



GRETCHEN D. DRISKELL

Water Resources Commissioner

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**FLOOK DAM FAQ
HRCOLA Meeting
May 10, 2025**

Construction Information

All design plans are complete and bidding for the construction has taken place. The lowest responsible bidder, Oak Construction, was chosen and is currently under contract to perform the work.

The total cost of dam repair and replacement is \$2,100,000. This includes engineering costs, construction, financing expenses, legal fees, and a small contingency. Previous expenses such as the fabrication and installation of stop logs is also contained within this computation.

Repairs to the dam include replacing all five radial arm gates and lift motors, general concrete repair and patching, and reinforcing one of the downstream headwalls. There will also be safety improvements with additional warning buoys and new signage. Finally, the dam controls used to operate the gates will get updated with new technology, allowing for the use of remote operations. 24-hour live cameras will be placed to provide visual views of the five bays and gates.

It is anticipated that Oak Construction will be given the order to proceed once financing is complete in June. As the gates cannot be prefabricated and must be individually constructed to match existing, there may be a few weeks time delay before noticeable construction activity is observed. The schedule still calls for all the work to be completed this year, with no disruption to the seasonal lake levels.

Please visit this link for more information on the history of the dam and the repair process: <https://bit.ly/flookinfo>

Assessment Information

Assessment will begin on 2025 winter tax bill and be prorated over 8 years. Please contact our office if you have questions regarding your assessment. Please note that the assessment district boundary and individual apportionments have already been finalized and the opportunity to appeal has expired. Public noticing was provided for each of these actions.

Those wishing to pay their apportionment in its entirety (without interest) can still do so until May 30, 2025. Interest will be applied to any payments after May 30, 2025. Please call 734-222-6860 or email at drains@washtenaw.org for a payoff amount, or you may use www.washtenaw.org/drainpayoff.

The sale of the bond will occur on May 21, 2025, to finance the project balance as of April 30th. We will learn the financing interest rate on this date (current estimate is approx. 5-6%).

Miscellaneous information

The State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has provided an update on the seasonal lake drawdown. As you may know, they have been considering ordering the winter drawdown to begin on October 1 during any given year, which has not been our traditional practice. In February 2025 they informed our office that they have engaged experts at EGLE and DNR to develop a best practice for specific lakes, including Portage and Baseline Lakes. They have indicated that they will engage with local residents to discuss their findings once their studies are complete. Until directed by EGLE we will continue to operate the lake levels as previously.

Please go to <https://www.washtenaw.org/3460/Portage-Base-Line-Lakes> for updates or subscribe to the Flook Dam on Portage Lake listserve. <https://notifications.civicplus.com/MI-WashtenawCounty/lists>