



Spring 2018 Fishhawk Lake Project Solutions (FLPS)

Introduction

The FLPS team has been very busy over the last 5 months continuing to move the Emergency Spillway, the Gated Spillway and Fish Ladder Replacement projects forward. This informational letter is designed to bring the Fishhawk Lake Community up to date on the numerous activities, accomplishments and next steps for these projects. We encourage you to take the time to review this information and discuss it with your neighbors regarding these exciting projects. And, please do not hesitate to reach out to a FLPS or a Board of Trustees (BOT) member with questions or concerns. The FLPS & BOT members are included at the end of this update.

Infrastructure and Risk

The Fishhawk Lake dam is the major infrastructure that provides the environment that we enjoy. The structural integrity of the dam is very good and is inspected by the State Dam Inspectors every two years. The existing spillway (drop drain) is in a structurally acceptable condition; however it is 50 years old. The spillway is inefficient at lake water management, flood control and helping to maintain a healthy aquatic environment for our fish.

With changing climate conditions, meaning more frequent storms that are longer and more intense, we are at risk for overtopping the dam. The years of 1996 and 2007 demonstrated this real danger. We could lose the dam and the probability of a rebuild is not likely due to the cost as well as imposed regulations preventing a rebuild. However, we could still be required to restore the area to its original habitat (i.e. remove the dam) *at our expense*. We are under pressure to resolve this condition by the State of Oregon Water Resources Department and its Dam Safety Program. ***Construction of the Emergency Spillway will resolve these safety concerns and is critical to the stability, strength and longevity of our dam. Our lake and community depend upon this!***

The Emergency Spillway project is our FIRST priority!

Lake Water Quality

The lake is subject to upstream erosion, primarily caused by natural slides, erosion and logging operations that continually deposit sediment into the lake. We currently dredge at a significant cost each year with minimal effect other than to maintain some water depth in and around the incoming streams and Fishhawk Creek channel. It only takes one large water event to re-deposit an entire years' worth of dredging. Not only does sediment fill the lake, it contributes to the degradation of the water quality in terms of high water temperatures and very low dissolved oxygen, both critical factors for fish survival.



The Controlled Gate Spillway Modification is our second priority!

Design Species and Outdated Fish Ladder

The fish species of concern include Steelhead, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, Coho Salmon and Pacific Lamprey. Each of these species has different upstream and downstream migration patterns, fish passage requirements, and spawning requirements. The Fishhawk Creek watershed, including the lake, has both adult and juvenile Steelhead and is a significant sanctuary for juvenile Coho salmon prior to their migration to the Pacific. The lake is also a temporary home to lamprey that use the fish ladder for their spawning migration.

The existing fish ladder has deteriorated after 50 years of use and does not meet current criteria to ensure successful upstream and downstream fish passage. Simply put, we are out of compliance. Replacing the fish ladder on this dam is a high priority of both State and Federal agencies that oversee fish passage. The fortunate aspect of this situation, and the priorities that come with it, is that Fishhawk Lake meets the criteria for securing grant money to replace our existing fish ladder structure.

The Fish Ladder Replacement project is our third priority!

The Fishhawk Lake Program

For the past six years, FLPS has conducted and the FLRC has funded the research and preliminary engineering to arrive at solutions to resolve the aforementioned problems and issues at Fishhawk Lake. We have gained attention and support from the environmental stakeholders by establishing the knowledge required to undertake these major infrastructure projects. Yes, it has been a long process to get us to where we are today, but we have demonstrated to the regulatory stakeholders our strong desire to enhance this environment and make safe the infrastructure within it.

The program approach has always been one of transparency and effective use of resources and funding. Even though the program consists of three separate projects, they interface and connect across the road on the west side of the dam where they all empty into the spilling basin below the dam. Collaborating with the agencies for the final design and construction permitting on all three projects is a requirement we need to meet.

Where We Are Now

The following describes recent accomplishments on construction design, funding, and a forecast for construction:

Construction Design

- Phase 1 and a portion of Phase 2 engineering are complete. The unfortunate situation that contributed to a delay to the projects is that the engineering firm with



whom we have worked with for close to six years decided not to continue. We are in the process of qualifying a new firm and anticipate awarding a contract(s) for this work.

- An agency summit for the purpose of obtaining Memorandums of Understanding, a requirement for completing the design and for obtaining construction permits, is slated for September of 2018.
- Final construction design for the spillway projects will begin this summer and continue through the fall into 2019, with a construction design complete and ready for a construction period in the spring/summer of 2019.

Project Funding

- FLPS completed two grant applications and one State loan application recently for the design and construction of the gated spillway and design of the fish ladder replacement. The emergency spillway does not qualify for public grants of this nature. The Water Resource applications are currently open for public review and comment.

○ (Please [click here](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/Water_Projects_Grants_and_Loans.aspx#2018_Funding_Cycle) for more information) or copy and paste this site to your browser: (http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/Water_Projects_Grants_and_Loans.aspx#2018_Funding_Cycle)

- Over the last three months FLPS has focused on a tremendous outreach in the northwest, attending Watershed Council meetings, City Council and even County Commissioner meetings for the purpose of obtaining Federal, State, regional and community support for the Fishhawk Lake projects. Ten letters of support were provided and each one helps to increase the likeliness of grant success.
- Project costs are still projected to be in-line with previous speculations. A construction estimate can be made once design is near completion. With no firm project costs available at this time, FLRC cannot consider definitive assessment costs. Any rumors on assessment values that one may hear are inaccurate. The value of potential grants will help ultimately determine the assessment strategy and value.

Next Steps

Pre-engineering activities are in the planning stages for this summer, including spillway conceptual routing, utility locates across the dam, soil sampling, material testing on the concrete infrastructure, and possible survey of the existing underdrain.

Conclusion

As community members and stewards of our environment, we owe it to ourselves and future generations to do what is right for our lake by enhancing the Fishhawk Stream watershed. Whether we live on the lake or in the surrounding hills, whether we fish, or just enjoy our pristine water, this is an incredibly special place and we know it. Our



Fishhawk Lake Project Solutions Team

community must protect this unique and beautiful lake and watershed, preserving our investment for many years and generations to come.

How You Can Help

Please come and help create and support our education campaign by working with the FLPS team on tasks lined up for this fall. All volunteer efforts help to support the lake and its environment. This is a community endeavor in which we can all participate. It is this vision of sustainability and stewardship that motivates the FLPS team. Volunteers are needed to assist with Excel spreadsheets and to support water quality monitoring activities.

Best Regards,

Fishhawk Lake Project Solutions Team

Fishhawk Lake Project Solutions Team

Vic Dykstra
Alex Nokovic
Tom Rupers
Rick Osborn
Kevin Adolphson
Tim Couch

Jeff Busch
Sherry Floor
Julie Osborn
Bill Robinson
Sue McCullough
Ken Mortellaro

Fishhawk Lake Board of Trustees

Sally Doherty
Vic Dykstra
Dave Stratford

Mark MacDonald
Patrick McGillivary
Ken Mortellaro

Randy Taylor
Bill Robinson

Doug Barlow
John Marler

Fishhawk Lake Operations & Staff

Marilyn Tucker

Kevin Adolphson

Jim Dahlquist