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Plan outlined for abandonment of Lake Placid dam

Last updated: Wednesday, June 13th, 2007 11:07:34 AM

Abandonment of the Lake Placid dam took centerstage at the Land and Water Committee meeting last week as the county moves forward with its plans to sever the channel between Round Lake and Lake Placid.

County Conservationist Dale Olson explained the details of the plan, outlining a pair of options for moving forward.

"We looked at historic land (around the dam) and the draw-down procedure we'd have," Olson said. "We'd probably run a (net) through there as there were a few small bluegills," where the fish would be relocated nearby.

The culvert running under McClaine Road, according to Olson's plan, would be capped with pressure-filled cement. Although, he



Photo by Terrell Boettcher
Students at St. Francis Solanus School in Reserve unfurl red, white, black and yellow streamers while

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noted water "piping" tends to occur where water washes out around the obstruction, and installing diversion devices for this seepage would be difficult. Olson's other suggestion to the committee was the complete removal of the structure which he said channels under McClaine nearly 20 feet below.

forming a circle during the annual Corpus Christi procession on Sunday June 10. Services were held at three wigwams on the St. Francis Church grounds.

"That would mean cutting McClaine Road for 50 feet," he said, where at that point the culvert would be removed and the area would be back-filled. On this point however, Olson mentioned that compacting fill into the 20-foot gap would be difficult, meaning further settling could occur over time.

"The concrete will still be sitting there, but the metal sleeve around it is going to rot away and disappear," countered Dave Kafura, DNR water regulations and zoning specialist. His concern was that as the culvert rusts away, would the 20 feet of soil in turn fill its place?



Committee member Bob Vincenda asked Kafura where the county stands, with Kafura replying the county should come up with some different options to present to the DNR before moving forward.

"We have to truck in fill material to the site and we're probably looking at 900 yards," Olson said which, he pointed out, nearly quadruples the cost of the project.

"The increase in cost is substantial."

Vincenda questioned Kafura as to whether, after all the work, the county would ever need a culvert at that location in the future.

To this Kafura answered: "The Tiger Cat (has) an average 13-foot higher elevation than Round Lake (and) precipitation events at the point that Round Lake would be at a low enough level for the diversion to occur from the Tiger Cat...I don't think that's going to happen."

Regarding the county's application for abandonment of the dam, Kafura added that the application process "is a little more complicated," but that in the DNR's opinion, there is no stream history at the site which could make the process easier.

Kafura strongly recommended the county hold public hearings on the abandonment in part to expedite the application process.

With these conditions, Olson said work on the project will likely not begin until 2008, and further recommended consulting with an engineer before the project gets underway.

"I think if you get a specialist in the field like that, they will come up with the most cost effective solutions," said committee member Fred Zietlow. Olson estimated that an engineer could cost \$2,500 at a minimum.

Members of the lake associations from Tiger Cat and Round Lake were also on hand, with a Tiger Cat representative saying their association supports the abandonment while the Round Lake representative claiming his association opposes the abandonment, further requesting a more comprehensive plan from the county.

The committee moved to have Olson contact engineers and return to the committee a total dollar amount for the project.

In other committee business:

- Round Lake watershed public information meetings were announced. The first meeting will be held on June 29 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Hayward High School, while the second is slated for July 6 at 6 p.m. at the LCO Lodge & Convention Center. All interested parties, the committee stressed, are urged to attend.

Comments: will.labreche@mx3.com

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