



Spring 2017 Update on FLPS Activities

Now in our fifth year of progress towards Fishhawk Lake solutions for lake health, its community, the watershed habitat and the environment, we find ourselves with plenty of challenges to accomplish. We had a very good year in accomplishing the 2016 objectives and we have plenty of tasks ahead of us for the balance of 2017.

A component of this update is to convey to the Fishhawk Membership that we were not awarded a technical assistance grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). We have learned that in addition to the perceived size of the combined fish ladder and modified spillway project that a number of agencies were of the perception that the project benefits would be more privately oriented rather than public and environmental. Receipt of the funds would have contributed significantly for us to complete the Phase 2 engineering work. With Fishhawk Membership funding and the help of additional construction grants, it would have kept us on track to begin construction efforts in 2018.

By not receiving this 2017 OWEB grant the FLPS team was presented with a number of program choices to keep our momentum going forward. Thus, after internal evaluation of choices and consequences, and after multiple discussions with the permitting agencies, we decided to de-couple the combined project approach (fish ladder & spillway) and instead focus on the spillway engineering and construction, followed by the fish ladder as a secondary effort with Oregon Fish and Wildlife.

As many of you may have observed, this past fall and winter season demonstrated very well the need for an ***effective long-term solution*** to high water events in the watershed and especially Fishhawk Lake. The risk exposure to flooding and potential damage/destruction to the dam is too high in exchange for hope that a devastating event will not occur. On behalf of the Fishhawk community, we want to convey our many thanks and appreciation to the Lake Staff and volunteers for managing the infrastructure during these high water events.

FLPS Activities in progress:

- Refocusing the design engineering effort for exploring the two construction options for a gated spillway to allow full depth lake flushing of sediment. (Both options are described briefly below)



Fishhawk Lake Project Solutions Team

- a. Separate gated spillway built to accommodate the full 1/2 PMF capacity
 - b. Gated spillway within the existing drop-drain spillway, includes the added capacity of an Emergency spillway (roadway dip)
- Meeting with Regional Conservation Partnership Program representatives.
 - Beginning discussions with the surrounding timber owners for the potential of receiving either monetary or in-kind support for the spillway
 - Evaluating options for funding the spillway engineering and subsequent construction through grants, financial loans and special assessments.
 - Prioritizing the design/construction of the emergency spillway to avert the near term risk of subsequent high water weather events.
 - Researching the potential for securing a FEMA grant through a new 'Hazard Mitigation Grant Program' that is specific to preventative measures for high hazard dams. (The program exists but is not currently funded to actually provide funding)
 - Hosting the ODFW's Fish Screening and Passage Coordinator in a joint effort to submit a cost-share application for the ODFW 2017 biennial budget for fish ladder design. This would allow the fish ladder design to continue.
 - Continuing the community outreach with Clatsop and Columbia Counties, the surrounding cities and towns and Fishhawk Creek folks.
 - Planning and evaluating the potential for a funding drive to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Fishhawk Lake including the invite of surrounding communities.
 - Preparing design and construction estimates for the spillway options
 - Coordinating our 2017 lake monitoring program for data collection
 - Planning and preparing for a May 6, 2017 informational meeting, for the purpose of presenting the next steps for spillway design options, construction cost estimates and various assessment alternatives for funding the efforts.

We look forward to seeing you at the May 6, 2017 informational meeting.

Best regards,

FLPS Team