

Duplain Township

Special Meeting – Tuesday, August 29, 2023

The August 29, 2023 special meeting of the Duplain Township Board was called to order by Bruce Levey, supervisor, at 7:30 pm. Attendees participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Bruce Levey, Robert Ladiski, Ryan Boots and Dawn Levey. Absent: Amy Bowen

Professional Guests: Spicer Group: Charles Smith, environmental engineer, and Tim Inman.

Guests: Gail Parker, Velmar Green, Rodger Roof, Robin Wooley, Dick Bates, Brent Denovich, Mike Ellis, Jason Wenzlick, Jan and Roger Denning, Dana and Karen Dahlke, Martin Bernath, Gary Bernath, and Allison Cummings.

The Agenda: Officials reviewed the meeting agenda. It was moved by Ryan Boots and supported by Robert Ladiski to approve the agenda as presented. Approved.

Old Business:

- Officials were updated on the current costs – Fisher Construction \$28,847.53, and Spicer Group \$10,407.00. A fencing proposal was presented by officials at a cost \$104.88.

New Business:

Elsie Dam Update: Bruce Levey, supervisor, opened with a brief history of the dam and the recent partial dam collapse.

- Spicer Group, Charles Smith, environmental engineer with the Spicer Group, addressed officials with a presentation and history of Elsie Dam and where we go from here. A copy of the presentation is available at the township office.
- Options presented to officials need to be researched further.
- Funding options to be considered:
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Passage Program
 - National Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – American the Beautiful Grants
 - Coordinate with Clinton County Board of Public Works (low interest loans)
 - Dam Risk Reduction Grant
- Doing nothing is no longer an option.

- Possibly a camera installation to monitor dam activity.
- Need to further study the 2010 study.
- Three critical concerns:
 - Significant storm events.
 - Winter
 - Funding delays.
- Suggested a letter writing campaign requesting assistance from governmental officials.
- “No Parking” sign is a process however a temporary sign can be installed with validity.

Spicer Group was directed to write a cost proposal for the necessary studies action steps.

Public Comment:

Brent Denovich – timing was good, designate a perimeter for access. Remove it, or cut a path through the middle and let nature take its course. Mill pond makes little difference. Water will do what water does.

Jason Wenzlik – Consider choice number 3, and move forward. Maybe consider a grant writer.

Allison Cummings - Sustainable option needs to be considered, the mussels need to be considered. Also, a grant writer and offered her services.

Kenna Court – Breckenridge City Manager is a good grant writer.

Velmar Green – the dam is a landmark for Elsie, not in favor of removal but is in favor of rebuilding.

Rodger Ruff – stabilization of existing dam needs to be a priority. Not against taking it out, maybe a partial dam removal and a fish ladder.

Robin Wooley – Mussels how do we protect them and if not protected will we be fined.

The meeting ended with a reminder that the regular meeting of Duplain Township is Wednesday, September 13, 7:30 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 by Ryan Boots and supported by Robert Ladiski. Approved.

DRAFT