

Duplain Township
145 W. Main, Elsie, Michigan 48831
Special Meeting
Saturday, August 19, 2023

Minutes

Bruce Levey, supervisor, called the meeting to order at 9 am. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Bruce Levey, Dawn Levey, Robert Ladiski, Ryan Boots.
Joining by phone: Amy Bowen for informational reasons only and did not vote on action items.

Guests: Matthew Thelen Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Charles Smith, Spicer Group Project Manager, Tim Inman, Spicer Group, and Jon Feise, Spicer Group.

General Public: Robin Wooley, Jason Wenzlick, Dan Bush, Randy Burghardt, Eric Levey, Shane Grinnell. Gary Bernath, Matthew Bartow, Jeff Houska. Star Wenzelick, Richard Bates,

It was moved to approve the agenda as posted by Ryan Boots and supported by Robert Ladiski. Approved.

Bruce Levey, supervisor, opened with a thank-you to the Village of Elsie and Shane Grinnell for their assistance with the current emergency situation.

Emergency Business:

First, action was taken to reaffirm the spending of the emergency actions taken to stabilize the site at a cost of approximately \$5,000 and to extend the contract with Fisher Construction for one-week to monitor the site in a very dynamic situation. It was moved by Dawn Levey to continue action not to exceed \$20,000 with Fisher Construction. Supported by Robert Ladiski. Approved.

:

Elsie Dam Update - Spicer Group and EGLE representative:

Charles Smith, Spicer Group, updated officials on the timeline of the dam failure. Responding at 10 am Friday, August 18, 2023, numerous services were activated to address public interaction. Fisher Contracting mobilized to the site to prevent further deterioration of the site. Video provided. The immediate action was to prevent further piping (concentrated flow over the headwall) on the headwall. Noting that this is a temporary fix. Monitoring up stream water levels as well as downstream are in progress. Signage has been installed by Clinton County to prevent public interaction. Drone footage provided. Noting that upstream has dropped 2". The next week will be a dynamic time and the dam area will be monitored possibly daily because the dam is being actively undermined by the water. How long further loss is unknown. Fisher was authorized to stabilize the immediate issues. Impact of this failure is yet to be determined.

Mitchell Thelen, EGLE discussed the environmental impact, at this point no significant impact. Down stream there is a protected species (snuff box muscle). The action taken was crucial. Moving forward. This is a temporary action, there will be final decisions to make moving forward. Environmentally, changes are coming.

Charles Smith, discussed the previous plans and studies starting with 2009. Funding was an issue. Urge letter to be written to congress for relief. safety and mitigating those issues are paramount.

Officials indicated that they are asking Spicer to develop plans and options. Starting with the short term, currently in emergency response.

Mitchell Thelen, EGLE, focuses on dam safety. Funding is the issue, now there are funding opportunities available now more than ever. Removal is the best opportunity to get funding - a number of options will be presented. A list of funding sources is available. Review Funds - infrastructure and waterways. Removal best opportunity for funding. Match criteria - many allow grant awards to be the match for others. What is needed today? A rain event will help determine what needs to be done to stabilize the dam so further planning can be developed. Temporary design will be discussed and communicated with the Spicer Group. Still many unknowns.

It was moved by Dawn Levey to contract with the Spicer Group to develop a short term plan and emergency response for the dam, supported by Robert Ladiski. Approved.

Special meeting slated for August 29, 2023 - 7:30 pm. Preliminary plan of action.

Public Comment - participated in the discussion. A number supported removal of the dam.

Moved by Robert Ladiski and supported by Ryan Boots to adjourn.
Approved, 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn D Levey
Duplain Township Clerk
duplaintwpclerk@gmail.com
517-927-6258

