

Buckeye Lake Coalition

May 6, 2015

Meeting at the Winery

The purpose for the Buckeye Lake Coalition is to have an organized voice, to share information and to mitigate effect of the dam replacement. The speakers were Mark Anthony, Policy Director; Mike Williams, Chief Legal Counsel ODNR, Gary Obermiller, Assistant Chief ODNR Parks.

Gary Obermiller stated that he wants to be a partner during the dam replacement. He shared answers to questions that were asked during last weeks meeting.

(Q)1: Will there be a Buckeye Lake Dam Hotline? Answer: The process of disseminating information will be through the website, park office, Columbus ODNR office, phone calls to Gary Obermiller and his or other ODNR personnel at the Thursday night meeting. There are no plans to establish a hotline.

Q2: What is the dredge plan? Answer: Dredge Material Area (DMA) at the DePalmer property will be completed next Wednesday and ready to accept dredge material next Thursday.

The dredge material around the islands includes clay and sand. The DMA's do not want this material on their farm land so that will require another disposal option. ODNR will pay fair market value on upland property for DMA sites.

The dredge plan is to first do a channel from Liebs Island to Smitty's, then around the islands, and then to businesses.

The ODNR will consider private dredging.

Dredging will help people gain access to their homes on the islands.

Q3: Can the Buckeye Lake Community be informed of decisions prior to the media? Answer: The one place were an update will occur is the winery meetings.

Q4: What plan is there for the fish kill? Answer: The ODNR will not allow a large fish kill to remain in the lake.

Q5: There are people walking on the dam in an official capacity but they are not readily identifiable. Answer: The ODNR has purchase bright colored highway vests and all contractors and dam related personnel will wear them when doing work for ODNR on the dam.

Q6: Acton Lake Dam has not been lowered during the dam replacement, Why can this not be done at Buckeye Lake? Answer: Each dam is unique and the dam at Buckeye Lake was

evaluated by the Army Corp as a catastrophic dam failure. The pressure of the water needed to be removed from the dam.

Q7: Has the Millersport Fire Department been provided with what is needed for safe fire protection around the lake? Answer: The Millersport Fire Department has been given an air boat which is now equipped and personnel has been trained.

Q8: What will happen to the docks on the dam? Answer: In the next two weeks the docks that need to be removed immediately will be identified.

Q9: What about the under water hazards in the speed zone? Answer: The ODNR is working on identifying the areas that are effected with the low water. The areas will be posted on the web site map.

Q10: What will ODNR do with the Rizzo Report when they receive it? Answer: It will be reviewed and the findings will be discussed.

New Questions

Q1: What about residents around the lake that are drawing water for residential use? Answer: It is legal. The communities can discourage this practice, but it is not a significant amount of water. The hose cannot be any bigger than 2" in diameter.

Q2: Will there be a new map of the lake for current water levels? Answer: yes

Q3: What is the plan for summer dehydration? Answer: The goal is to remain at winter pool.

Q4: What about the east end of the lake? Answer: Still looking for a DMA site in that area. There was one suggested but it was in a wetland area. All DMA sites must be in an upland area not in a wetland area.

Tonights Questions

Q1: A north bank resident ask about the directors statement of a chance of catastrophic failure. If that is true, why haven't the areas on the dam that are at most risk been repaired? Answer: The dam is a system. It cannot be patched like potholes. The Corp report says that the entire dam has issues. The bottomline is that so many areas on the dam has issues that the best manner to address the risk was to reduce the water level to winter pool to reduce the liability.

Q2: A north bank resident ask since the docks on the dam need to be removed for the work along the dam, what can we do with the docks in the way of storage, and once the dam project is done can the docks be put back? Answer: The dock removal review is not ready but when it is the possible storage will be examined, perhaps areas owned by the State could be used. Yes docks will be allowed to be put back. They will not be allowed to be attached to the dam.

Q3: A north bank resident ask if ODNR will permit enough water in the lake so barges can be used to remove docks? Answer: That is still being worked on.

Q4: A west bank resident ask why the governor stated that the project would cost \$150 million. What plan is he talking about? We are taxpayers and we have the right to know. The workers on the dam are taking pictures of flower beds. How will 10 tulips hurt the dam? Answer: The State is not being evasive, you are up to date. The \$150 million was a ball park figure.

Q5: When did you get the report? Answer: March 2015

Q6: What about the evacuation signs they were put up last summer 2014? Answer: That was EMA.

Q7: What happened to the previous reports - the cost was \$50 million? What happened to these plans? Answer: The ODNR went to the Army Corp of Engineers for their assessment.

Q8: A resident stated that the plans that are being talked about are conceptual designs, not true plans until an architect and engineer develop it.

Q9: A north bank resident explained he has been in the concrete business for 40 years. Why is dredge material not being used to create a Cofer Dam. He said he made a presentation to use a break wall and repair behind a Cofer Dam to ODNR but there were not any questions or interest in his idea. Answer: Most of the dredge material is not suitable for backfill. It is light and organic. The backfill would need to be heavy clay. Interim measures would involve engineers and perhaps an engineer could attend a Thursday night meeting.

Q10: A north bank resident could you show us some of the bad spots on the dam? Show us proof. Answer: Perhaps we can get some pictures, but they would be prior to lowering the water to winter pool.

Q11: North Bank resident wanted to know about economic impact and if it has been studied? Answer: It was shared that the adjoining counties are conducting an economic impact study which will be complete soon.

Q12: Why the \$150 million estimate? What is the design concept? Answer: There is no design yet and the cost is only an estimate.

Q13: Cranberry Bay resident ask if the news reports were accurate that the time frame for the dam project completion would be shorter than first announced and if the whole lake would be dredged? Answer: The director was on WTVN 610 and talked about an aggressive dredging plan with two dredges in operation. The project is ahead of schedule of the projected timeline.

Q14: A south bank resident ask if it would be reasonable to complete the dredging in one area before moving to another area? Answer: It has been determined to dredge the channel for easier access and then to move to the islands so residents can get to their homes and then the businesses.

Q15: A Thornport resident ask if the water from a lower lake would be safe to use on lawns and gardens? Answer: It is not known to be unsafe.

Q16: A north bank resident shared a story about an individual that is not able to sleep because of fear of a dam failure. This resident was offended with the comment from the previous week of the use of the word "Customers" referring to the residents. Answer: An apology was given for the use of the word "Customer". The dam is being fixed and the lower water levels reduces the risk of a dam breach.

Q17: Cranberry Bay resident ask if an engineer could come and speak at a meeting to give answers? Answer: That is possible.

Q18: Could we identify the weak spots in the dam? Could we see pictures? Answer: We will try to do pictures.

Q19: Can Lake resident engineers be allowed to sit in on selection? Answer: The State has a formal bid process and that is not open to the public.

Q20: Why does the ODNR think the Army Corp is so great? Answer: There were conflicting reports and the Army Corp is a premier agency for dams.

Q21: A resident and business owner explained his understanding was that a dam could fail with a water over the top, a breach so when the Rizzo Report comes out how will ODNR handle that report? Answer: It will be looked at, reviewed, discussed and talked about with the Army Corp.

Q22: How about a data driven report?

Q23: Where did the 888.75 winter pool figure come from? Answer: It is a figure used by ODNR. There has not been any seepage through the dam with lower water.

Q24: The design build method is used by the Corp, ODNR, ODOT and is much faster and cost less. Is it being considered for the Buckeye Lake Dam project? Answer: Mark Anthony said it has been talked about and is being investigated on a parallel track with other options.

To conclude Tracey Higgenbotham talked about the 40 to 50 years of negative reports on the dam. The Army Corp was ask to render an opinion. If they are not a part of the remediation process they generally give a worst case. This is were we are. At the end we will have a deeper, cleaner lake. The \$150 million is an estimate. The best solution is to work on a forward path. The meeting was well attended and the ODNR personnel was thanked for attending.

