

Meeting Notes  
August 1, 2012  
Village Hall  
10:00 AM

Present: David Torgerson, Lake Isabella Village President (D.T.)  
John Eberhart, Councilman, Village of Lake Isabella (J.E.)  
Tim Wolff, Lake Isabella Village Manager (T.W.)  
Larry Russell, LIPOA President (L.R.)  
Alain Shannon, LIPOA Board Member (A.S.)  
George King, LIPOA Manager (G.K.)  
Rick Jaciubec, Isabella County Drain Commissioner (ICDC)  
Carey Paquette, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe (C.P.)  
Kip Cronk, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (K.C.)  
Jim Baker, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (J.B.)  
Kyle Kruger, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (K.K.)

The meeting was held to discuss the joint concerns of the Village and LIPOA with respect to having to refill the lake in the event that ice was still present on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

K.C. stated that the MDEQ would likely want to have somebody monitor the initial days of the drawdown to see how much, if any, sediment was being released downstream, and that if there was too much the MDEQ may ask to have the drawdown stopped to correct the issue.

K.K. stated the March 1<sup>st</sup> requirement was to accommodate the aquatic needs of several fish that spawn early, such as pike, walleye, and perch; and that the lake needs to be at full pond when the temperature is at 39° or 40°. It was suggested that it may be better to begin refilling when the water being discharged from the lake reaches a certain temperature. 34° was discussed as the ideal temperature to begin refilling. This would require at least daily monitoring of the water temperature and providing updates to the ICDC and MDNR.

J.B. stated that the slower the lake can be raised and lower the better for limiting sediment releases downstream. He also suggested that a log be created to check the temperature of the water at the discharge point.

C.P. stated the Tribe has the equipment and ability to help with monitoring water conditions between the dam and tribal waters. She also voiced concern over the water quality in the Chippewa River being a “warm water stream.” J.B. stated that with most of the source of the Chippewa being surface water runoff, higher temps were not uncommon for the river.

K.K. & J.B. discussed that it may be better to modify the permit for refilling based on water temperatures.

K.C. stated that to do that, the LIPOA would need to fill for a revision of the current permit based on MDNR Fisheries recommendations. He asked for letters of support from the Village and other interested parties as part of the revision request.

D.T. asked C.P. if she or the Tribe had any additional concerns. C.P. stated that the Tribe's concerns were about silt and sediment downstream and the rate of flow downstream during the refill period. A.S. suggested a silt trap near Oxbow Park. C.P. stated she had visited the area and was concerned about fresh water calms in that area of the river and would prefer something closer to the dam. J.B. agreed that a silt trap would best be located near the dam.

L.R. asked if anyone from the state was familiar with other drawdowns which may have done a deep drawdown for a few months for dredging and then partially raised the lake level for the rest of the winter. K.K. stated that he was not aware of any such drawdowns. K.C. stated that Lake Isabella is the only lake that he is aware of which is permitted a 10 foot drawdown per Court Order.

There was discussion over the 1982 Court Order. ICDC stated he was bound by the court order and would like to see changes to it. T.W. discussed issues of civil liability on the ICDC if he is forced to take action per the MDEQ that is in conflict with the court order. ICDC stated that he was required to hold a hearing and was sending notice of the hearing in September, and feels that if the lawyers from all parties involved can agree on the documents things should be done fairly smoothly. He also voiced concerns over rumors he and the county's attorney have heard that one or more of the parties may be having concerns over moving forward with amending the court order.

The meeting ended around 12:15. Everyone except A.S. and ICDC then went and visited the dam and discussed the location and size of a silt trap which could be located in the river downstream from the dam.