

Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

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- Newsletter -

April 2013

Mark Your Calendar Now

... and plan to attend the **Annual Meeting** of the Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District at the **Knights of Columbus Hall, 99 Mannville Street, Leicester at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, May 22, 2013.**

Dam Repairs and Water Level

The lake is finally beginning to refill. As is described below, this has been delayed by an order from the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety (“ODS”) until dam repairs were completed. These repairs were completed in three stages.

First, planned efforts to supplement and repair the dam core were successful completed in December. This work entailed excavating approximately 75 feet of the dam crest from the spillway to gatehouse to expose the existing clay core and to install a cap over this existing core with additional impervious clay material.

Second, while excavating to perform this core work, voids were uncovered within the interior structure of the dam. The ODS ordered that these voids be filled before lake water levels could be restored. A plan was prepared by Lenard Engineering and approved by the ODS to inject a combination of chemical and cement grout into a series of strategically placed and drilled holes that extended down vertically 14 to 18 feet through the dam crest between the clay core and waterside face of the dam and between the clay core and spillway wall. The concrete was injected under pressure. The chemical grout expands to 20 times its original volume when it comes in contact with water.

Third, during the grouting process, concrete exited the downstream side of the dam structure at two locations, causing the ODS to insist that additional work be performed before allowing the lake to be refilled. **This work was completed on April 25th.** This third stage entailed, a) filling the space between the low level outlet pipe and the downstream side of the original stone outlet channel with concrete and, b) injecting chemical grout on top of previously injected concrete grout into a void next to the east side of the spillway. Filling the channel with concrete helps preserves the integrity of the internal dam structure and helps ensure that water cannot find its way through the dam at this location in the future. It is expected that injecting the chemical grout will stop a leak that the District has been trying to find and stop for the past fifteen years.

The positive side of all this is that the District and Lenard Engineering have learned a great deal about the 1850's vintage internal construction of our dam, and how to cope with repairs under 2013 dam safety standards.

USDA Loan

The USDA Rural Development loan is progressing s-l-o-w-l-y through the legal and government process. Final loan documents are currently being reviewed by the Rural Development office in Holden. This will be followed by review in Washington, D.C., document signing by your Management Committee, and disbursement of funds from the loan proceeds and from pre-paid betterments on deposit in the Spencer Savings Bank to pay the judgement.

Betterments

The process of setting up and billing betterments is on schedule. The Board of Assessors office is preparing the entry of the necessary billing data into the Town's tax and betterment billing system. Annual betterment payments will be divided over two bills. The first half payments will be due not later than August 1 and the second half by November 1.

The betterment options letters sent in late January resulted in the collection of \$341,626 in complete or partial advance betterment payments. Twelve members paid off their betterments, and another six members paid a substantial portion of their betterments. Thirteen members elected to pay their betterments over 10 years, five members elected to pay over 20 years, and the remainder elected to pay over 40 years. The full and partial pre-payment of betterments, has allowed the District to reduce its request for USDA financing from \$1,785,000 to \$1,444,000.

Land Below the Dam

The issue of ownership of the land below the dam remains unsettled. Mr. Shea has refused to even talk about selling this 0.37 acres of wetland until a firm date has been established to receive payment of the judgement.

Draw Down / Dam Repair Permit

At its April 10, 2013 Public Hearing, the Leicester Conservation Commission granted the District a two year extension of its annual draw down and dam repair permit.

Your Elected Officials Want To Hear From You

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the lake and dam, please contact one of the following elected officials:

Paul Dufresne, Management Committee	508 868-7301	pd0173@hotmail.com
Tommy Lee, Management Committee	508 892-3750	tlee@wjgei.com
Wayne Ridley, Management Committee	508 892-8684	nebackpacker@verizon.net
Dick Johnston, District Clerk	508 892-1203	Rjohn56503@aol.com
Terry O'Coin, District Treasurer	508 347-6863	the.ocoins@verizon.net

Please Plan To Attend the May 22 Annual Meeting+-