

CRYSTAL POND/DAM INFORMATION

The County's Engineer, J. E. Tiffany and Associates (Tiffany) has determined that the greatest concern for the Crystal Valley Dam pertains to the compromised integrity of the soils under much of the spillway. Water and soil have been exiting from the joint between the spillway and the downstream apron for a number of years, reducing the density of the soil underlying the spillway (and therefore its ability to support the spillway) while at the same time increasing the soil's permeability and seepage.

Tiffany developed a plan for a remediation project. However, during the course of their permitting work with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), the EGLE increased the design flow for the dam from 530 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 700 cfs. This is based on data that shows that severe rainfall events have become more frequent and more intense in recent years. What this means is that the existing spillway no longer meets the legal capacity requirement for design flow.

As a result, rather than the less than ideal remediation of the existing spillway, Tiffany is now recommending a complete replacement of the spillway. The new spillway project would address the seepage problem, have greatly increased underlying soil density and would exceed the new design flow requirements.

Although this would be a more expensive project (on the order of \$1.5M), some grant opportunities are possible. The dam is an important sea lamprey barrier so funding from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and other sources is possible.

We would like to enlist your support for this important project. The lake is an essential feature of the Crystal Valley Park and has great sentimental value for area residents. If the dam goes away, the property reverts to its original ownership.

Please email the following individuals, explain why the dam and the park are important to you, and express your support for a project to preserve the dam:

- Tracy Byard, County Administrator tbyard@oceana.mi.us
- Robert Walker, County Board Chairman rwalker@oceana.mi.us
- Garry McKeen, Chairperson of the County Parks and Recreation Commission
gamckeen1@gmail.com
- Paul Erickson, County Commissioner, District 4 perickson@oceana.mi.us

Thank you for your support!