

Beaver Lake Association Dam

April 2024

By Carol Goller and the Infrastructure Committee

Overview



Over time we expect any dam to weather, and ours is no different.

Every year the state of Nebraska inspects our dam and lets us know if there is anything we should investigate further. Given that our dam is fifty years old, it is no surprise that recent annual reports have identified a couple of matters regarding our dam's structure that we might beneficially assess further.

Beaver Lake Association therefore decided to choose a dam engineering firm to help us discover whether something in fact needs to be changed, and if so, what, when, and how.

The Process

A Dam Task Force was commissioned to oversee matters. The group has met several times, and consists of Troy Weatherby (Managing Director) and Norm Koester (retired engineer previously involved with construction of dams), plus three members of the Infrastructure Committee: Mike Langford, Justin Tegels, and Carol Goller.

The task force reports new information to Infrastructure (John Frost, Chair; Jim Wieringa; Mary Reineke; Steve Felthousen; Mike Langford; Justin Tegels; Carol Goller) and then to the Board (Russ Parmer, President; Sandy Battreall, Vice President; Callie Watson, Secretary; Ron Prchal, Treasurer; Brad Renner, Steve Wicht, and Matt Larson). Committee minutes give only a general overview of topics discussed. Published reports like this one and verbal reports at Board meetings provide specific details to our community.

In order to begin dam remediation, Beaver Lake sent requests for proposal to several dam engineering companies.

Two of those firms responded and have made initial on-site assessments of how to approach the next phase, which is performing appropriate analyses of the areas noted in state reports. Members of the task force have attended those visual inspections.

By the time of this publication, the task force will have begun evaluating the proposals. We will discuss findings and recommendations with the Board as soon as practicable. No one can predict how long this or any other complex process will take.

After the selected engineering firm analyzes areas to be remediated and offers ways to achieve remediation, the next step will be to choose which method to follow. Along the way to final

project completion, you should anticipate unexpected delays and times when there is no new information to impart.

The Funding

Right now, we don't even know what action(s) may be warranted. Hence the need for an engineering company with expertise in dam renovations. Their insights will uncover particular areas to focus on, and this discovery phase will incur the first part of the total project cost.

Until we understand what remediation is required and have decided on appropriate means of achieving it, we cannot reasonably estimate final costs.

Because Beaver Lake Association is a private entity, many familiar sources of funding are unavailable to us. However, we have initially begun working with the state to seek a grant. Preliminary indications appear positive, but it is too early in the process to forecast the outcome. In any event, such a grant would be a cost-sharing one, so we are still looking at some portion of a potentially sizable project cost.

The Counterproductive



Recent social media speculation has projected an unwarranted note of concern onto some of our members. There is no justification to expect imminent calamity. You can be sure random posts on social media are not being made by members of the Dam Task Force. The office and the Board have the latest, accurate, information.

Pooling our ignorance on social media may seem innocuous to those who post, but please remember that airing uncorroborated speculation may lead our neighbors to serious misconceptions and needless worry.

Rumor, half-truths, misinformation: trumpeting these is not intended to clarify. Rather than take the unsupported word of someone who does not have current or complete information, speak with the office or the Board and get the facts.

The Facts

We are all understandably interested in this critical piece of our infrastructure.

Beaver Lake Association wants all our members to understand what is going on with our dam, and indeed, with all of our infrastructure. The Association will continue to report at Board

meetings when there is new information, and explain how that new information might affect our progress. We will continue to let our community know where we are every step along the way.

Members can learn the latest information by attending a Board meeting. Those always occur on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm in the clubhouse. Meeting minutes contain regular overview updates on our progress, and we will continue to report new information at Board meetings and in the official meeting minutes. Minutes can be found in our [website's document library](#).

In addition, the Dam Task Force will publish future reports on our website and in our newsletters when new information is available.

As you can see, the entire process will likely be an extended one involving multiple entities. We encourage members to attend Board meetings and read our newsletters and website news posts to keep current. Questions should be directed to the office and/or Board.