

Dean Lake Water Level and Drain UPDATE (from the Board)

TIME SENSITIVE!

The Dean Lake Assoc Board has been exploring (for almost 2 years) options for (2) different initiatives affecting Dean Lake. The primary initiative sought to determine the possibility of a permanent drain for Dean Lake. After much discussion and evaluation the Board, with resident approval, initiated through KCDC an engineering study with Prein & Newhof. (12/20) The engineering report determined a viable connection possibility for a pump drain that would convey discharged lake water via a connection to the Hills-Dale drain on Plainfield Ave.

The driving force for a drain has been fueled by historic water levels experienced on the lake. With no natural outlet there is simply no way to control water levels on the lake except through evaporation. Dean Lake has a legal (normal) lake level established at 706.6 (ASL) At its peak the lake had risen close to 3' above that level and currently stands at approximately 17-19" above the established 'normal' level of 706.6.

A survey which lake residents recently completed, demonstrated strong support for pursuing a drain connection. The majority of lake residents feel 706.6 is too low to support normal health, recreation and enjoyment of the lake. The issue is, without modification, if a drain is installed, the KCDC would be required, under **Part 307 of P.A.45 of 1994** to maintain the lake at this low level.

Survey results from lake residents strongly support some increase to the existing lake level. Alternative lake levels were presented to residents for a lake level increase at levels of 6", 9" and 12". The 12" level received the most support. Some residents in low areas of the lake preferred 6" while the majority preferred 9" or more. Any modification to the established lake level starts with the KCDC with a final ruling by the Kent County Circuit Court and EGLE. This process has already begun with the initial Kent County Board of Commissioners meeting on Sept 7, 2021 to consider the resolution to move forward with a proposed increase of the lake level.

The Board is supporting an increased level of 9" over the current normal level of 706.6. **PLEASE NOTE** - the current level of the lake is approximately 17-19" **over** the normal level of 706.6 so a **NEW** level, if approved and a drain eventually installed, would result in a lake level approximately **10-12" below the present lake level.**

The recommendation and support from the Board represents a **compromise** of competing opinions and we feel represents the best chance to have this revised lake level approved. There is **no guarantee** on a particular level gaining final approval. The Circuit Court and EGLE have the final say on the requested level.

The most compelling evidence to supply in these review proceedings to KCDC, Circuit Court and EGLE is widespread support from lake residents.

Approval of an increased level of at least 9" will allow continued pursuit of a permanent drain identified by most residents as the ultimate goal and is widely supported. A permanent drain will

allow the infusion of clean water into the lake from our augmentation well and consistently allow lake level control to avoid the vagaries of too high or low water levels.

This is the beginning of a long and tedious process however, if successful, will benefit all residents not only in water quality but in home values as well.

The Board has concluded that unless there is **sufficient support** for the recommended minimal increase of 9" to the current lake level of 706.6 all additional efforts to pursue a permanent drain connection **will be terminated**.

In an effort to quantify resident support we are requesting each household complete the enclosed form. This is a referendum for lake residents to weigh in on the proposed lake level and the pursuit of a drain. These completed forms may be used as evidentiary exhibits to the KCDC, Courts and EGLE supporting a lake level increase and drain installation. The KCDC, Circuit Court and EGLE have the ultimate say for both the lake level and a potential drain regardless of the degree of resident support.

All residents will receive a duplicate of this e-mail via regular mail but for expediency, a response by e-mail is **preferred**. A paper copy can be returned to the address on the enclosed form. All responses are requested ASAP but no later than **Sept 10th 2021**.

.Thank you for your participation in these important considerations and initiatives.

Sincerely,

DEAN LAKE Board

** Additional information concerning lake level, history and drain decision evaluation will be posted as links on the Dean Lake website { deanlake.org }