

**BELGRADE AREA DAMS COMMITTEE**  
**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 4:00 PM, Belgrade Town Office**

*In attendance: Craig Alexander (Chair), Dick Greenan, Tom Bennett, Blaine Horrocks, Matthew Zeh, Cameron McCafferty, Boyd Snowden, Garrett Luszczy (Secretary)*

*Guests: Hans Rasmussen (Code Enf.), Edie & Ed Cornwall (East Pond)*

- **Meeting Commencement:**
  - Meeting called to order by Craig at 4:07pm.
  - Introductions of members and attendees to meet Boyd (Oakland delegate).
- **Previous Meeting Minutes:**
  - Tom made a motion to accept the December minutes, Blaine second. All in favor.
- **Current Dams Levels:**
  - Craig stated Great Pond was 248.1' (approx. 5" above full, open 16")
    - Data report shows 30" open. Dick will report to Essex for correction.
  - Tom stated Long Pond was 237.1' (approx. 2" below full, wide open)
  - Cam stated Salmon Lake was 277.1' (approx. 11" below full, partially open for min flow)
  - Dick stated Snow Pond was 235.15' (approx. 3" below full pond)
- **Lake Levels Strategy Discussion:**
  - 2023-24 Winter Storage Drawdown commenced following Indigenous People's Day.
  - Heavy rainfall from the past few weeks has pushed water levels back up substantially.
  - Dam operators will continue to lower water levels as fast as feasible. Great Pond will open/shut as able to hold back water from the more volatile/sensitive Long Pond.
  - 7-8" of snow currently on the ground. 3-6" forecasted Tuesday night into Wednesday followed by up to 1.5" of rain Wednesday. This will continue to challenge water levels.
  - More snow and rain anticipated next week. The committee will remain diligent and keep lowering lakes as fast as practical. Great Pond target is 24" below full, but cannot flood Long Pond to do so.
  - For perspective, 1" of rain on 1 acre of lake equates to 27,000gal. Great Pond is 8,533 acres resulting in 2.3 million gallons of water for every 1" of rain. Given the 5" of rain received in the last few weeks, this equals 1.2 billion gallons of water added to just Great Pond that we are trying to remove (not counting watershed and low-level areas around Great Pond). We appreciate the community's patience through this process and unprecedented rainfall totals.

- **New Maintenance:**

- Craig reported a squeal coming from the gear box on the village dam. Craig has called Shawn and Steve to meet on-site and review the cause and resolution.

- **Old Business:**

- Update on Village Dam Concrete Remediation:
  - Dick connected with Nick at Belgrade Town Office to process remaining payment to Steve Liberty. This has been processed/sent.
- 2024 Budget Request Update:
  - Dick has sent the latest budget request to all towns and awaiting disposition.
- Schedule Dams walk-throughs with new members – Lorna, Boyd, and Mike:
  - Craig will attempt to coordinate with team within the next month.
- Wing's Mill gate 1 repair:
  - Tabled until Spring. This will be a warm weather issue to repair.
- Dick preparing documents of historic records on thumb-drive for Craig and Garrett
  - These have been provided to Craig and Garrett. Dick also has a binder from former Chair Doug that he will share.

- **New Business:**

- None reported.

- **Next Meeting:**

- Scheduled for Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 4pm at the Belgrade Town Office.

- **Meeting Adjournment & Post-Meeting Discussion**

- Blaine made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt. All in favor. Adjourned 4:25pm.
- East Pond Update:
  - None this month.