

Michigan Dam Safety Task Force Charge

The recent dam breaches in Midland, Michigan, laid bare the shortcomings of Michigan's Dam Safety Program, as did the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) Peer Review Report presented to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in September 2020. The ASDSO final report compared Michigan's program to a model state program and produced recommendations that seek to close the gap between the model program and the current state program. The Dam Safety Task Force was assembled to provide a Michigan perspective from experts in relevant professions and roles on ways to tailor the recommendations to Michigan, identify priorities and gaps in the recommendations, and assist in next steps where needed.

What Are the Duties of This Task Force?

Excerpted from [the Michigan Dam Safety Task Force Governance Procedures](#):

ARTICLE III—DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE

Section 1: Task Force Duties

The Task Force shall evaluate the statutory structure, budget, and program design of the Water Resources Division Dam Safety Program, the adequacy of Michigan's dam safety standards, and the level of investment needed in Michigan's dam infrastructure. Its work will culminate in a report to Governor Whitmer and the Legislature summarizing its findings and recommending regulatory, financial, and programmatic improvements to help ensure Michigan dams are appropriately maintained, operated, and overseen to protect Michigan residents and aquatic resources.

The Task Force may establish Task Force workgroups as considered necessary to assist in performing the duties and responsibilities of the Task Force. The Task Force may hire or retain contractors, subcontractors, Task Force, consultants, and agents and may make and enter into contracts necessary or incidental to the exercise of the powers of the Task Force and the performance of its duties as the Director of EGLE considers advisable and necessary, in accordance with state statute, and the rules and procedures of the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB), subject to available funding. The Task Force may accept donations of labor, services, or other things of value from any public or private agency or person.

Members of the Task Force shall refer all legal, legislative, and media contacts to EGLE.