

Minutes

Round Lake Management Planning July 26, 2007

Assembly Room, Sawyer County Courthouse Shirley Riedmann, Moderator

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Riedmann. The following members of the work group were present: Stan Strainis, Tiger Cat Lake Association; Dale Olson, County Conservationist; Carole Dannehl, Osprey Lake Association; Wally Narr, Round Lake Property Owners Association; Bernie Lenz, SEH; Kris Mayberry, County Clerk; Jan Eck, Land & Water Conservation Secretary; Scott Nicastro, County Legal Counsel; Jim Hausman; Dan Tyrolt, LCO Conservation; Frank Dallam, DNR Dam Safety; Shirley Riedmann, Land & Water Conservation Committee; Kris Goodwill, Tribal Legal Counsel; Brian Bisonette, Tribal Council; Dave Kafura, DNR Water Management; and Tom Artilla, DNR.

Meeting Purpose

Riedmann reviewed the agenda and timeline for the meeting. Primary purpose of the meeting is to review information gained and develop two proposals or options that will be submitted to the Land & Water Conservation Committee for their consideration on August 6. Tribal representative Brian Bisonette will also present the information to the Council with a goal of attaining a response to the proposed options by September 1. Discussions will be occurring with legal representatives for the County, DNR and Tribe to determine what legal concerns may need to be addressed. Appropriate DNR staff will also review and comment on the proposals. The expectation is to present options to the County Board on September 20.

Review of Information and Engineering Options

Lenz reviewed pertinent technical information and engineering options previously discussed including:

- Abandonment of dam with structure left in place
- Modify the 1941 order and create a realistic operation plan for existing structure
- Replace current structure with a box culvert and fixed weir

Olson suggested an additional option would be for the formation of a lake district that could own a dam and also tax properties within the district to provide necessary financial dam ownership requirements.

Taskforce Discussion of Options

Narr (for Round Lake Property Owner's Association) presented a management proposal as follows:

1. Round Lake Property Owners Association (RLPOA) is in support of "active" management of the water level on Round Lake.
2. We support replacing the present dam with a new more permanent, wider concrete dam that will have higher flow rates than the present dam.
3. We would be in support of modifying the existing 1941 PSC order to have a wider authorized water level such as 76.4 to 77.90 with a normal optimal lake level of 77.25 (local datum). We would like this wider authorized level to be such that there would be no private property "takings" issues. The lake level should be optimally managed to be at 77.25 feet.
4. We would be in support of dredging the channel downstream of Carlson Dam particularly now that it is dried up.
5. We would be in support of notifying the LCO Tribe that the beaver dams upstream of NN are a "public nuisance" and hindrance and that they should be removed.
6. We are in support of NN culverts being replaced or repaired to comply with current law. They should have a flow rate similar or higher than what will be present at the new proposed Carlson Dam and downstream channel.

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Open Discussion-Audience Recognition

Discussion regarding the items proposed by RLPOA, the estimated cost of a new structure, affects of beaver dams, lake districts, and maintaining a natural system.

Proposed Recommendations

Olson proposed using the technical team recommendations from August 9, 2006. The technical team's recommendations were reviewed and the following option was developed:

Option A

- Abandon the Little Round Lake dam by removal of stoplog mechanism and request a change in the 1941 PSC order to reflect natural variation of lake water level
- Lower the CTH NN culverts to meet DNR requirements
- Abandon the Placid Lake Dam
- DNR action to address the culvert and fill on private property between Little Round and Osprey lakes to allow natural flow during high water events
- Possible beaver management on Osprey Creek with consideration for effects to Osprey Lake

Narr requested that consideration be given to the RLPOA proposal. The proposal was reviewed and the following option was developed:

Option B

- Replace the present dam with a new more permanent, wider concrete dam that will have higher flow rates than the present dam. Possibly make changes to current structure if modifications achieve management goals.
- Modify the existing 1941 PSC order to have a wider authorized water level. The lake level should be optimally managed to be at 77.25 with an authorized range of 76.4 to 77.90
- Long-term beaver dam management on private, public, and tribal lands with possible guidance from the Beaver Task Force.
- Replace or repair the CTH Hwy NN culverts to comply with current law. They should have a flow rate similar or higher than what will be present at the new proposed Carlson Dam and downstream channel.

The options will be presented to the Sawyer County Land & Water Conservation Committee on August 6, 2006, 9:00 am, Courthouse Assembly Room.

Next Round Lake Work Group meeting to review Tribe, County and legal comments prior to presentation of options to the County Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 1 pm- 4 pm, Courthouse Assembly Room.

Jan Eck, Recorder