

## July 16, 2010 Dam Update

Since the March General Membership Meeting, good things have been happening quickly. Once we received notice that our loan was authorized by the State, a meeting was held with LSHA and the Township representatives. After reviewing the widen spillway concept plan that would have cost over \$1.6 million to remediate the south dam, the Town expressed its intent to develop an alternate dam design with a lower cost impact. Jeff Elam, Director of the DPW was put on the task. In his files was a copy of the French and Parillo concept design which had been DEP-approved several years ago that called for training walls to be built on either side of the spillway. The concept did not change the width of the spillway. Therefore, because the flow rate was not changed, there were no impacts to the homes downstream and the Berkshire Valley Bridge.

Overall, the French and Parillo design was easier to build, with less complication, and had a lower potential cost. Based upon its merits, further meetings were held to form a Memorandum of Agreement between LSHA and the Town so that the Town could provide engineering, materials and supplies, construction oversight, general excavation, and governance authority during development of the design plan and throughout construction of the dam that would yield further significant cost savings. At its May 13 meeting, the LSHA Board listened to a presentation by Jeff that outlined the plan and reviewed the Town's role and ours. After hearing from Jeff, the board unanimously passed a resolution that authorized the Town of Jefferson to act on its behalf and to advocate and promote its feasible and cost-effective concept design to be approved by the DEP and funded by Dam Rehabilitation loan funds when they become available. Subsequently, a meeting was held at Assemblyman Bucco's office with Darin Shafer of NJDEP Dam Safety, Jim Leach, Jeff Elam, Councilperson Debi Merz, and Barbara Katz to demonstrate our commitment to cooperate in bringing this lower cost alternative to fruition. Darin offered to fast track the proposed project so that there would be limited delays in beginning construction.

Essentially, the project is divided into two phases. The interim repair that the DEP had suggested in December will be step one. The right side of the dam will be shored up by layering earth and materials to restore the area that had been eroded by the 2000 storm. The interim repair plans have already been submitted to the DEP. Depending on how quickly we receive approval from the DEP and the needed permits, construction will begin late August, early September. When completed, the lake can be returned to full pool. The costs for this step will be paid from the loan when the funds are available.

In phase two, the right side auxiliary spillway apron, supported by this firm foundation, will be extended and widened. Blocks will be placed on it to reduce the force of any water that might flow over it, thereby, reducing the chance for erosion. Then, training walls will be built on both sides of the auxiliary spillways to direct the water over the primary spillway.

The construction of the training walls will be done on LSHA property. The wall in front of one home will need to be tied into high ground. The DPW surveyed the four affected properties to mark the height and location of the walls. Jeff Elam and Barbara Katz met

with the affected homeowners to understand any of their concerns. All have agreed to the concept as outlined. There are still details to complete to implement this phase.

Due to the Town's resources and ability to obtain materials at a cheaper cost, Jeff has estimated the construction costs in the area of \$450,000. When we add in our upfront costs, it is anticipated that the total cost will be in the range of \$500 – 650,000. Using the French and Parillo design concept offers the potential reduction in cost of nearly one million dollars. We will be reimbursing the Town for all expenses related to this project from the proceeds of the loan, once the funds are available. When the remediation is complete, the loan will be repaid over twenty years by all the homes that benefit within Ringling Manor Estates.

At its July 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Town Council unanimously approved the Memorandum of Agreement. The Council stated their strong support that in the interest of all, the dam must be fixed. They will be signing the loan agreement when it is issued by the DEP. It has been an arduous journey to reach this point. Credit must be given to Norman Moon and Al Salzano for their efforts in providing us the groundwork to make this a reality. The Lake Swannanoa community has a great future ahead.