

WVPOAC Riparian Meeting Minutes
May 23rd, 2015—12 Noon

Call to Order: The subject meeting was called to order at 12 Noon by President Jim Nihls.

The meeting began with a presentation by Russ Beaubien of Spicer Engineering on the operation of the dam slide gate valve mechanism for lake drawdown, followed by his opinion as to why the slide gate valve become stuck in an open position allowing the lake to lower more than the permitted three (3) foot level.

The dam has two methods of allowing water to drain from the lake—the top overflow spillway, which limits the drawdown to two (2) feet maximum, and the lower sump outflow, where the slide gate valve is located at the bottom of the sump. The lower sump slide gate valve is approximately twenty (20) feet below the normal lake water level. In order to drawdown the lake to the permitted three (3) foot level, the lower sump slide gate valve is manually operated to control the outflow.

Based on Mr. Beaubien's inspection of the slide gate valve mechanism in mid-April, he attributes two factors as to why the slide gate valve mechanism became stuck in the open position, allowing the lake to drawdown below the permitted three (3) foot level

- (1) Ice and cold weather in March may have been a factor. The ice buildup may have been attached to the control shaft so as the lake level lowered this caused the ice to put a binding force on the control shaft mechanism and preventing the movement of the shaft up or down
- (2) A two (2) inch diameter piece of wood was found inside the gate valve sump, and may have gotten stuck under the slide gate valve, keeping the gate valve open and unable to close completely.

So in summary, a combination of the ice binding issue and the wood debris stuck under the gate valve prevented successful operation of the gate valve.

During the discussion, it was noted a “trash rack” could be installed as an additional safety measure to prevent wood and other debris from entering the gate valve sump, and the cost of a “trash rack” was estimated to be in the \$3,000-\$4,000 range.

Also, it was noted that we may want to consider hiring an outside third party, such as Spicer Engineering, to monitor and be responsible for future lake drawdowns

Next, Blair Wickman explained the steel rod measurement system to measure the lake level that worked for the last five (5) years. He has to keep adjusting the gate valve flow to keep the drawdown at 23-36 inches. On January 29, 2015, he could not adjust the gate. The ice froze to the bottom of the lake around the steel rod used for measurement. An alternative measurement system was to use the waterline on the dam to measure the

three foot drawdown. The gate still could not be opened on March 3, 2015. The lake level was monitored at the dam approximately every 7 days. On March 13, 2015, John Moore went over to the dam and still could not move the gate. Warm weather and thawing of the ice caused the ice to drop and revealed the lake level was down approx. five (5) feet.

After Mr. Wickman's presentation, Mr. Solomon of Restorative Lake Sciences, our lake management consultant, led a discussion on the benefits of using alternate lake treatment methods (drawdown and aeration) over the standard chemical treatment method. In summary, drawdown and aeration are proven and effective lake treatment methods for weed control, with the major benefit of reducing the number of annual chemical treatment applications, thereby reducing overall annual treatment costs, and more importantly, the amount of chemicals inputted into our lake water system. For comparison, it was noted that a similar lake down state only using the chemical treatment method required on average five (5) applications per year in order to control weed growth.

After Mr. Solomon's presentation, WVPOAC president Jim Nihls opened the floor for other questions and concerns from the lake owners.

Question was raised regarding the observed fish kill on Wildwood Lake, and our next steps to address. It was noted by WVPOAC president Jim Nihls that the Gaylord DNR has been contacted and requested to visit the lake for a formal recommendation, and that WVPOAC would do as instructed by the DNR fisheries division.

Question was raised if any fines or sanctions have been issued by the DEQ resulting from our lower than permitted drawdown. It was noted by WVPOAC president Jim Nihls that the WVPOAC formally responded to the DEQ violation notice and request for information, and of this date we are still awaiting a reply from DEQ, but there has been no indication of any fine or sanction being issued by the DEQ.

Lastly, an informal vote was taken by all lake owners present on whether or not to drawdown the lake this fall/winter of 2015-2016. Prior to the vote, a lake owner noted that if there is no lake drawdown, there is a high probability for lake front property damage due to ice expansion. Vote passed to NOT drawdown the lake this coming year. In addition, it was requested by the lake owners for the WVPOAC to write a drawdown procedure process for submitted to the DEQ by Sept 10th, 2015, with the stipulation to limit the drawdown process to two (2) feet maximum, which requires the use of the top spill way only and eliminates the use of the lower gate valve sump for lake drawdown.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Von Hagen, Secretary