

## Buckeye Lake Coalition

### The Winery

April 30, 2015

Speaker: Gary Obermiller, ODNR      How Can We Lessen the Duration of the Project?

1. Provide good communication with people and Department
2. The ODNR did not anticipate low water levels to limit their liability when they commissioned the Army Corp report.
3. The ODNR does not have all of the answers and they are working with other state agencies
4. ODNR is working an aggressive dredging program
  - a. Having enough Dredge Material Areas(DMA) is a problem. ODNR needs help locating areas(dewatering takes a couple of years)
  - b. They are using 2 dredges and have the possibility of using private enterprise to help remove sediment.
  - c. The DMA site at Liebs Island is full. They are now working on the DePalmer property.
5. The Millersport fire chief has keys to 2 boats that belong to the ODNR.
6. There is a possibility that the sediment will be transported to another off lake site.

Q1. Verne gave John Wise a copy of a proposed engineering plan.

Q2. Steve Bruzinski, the Dam Project Manager, is doing Boat Dock Inspection, When will it be done? How will the ODNR address the problem of docks that need to be removed from the water side because of low water?

- A. Not sure. May be able to remove after area dries.
- B. Dock owners not on the Dam should follow normal procedures for repairing and replacing docks.

Q3. What makes a good DMA? A. The dewatering system has to be tracked.

Q4. Any money for the farmer who does the DMA? A. ODNR leases land at going rate.

Q5. The Army Corp report says Winter Pool is at 888.75. The Chamber hired Rizzo Associates to do a scientific study. Will the ODNR review the report?

- A. It is not for me to determine if it will be read or considered. PROMISE: He will read it.

Q6. If you are having evacuation drills, why is the ODNR not working faster to insure the safety of the people? Also, I have lived here 60 years and this is not Winter Pool.

- A. Water must stay at this level because water comes in faster than it goes out.

Q7. Winter Pool is 888.75. What is the genesis of that number. A. Do not know.

Q8. We have heard about dredging plans for the West end of the Lake and the concern for the safety of the people on the islands. What about dredging plans for East of Cranberry Bog where there are 5 restraints and a marina and the safety of the people in the Mid Lake and East end of the Lake? The

fireboats for Licking Twp and the Village of Buckeye Lake are used for rescue. What plans exist for this area?

- A. The dredging plan is to deepen the boating channel at the West end, then get to the Islands, and then to the businesses where there is enough water for the dredges to move. That may not happen this year. There is a possibility that there will be mechanical removal of silt in some areas. ODNR would work with any group that asks.

Q9. Explain the engineering plan. A. The RFQ I for a Design Build plan but ODNR is reviewing other plans that were brought to us. We will use the best method.

Q10. Will the Army Corp be involved in selecting the engineering plan? A. No, but lines of communication are open.

Q11. The ODNR proposes that the Army Corp is "infallible". I worked for the Army Corp in their finance department where I did billing and collection. There were many people and DNR's that were not happy with their work and refused to pay. The Army Corp always works from a CYA position and always gives the worst case scenario.

Q12. Why wouldn't ODNR ask for a 2<sup>nd</sup> independent study? Why does the community have to request and pay for a 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion?

Q13. Why did the Army Corp do a scientific study instead of reviewing other reports?

- A. I am not an engineer or the Project Manager. I am just be as open as I can.

Q14. I am an engineer. I read and understand the Army Corp Report. I was involved with the Report for the ODNR in 2004. Why has the cost of repairing the Dam gone from \$6 to \$28m to \$150m?

Q16. The RFQ asks for a firm that is familiar with real estate and marinas. Is the ODNR going to build a state owned marina?

- A. No, absolutely not. Each park is very expensive to operate. We do not have enough staff or budget to operate them. Where we can, the ODNR is moving parks to county and city park systems that meet the requirements. NO LODGE, NO MARINA for Buckeye Lake.Q17

Q17. Will you take the message back that you hear tonight? A. Yes

Q18. On the North Bank they are starting to take out docks. Today and ODNR rep and an Army Corp person were walking the North Bank using a pole to measure the water and then taking pictures of our homes. I went out and asked them who they were and what they were doing. Why are they taking pictures of my house?

- A. No knowledge of Corp on Lake yesterday. Ask for id. TracyA. Called Army Corp yesterday regarding Wetland Permitting for Winery and was told that their agent would see him.

Q19. Has the Governor seen the Lake this dried up?

- A. He was here a month ago before the drains were open.

Q20. Why wasn't a plan in place before the Lake was taken to this level?

A. ODNR received the Army Corp report on March 5. We need to focus on what we can do now. We are interested in helping.

Q21. Were studies on economic impact, environmental impact, and health hazards done? Why weren't all factors put together in a plan? A. safety is paramount.

Q22. Drains are closed and the water is 6 inches below Winter Pool.

A. Buckeye Lake was not designed to be a flood control Lake. If there are heavy rains, the Lake will rise above Winter Pool.

Q23. Target Date? A.. The Design Build will be selected Summer, 2015. Plan submitted by Early Spring, 2016. Construction begins Summer, 2016.

Q24. A Design was paid for in 2004. What is wrong with that Design? A. I am not an engineer and cannot answer this question. I have not seen this design.

Q25. Why is the communication with the people so difficult for the ODNR?

A. I am trying to be direct with businesses. Bring questions to meeting.

Q26. Are the minutes available from the Buckeye Lake Caucus?

A. Out of his jurisdiction. The State Representatives should answer that.

Q27. What does the ODNR plan to do with the fish kill? Whose responsibility is it when they wash up on the mud flats in front of our homes?

A. ODNR is putting a plan together.

Q28. Why was the Army Corp called in last year? A. ODNR is replacing other dams. The ODNR has old infrastructure.

Q29. Did the ODNR have any plans for the Environmental issues that this has caused?

A. This water level was worse than they expected.

Q30. We appreciate you being here. Would the ODNR consider commissioning a 3<sup>rd</sup> party engineering firm to determine what is a safe water level?

A. The Army Corp is considered the best in its field and the ODNR takes its report as gospel.

Q31. In lieu of the economic and environmental impact, would the ODNR consider identifying the worst spots on the Dam and do a bandaid fix to raise the water level until the work can begin on the Dam?

A. This is the band aid fix, so the water level will not be going up.

Q32. Dave Levacy: I have had Buckeye Lake Marina for 36 years. Coming here and answering questions is most helpful. Is there a possibility of using a Cofferdam during construction. It could be done for \$4m. A. It could be considered.

Q33. The people walking the Dam are not familiar with Buckeye Lake. They walked past my property and saw water in the Lot next to me and thought that the dam had breached. I told them that it was a puddle that occurs from runoff from the roadway and that it has been like that for 30 years. Then they acted like I did not know anything and were rude.

A. My people will hear about that. Customer Service is most important and my people should always treat the public with respect and professionalism. I also expect you to treat our people with respect and not curse them

Q34. Will Rizzo Report be given to Army Corp? A. Not sure how it will be used. They may talk with Corp.

Q35. Why is there not more communication with the public? The evaluation signs went u. Gates not closed-no communication . Winter Pool is a nightmare. If we had been notified, we would have taken our boats out. Why not? A. I am here to do a better job.

Q36. Why was the dam repaired at Huston Woods(Acton Lake) without draining the Lake?

A. I do not know.

Q37. Is the ODNR taking out the docks on the North Shore? Is the ODNR paying for it? A. Not decided.

Q38. Can you come back with answers? A. Duly noted.

Q39. We did not have low water when North Bank was done. Why now. A. The whole dam system is bad.

Q40.Lake White was drained. With boats sitting in mud. What did the ODNR do to help?

A.It was an emergency leak. When it was dry, the ODNR came In and took the boats off the lifts and out of Lake. We will help here.

Q.41. Is there a hotline to expedite communications? A. No. I would be glad to give you my cell number. There is a website.

Q42. Most of the talk has been about the West End of the Lake. I live on the East end and there is no water. We have no wildlife. What will happen to spadderdock, lilies, and other vegetation.

A. Seeds and spores will lie dormant for years. It should come back when the lake is filled.

Q43.What about the effects on Cranberry Bog?

A. This is in my wheelhouse. I came to ODNR as a naturalist. Since the Bog is in the middle of the Lake, lower water levels will help the bog because it will not be subjected to the acidic/alkaline struggle and it will not be exposed to wave action. As the water drops lower, the bog floats on top of the water and will drop lower.

Q44. Why did the state not care for the dam and the wall over time? A. ODNR has not done a good job of that.

Tracy thanked Gary for coming and recognized Gary for opening up the lines of communication.

**Saturday, May 16 meet at North Shore Boat Ramp to pick up tires. Cost: \$1 a tire. Volunteers with truck and trailers are needed.**