



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN DAM SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING

Virtual Teams Meeting

December 17, 2020, 3:00 PM—5:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

Melinda (Myndi) Bacon
Liesl Eichler Clark
Dr. Marty Holtgren
Paul Malocha
Bill Rustem
Glen Wiczorek

John Broschak
Dan Eichinger
Dr. Dana Infante
Tanya Paslawski
Dr. Stan Vitton
Brad Wieferich (for Paul Ajegba)

Dr. Bryan Burroughs
Brett Fessell
Douglas Jester
Evan Pratt
Abby Watkins

Welcome and Task Force Business

Roll Call

The meeting commenced at 3:02 PM.

Vice chair Douglas Jester welcomed members to the fifth full Michigan Dam Safety Task Force meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Bill Rustem motioned to approve the December 17, 2020, meeting agenda, which director Liesl Eichler Clark seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of the Draft Minutes

Brad Wieferich motioned to approve the draft minutes from the November 30, 2020, meeting, which Tanya Paslawski seconded. The motion passed.

EGLE Dam Safety Program

EGLE Updates

Director Clark provided an update on the Edenville Dam cleanup process. Clark stated emergency work began on December 4, 2020, and is designed to protect residents, infrastructure, and natural resources downstream from the unstable dam remains. Clark described the ongoing work to lower the spillway and to clear out debris and sediment to allow the Tobacco River side to flow more naturally. Over the next few weeks, crews will evacuate and drain the river channel, demolish and prepare the surface's remaining concrete, and



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excavate and replace materials along downstream embankments. With winter approaching and soon halting work, Clark explained that the main concern with snowfall and additional spring rainfall is another failure and further flooding. The continued outreach of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is aimed at keeping the public updated about ongoing work, and Clark noted this work is temporary and focused on ensuring site safety, not rebuilding the dam.

When asked by Bill Rustem how this work was funded, Clark responded that 25 percent is from the State of Michigan and 75 percent is from federal sources, specifically the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a U.S. Department of Agriculture agency.

When asked by Dr. Stan Vitton about Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) involvement, Clark responded that FEMA is not involved at this stage but noted that FEMA distributed funds in the community throughout the cleanup process.

Public Comment

Jester invited members of the public on the call to ask questions. Public comments were heard. Jester thanked them for their comments and participation.

Review Draft Recommendations

Elizabeth Riggs, Public Sector Consultants (PSC), thanked task force members and EGLE staff for their hard work up to this point. Riggs explained that the purpose of the December and January meetings is to finalize and adopt/approve recommendations for the final report. Task force members will provide language amendments and brief explanations for any recommendation changes. Riggs noted task force members will vote on recommendations (existing and newly amended) by category. Remaining disagreements will require dissenting task force members to communicate between meetings and develop new language or amend existing language prior to the next task force meeting.

Jester reviewed recommendations by section:

- Outreach and Awareness, Safety, and Security at Dams
 - All six recommendations supported
- Compliance, Enforcement, and Emergency Response
 - Seven recommendations supported, seven tabled
- Dam Financing
 - Five recommendations supported, two tabled
- Licensing and Ownership
 - All two recommendations tabled
- Legislation and Authority (existing recommendations only)
 - All three recommendations supported



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Task force members will review the remaining sections' recommendations at the January meeting.

Action Items and Next Steps

Riggs summarized the conversations by stating further work is needed to refine recommendations related to compliance and enforcement, dam financing, and licensing and ownership. PSC will send the task force the list of tabled recommendations to review before the next meeting. Riggs reminded task force members to provide language amendments and rationale for any recommendations they disagree with, including tabled recommendations and those still to be voted on.

A public comment session is being planned for January during the week of the next task force meeting. Information about the session will be shared on the task force website.

PSC will begin drafting the final report in early January. Jester suggested that PSC, EGLE, and the task force officers meet to discuss the structure of the report. Riggs committed to organizing a meeting for that discussion.

Closing Remarks

The next full task force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.