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FEATURED

Replacement of Cedar Lake Level control begins, says road commission

Aug 18, 2020



CEDAR LAKE – Construction to replace the Cedar Lake lake level control structure will begin this week and take place over the next several weeks. The decaying structure, originally installed in the 1950s, is in dire need of repair, according to officials.

Courtesy Photo

GREENBUSH – The Alcona County Drain Commission will be replacing the existing lake level control structure on the north end of Cedar Lake in Greenbush, MI beginning on Aug. 20.

The estimated completion date is Sept. 11, according to officials.

The existing structure, built in the 1950's, has received poor condition ratings over the past 15 years as part of the mandatory State of Michigan triennial safety inspection program. The current structure is beyond the end of its useful life, and failure would be devastating for the Cedar Lake residents and visitors.

The structure severely leaks and cannot adequately manage and release water properly during high water conditions according to Alcona County Drain Commissioner, Jesse Campbell.

“The new dam structure will help maintain the legal lake level, be able to release more water during high water and flooding conditions, and reduce unnecessary water loss through the structure in the summertime,” he said. “The new design will also help with ongoing and routine maintenance by allowing larger debris to flow through the structure instead of plugging up in trash screens like the original structure.”

The estimated \$234,885 project is being entirely funded by a special assessment district consisting of lake front property owners on Cedar Lake in both Alcona County and Iosco County. The Spicer Group out of Saginaw was awarded the engineering contract in October 2019 and Team Elmer's of Alpena was awarded the construction contract.

Under a preliminary schedule, the cleaning clearing of the existing lane was scheduled to take place Aug. 13-14.

Crews will be removing the culvert at Indian Creek Drive and also removing brush and debris from 350 feet of ditch along Cedar Creek between E Cedar Lake Drive and Indian Creek Drive to improve flow capacity.

Then on Aug. 20-21, the installation of new replacement culvert on Indian Creek Drive is planned



On Aug. 24-26 it is the permanent sheet pilings and set up for dewatering is slated to be installed.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (ELGE) has authorized up to a 12-inch drawdown from the legal lake level. As of the end of July 2020, the lake was already 6.5 inches below the legal lake level. It is anticipated that only 2 additional inches will need to be dewatered to complete the project. The drawdown limitation is mandated by ELGE to minimize negative impacts on the aquatic wildlife and fauna.

On Aug. 27-31 the planned excavation for the concrete box culvert is scheduled to take place, with the installation slated for Sept. 1.

On Sept. 2-4 contractors will install the structures and backfill.

New sheet pilings will be installed early to prevent erosion and additional water loss through the remainder of the project.

Sept. 8-11 the contractors plan to finish up the project with road reconstruction and repaving of the roadway surface.

Campbell encouraged residents and visitors to monitor the lake level at their property if they have watercraft in Cedar Lake that could be affected by the drawdown.

All residents and visitors are asked to use the posted detour (F-30 to Cedar Lake Road to US23) as E Cedar Lake Drive will be closed to all traffic at the job site.

Questions or concerns about the Cedar Lake Level Control Structure replacement project ,or any other road or drainage issues, should be directed to the Alcona County Road Commission at 301 N. Lake Street, PO Box 40, Lincoln, MI 48742, by phone at 989-736-8168, or by email to *roads@alconacrc.com*.