

Elsie Dam One Year Later..... Dawn D
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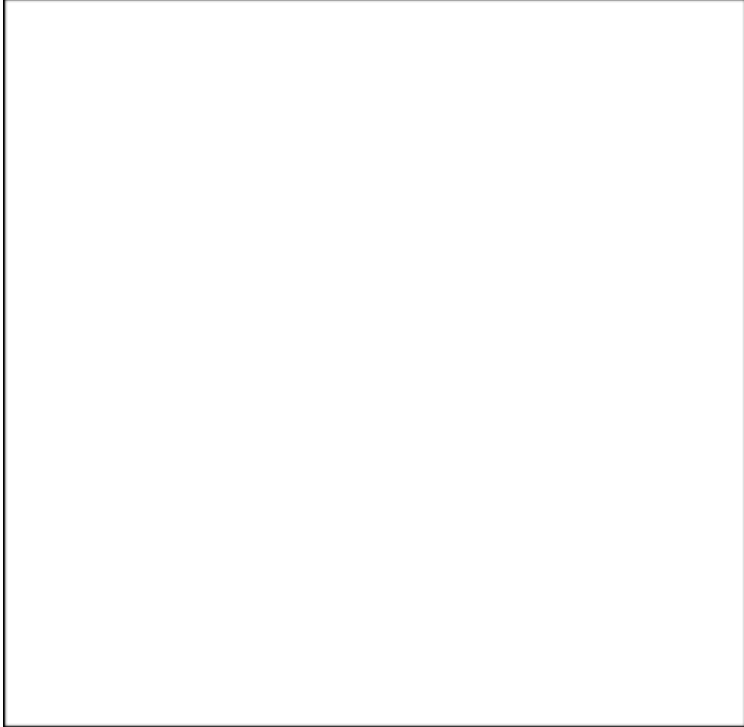
DUPLAIN TWP – The evening of August 17, 2023 the Elsie Dam failed resulting in the dewatering of the mill pond and compromising the dam’s structure. Emergency stabilization action was taken which included south headwall piping reduction on August 18; and a permit with EGLE was submitted for emergency stabilization efforts on August 21, 2023. Emergency stabilization was completed on August 23 that involved: insuring site safety by temporarily stabilizing the south headwall and crush undermined weir crest; reducing the rate pf loss to the existing structure; and reducing the rate of sediment transport from the structure and the up-stream impoundment.

In September 2023 at an open committee meeting Duplain Township officials met with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division. The purpose of the meeting was to outline the options the township had regarding the dam and funding opportunities. At the regular meeting of Duplain Township officials made the decision to seek funds for the dam’s removal.

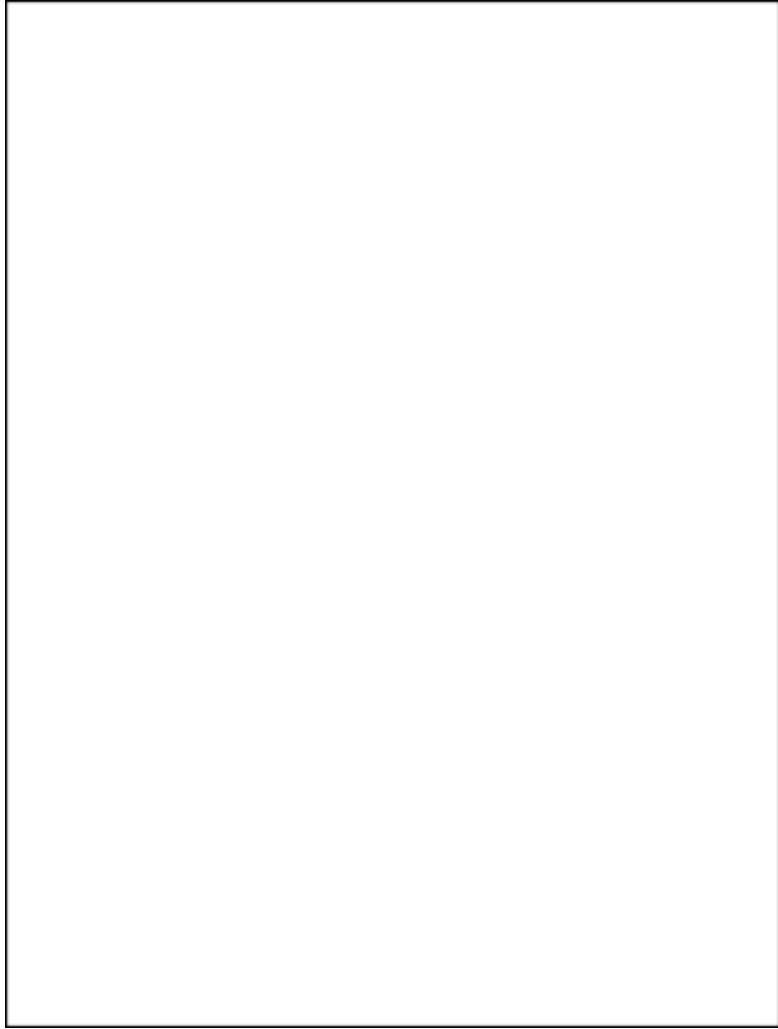
Initial studies presented an additional challenge the Maple River is the home to one federally protect mussel, the Snuffbox Mussel, and two state protected species the Slipper Shell and the Black Shell mussels.

Where is Duplain Township at one year later? At a special meeting held Wednesday, August 28, action was taken to hire the project manager the next step to moving forward The contract was awarded to the Spicer Group Also, the township was successful in securing a Fish Habitat Grant for \$225,000; and EGLE Dam Risk Management grant for 1.2 million and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Fish Passage grant for \$400,000. It should be noted that there is still one more grant pending for the project. Officials cannot thank the partners, state, federal and local officials who have supported this project and made it possible.

There are four goals: public safety; fish and aquatic improvements to open approximately 200 miles of riverway; navigation and recreation and to improve the health of the river returning it to a natural state. This project will take time but the end goal is to re-open the Elsie Dam Park for recreation in the near future.



August 2023





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