

May 17, 2007 Sawyer County Board Meeting Summary concerning Round Lake

Preliminary Draft is our interpretation of the meeting and may not be accurate.

Al R. and I attended the meeting last night and the Round Lake Water Management Plan was on the agenda.

Bernie Lenz from SEH gave about a 40 minute presentation highlighting his studies. Shirely Reidman told the board that they are holding 2 public meetings (June 29th and July 6th) that are informational meetings only.

We need to make sure we get our members to attend these public meetings. The LCO tribe has not made an official response to Shirley Reidman. Mic Isham from the tribe wrote an editorial and that was in the Sawyer County Record this past week stating that the tribe would take their time making any decisions on this very important issue.

Bernie basically said that the major problem facing Round Lake is that in a 100 year flood event (6" of rain in a 24 hour period) could raise the lake level as much as 10". (We can only hope & pray for that to happen now during this drought.) With the current dam in place, it takes 24 hours to lower the lake 1/2". The current structure is inadequate for getting the water out the lake fast enough. He presented a variety of scenarios that could be compromises between all the interested parties.

Bernie also stated that the boards in the dam are effective in retaining water. If they go with a replacement weir dam, that would all need to be engineered out and he did not state what elevation the sill of the new dam would be at. Al asked him directly at what elevation would the sill be at, and Bernie was not willing to go there. He said an engineer would need to determine that.

Fred Zietlow said that the road above the current dam is not a public road - it is private. But the county owns the dam, so it gets very sticky. I would think those owners on Carlson Road would want to be petitioning the county to make Carlson Road (up to the point just past the dam) a public road. They may want to think about making the entire road public and therefore serviced by the county. Again, they may like the fact that it is a private road and they don't have to grant easements for a town road. I don't know if they could successfully turn this into a partially public road or not.

The task force group will again be meeting in August to discuss the public informational meetings and hopefully the tribe will have their input available by that time. Shirely R.'s plan is to go back to the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors in September or October with a recommendation. Shirley stated that the DNR is willing to look at all options in regards to the 1941 order.

The board of supervisors made no votes or indications of what they were leaning

towards other than trying to figure out a way to get out of that 1941 order.
One board member summed it up perfectly "Just tell us how to get out of that
1941 order so we don't get sued again." I guess that says it all.

Thanks!

Sue Kintzinger