Engineers?

Z.A. It is not important when we got the report. What is important is when will it be fixed. when will the dredging get done, getting docks back in the water, possibly using private sector to dewater and truck away dredge material. The Winter Pool was established 20 years ago. You can follow everything on the OhDNR.gov. There is a web page for all things Buckeye Lake but it is not up yet.

Q4. What was the effect of opening the drains?

Brudzinski.A. Ran tet on lake drain to see how well they worked and how much debris was in them. Installed grates to catch trash. Using the lake drains t manage lake level and keep it at Winter Level.

Q4. What effect did opening the drains have on the South Fork of the Licking River watershed.

Brudzinski.A. I do not know where it goes.

Z.A. Now they know how it work.

Representative Shaffer question. Q1. The lake at Huston Wood(Acton Lake) had the dam repaired without dropping the Lake level. Why is Buckeye Lake different?

Brudzinski.A. Don't know. Obermiller.A. Dam at Acton lake not as bad as Buckeye Lake.

Q.2. Why can't the weak spots on the dam be fortified and the water level raised as the work begins on the dam?

Brudzinski.A. "it is a dam system" all need to be replaced.

Q.3. There have been several dam reports since the 1990's. Why has the cost risen from \$7million to \$150millian?

Obermiller.A. Don't know. Inflation, possibly. This project doesn't refer to those reports. I was not in ODNR parks then.

Q.4. RFQ. What about private contrators?

McCorkle.A. All question will be available on wesite "next week". All possibilities are being considered. If we get more questions, we will answer on website and continue to update the website.

Q.5. What is the website address?

McCorkle.A. The website is not up yet. Will get the web address when it is.

Representative Hayes questions: Q 1. Outside the window you can see the Scioto River which has undergone change. Temporary steel retaining walls are used during the work. Will that possibility be considered for work on the dam?

Obermiller.A. I am not an engineer, but it could be considered.

Next Meeting after there is a marketing update on the website in 2-3 weeks.

Representative Ryan statement: We are looking for a better economic engine for the state after it is done.

McCorkle statement: It is a ruor that ODNR is creating a marina at Buckeye Lake—this is not true

Representative Schaffer statement: The ODNR culture needs to address: 1.Safet of the public: rescue, fire and accelerate the process; 2. Respect the private property rights issues: docks, boat in lift for potentially 5 years; 3.The ODNR should attend the weekly meetings at the winery if they are doing what they can.