

New Mills Dam Committee - meeting minutes.

2-13-2015

Attendees: Chairman, Jack Daniel-Richmond, Bill Brooks-Richmond (proxy), David Kamila-Litchfield, Patrick McDonough-Gardiner, Ed Dahl-Gardiner, Al Nelson-Fire Chief Gardiner, Maureen Blanchard-Gardiner, Wendy Dennis-Cobbossee Watershed District, Tony Fletcher-State Bureau of Emergency Management, Daniel Taylor-State Bureau of Emergency Management.

Meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m.

Jack Daniel appointed Dave Kamila as recording secretary for tonight's meeting.

Wendy Dennis presented a report outlining options for dewatering the upstream and downstream faces of the dam. Salient points as follows:

- CWD is very pleased with the repairs we made this past season.
- It would take a 14 ft. drawdown to fully expose the upstream face of the dam. This is unreasonable and CWD wants a plan which does not require going that far.
- CWD doesn't want the drawdown to exceed 3 ft. vs. the 14 ft. Tony would like. A 14 ft. drawdown would shrink Pleasant Pond by 75%. Horseshoe Pond would essentially disappear.
- IF&W has huge concerns about such a drawdown. This would result in many small pools with high fish concentrations leading to major fish kills. CWD would not give approval without IF&W approval.
- A 14 ft. drawdown would take 5 or 6 weeks vs. 2 weeks which IF&W considers maximum allowable.
- The real consequences are unknown and other methods must be considered first.
- The public outcry would likely be significant.
- DEP also has serious concerns.
- The dam is not in imminent danger of collapse according to recent inspection report from Kleinschmidt. Upwelling on downstream side is not considered serious but should be monitored.
- Dewatering downstream toe would also be difficult and require same permit as upstream.
- In order to proceed with a 14 ft. drawdown, we would need to provide an argument as to why it is our only reasonable option.
- One option would be installing a cofferdam on the upstream side. This would be very expensive.
- Divers would be a possibility. It would likely take 2 days and low flow conditions.
- Underwater camera might work, however it was tried last year and water was too murky to see anything.
- Dye testing might help to identify the source of the leakage.

Tony Fletcher said he would be agreeable to a visual inspection by our operator KEI. He would provide a check list for ongoing observations going forward.

Tony is interested in how much water is leaking and where it is coming from.

A general discussion by the committee ensued.

Jack reiterated the need to determine the amount of leakage and location. This would then lead us to look at options for stopping or slowing down the leaks.

Patrick said divers could take a look and use a video camera. The cost is roughly \$3,000 per day.

We should try to get this toe inspection done by Sept. 2015 using divers first and if not successful, we should look into other options.

Jack reported that after paying off all our current bills, including \$2,000 to Kleinschmidt for their report, we will have remaining balance of \$26,471.

We will be asking our three member municipalities for a total of \$14,000 per year going forward.

Tony will contact DOT to see if we could borrow their underwater camera and operator and if we can provide a small boat we might be able to get a look before we hire the divers.

We will hold off on preparing a new safety plan for the time being.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 27th at 5:30 in City Hall.