

KLA UPDATE: REPORT ON KASHWAKAMAK LAKE DAM PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE
Thursday May 23, 2024 4pm to 6 pm

The MVCA and their consultants EGIS hosted a virtual Public Information Centre (PIC) on May 23, 2024 on the status of the Kashwakamak Dam Environmental Assessment Study. The information presented was an updated version of what was put before the Citizens Liaison Committee in February. Among members of the public who attended were Mayor Lichty, another KLA member and lake resident, and myself. I expect a full participant list will be published later. The following notes summarize new information including answers to questions raised by the participants

Project Cost and Funding

The estimated total cost of the dam rebuild is \$6 million. Of this, 40% will be covered by the Federal Government's Disaster Funding program and 50% from the Ontario Government's Water Infrastructure program. The remaining 10% will be covered directly by the MVCA and recovered from charges to its member municipalities, including the City of Ottawa which, given its size, will be the major contributor.

Surrounding Area Improvements

The existing walkway leading from the lake to the lower pools along the north side of the Mississippi River will not be disturbed. Any improvements to this walkway or other changes would depend on discussions with the Gutheinz family, who own the adjacent property on both sides of the dam. At this time, no such improvements are planned.

Climate Change Considerations

Based on its climate change studies, the MVCA estimates that there will be more extreme weather events, such as the 2022 derecho storm, and as much as a 20% increase in water flows. One of the main advantages of rebuilding the dam, rather than simply refurbishing it, is to incorporate features to handle these conditions.

Future Water Levels

The current water level plan of a 1.5 metre spread between the summer level of c. 261 metres (above sea level) and a winter level of c. 259.5 metres will be maintained. Maintaining a constant level over the summer months will be improved since there will be much less water seepage through the new dam.

Detailed Plan for Moving Boats

If there is to be any change in the usual timing for lowering the water in the fall (late October) or bringing it back up in the spring (late April), information must be provided to all property owners. Ideally the disruption of the usual summer recreational season should be minimal. The local marinas and lodges should be kept fully informed, so that they can accommodate any early deliveries from lake residents and longer holds than usual.

Expected Timing

Second meeting of the CLC in late June 2024
Final study recommendations and approvals late 2024 /early 2025
Design and tendering in 2025/2026
Construction start fall of 2026

.....

Alan Dean, Director, KLA - May 27, 2024