

Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

- Newsletter -

September 2012

Annual Draw Down To Begin September 30

Please plan to **remove your boats and floats from the water by September 30**. The District will again coordinate our draw down with the draw down at Burncoat Pond. The flash boards, low level outlet, and siphons will be used to lower water levels. Our draw down will be conducted slowly, ideally averaging about an inch and one-half per day over the next 40 days until the water elevation is five feet below the spillway elevation. The trash rack that limited the flow through the low level outlet over the past two years will be modified or removed during this year's draw down. Use of two eight inch siphons will help ensure a full draw down to facilitate important dam repairs and weed control.

Following dam repairs, the water will be held at approximately 60 inches below the spillway elevation until the exposed portion of the lake bottom thoroughly freezes to kill the weeds. The lower gate will then be closed to allow water levels to rise to the spillway channel elevation where the open channel will maintain water levels at between two and two and one half feet below the spillway for the remainder of the winter. The low level outlet will be opened as necessary during the winter to achieve the desired ice and water levels to minimize ice damage to shoreline structures. The flash boards will be reinstalled in the spillway channel after the final ice cap melts in the Spring to bring water levels back up to the spillway elevation.

Dam Repair

Phase I of a multi-phase dam repair plan will commence in November under the direction of Lenard Engineering to begin to stop water from seeping through the dam. Repairs will be made to the impervious clay berm that was installed in the center, or core, of the dam when originally constructed in the mid-1800's. A backhoe will be utilized to excavate down through the crest of the dam to reach the existing clay material to find and repair voids. Additional clay will be added to improve the integrity of the dam. Phase I work will be limited to the area between the spillway and gatehouse to stop two significant leaks. In preparation for these repairs, and as a prerequisite to obtaining a dam repair permit from the Office of Dam Safety, Lenard Engineering is in the process of completing several studies.

The next phase, to be completed in 2013, will likely entail pumping additional concrete under pressure into voids under the spillway cap. These voids developed when the previous dam owner allowed water to flow under the spillway cap over an extended period of time. Future plans call for repairing and supplementing the clay berm in phases of approximately 200 feet per year to spread the financial impact on members over a period of several years.

Seepage Control

There are three significant leaks in the dam. The first, to be repaired this Fall, is the leak that caused the sinkhole to develop on the dam crest near the gatehouse during Hurricane Irene in August 2011. Seepage through this leak was minimized this summer by holding water levels down. One flash board was removed and the low level outlet was opened as necessary to maintain water levels between six to eight inches below the spillway elevation.

The second significant leak, which we have been “chasing” for several years, is located between the spillway and gatehouse should also be repaired this Fall. The third leak, appeared for the first time this year under the west side of the spillway. Due to budgetary limitations, this leak will not be addressed until next year. This leak is of lesser concern because water seeping through the dam in this location does not carry any of the interior material out of the dam. This area was previously pressure grouted with concrete in 1997.

Tax Collections

Through the end of August, tax collections, at \$46,067, are at 96.7% of billed amounts. Only three members have not paid any taxes and another four have paid only the first half of their annual District taxes. These delinquent accounts represent just a little more than \$2,000 in tax revenue. Thank you members for your timely payment of the necessary taxes to keep the District running.

Beaver Problems

Several members have reported the loss of shoreline trees and shrubs to Beavers. If you have had similar experiences please contact Dick Johnston at Rjohn56503@aol.com or 508-892-1203 so that the Management Committee understands the full extent of the Beaver problem.

A Beaver expert has advised leaving downed trees and shrubs in the water rather than cutting up and removing them. The Beaver will return to feast on the woody material in the water rather than cutting down additional trees or shrubs.

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, Member, Management Committee	508 892-0173	pd0173@hotmail.com
Tommy Lee, Chairman, Management Committee	508 892-3750	tlee@wjgei.com
Wayne Ridley, Vice-Chair, Management Committee	508 892-8684	nebackpacker@aol.com
Dick Johnston, District Clerk	508 892-1203	Rjohn56503@aol.com

Terry O'Coin, District Treasurer

508 347-6863 the.ocoins@verizon.net

Have a Great Fall and Winter