

Hello LSLPC Members,

Carl from North Shores asked me earlier to see if I could do something with the Water Resource Commission (WRC) about the lake level. Some people may not know that we have a lake water augmentation pump to take water out of the Huron River (when there is enough water to take) and pipe it to the dam area, where it is expunged into our lake. This augmentation pump also benefits Middle Straits lake and all those residents share in the cost (not just Lower Straits Lake waterfront residents). This SAD cost also comes on your winter tax bill from Commerce Township, but it is administered by the WRC,

Without going into huge detail - the Water Resource Commission has a tough job. They are required by law to keep the level of the water at legal level, but that is impossible to do without lots of work, luck and effort. In other words, just because some person wants higher water, they cannot just cave in and do that. They look at history, weather forecasts, trends, etc. and try to predict when to put water in and when to hold water in. They can adjust by taking boards out of the dam and attempt to put more water in with the pump. However, if they put too much in and get a huge rainstorm then people with low areas can get flooded and they have to answer why they kept the lake so high against the court ordered legal level.

I contacted the WRC yesterday and got bad news back from them today. The pump for the lake augmentation has been damaged severely - again for those that have been around for a few years. The location in the river is a problem due to issues with debris and it is in a low spot. Many attempts to protect the pump from ingesting things it not ingest have been put in place - screens. However, the pump needs lots of water to run properly and therefore, the smaller the screen size, the less water for the pump.

The best estimate for pump repair is sometime in August, so for now, there is no hope other than rain to increase the level of the lake. All the boards are in place and have been in place for quite a few weeks. A small amount of water does leak through the boards but the dam is pretty secure.

For those keeping score - the legal level set by a court order is 930.70. The reading last Friday was 930.62 - fairly close. It is measured by a constant at the dam and only at the dam. The measurement per the court order has to use a constant. The level is not measured by someone looking at their dock or boat hoist or seawall. It is measured in one and only one place - at the dam. This level was set even before I started doing lake level control work at the Oakland County Drain Commission in the summer of 1969.

I will try to contact the WRC again at the end of the month to see what they have determined that they can do for the pump repair.

Regards,

John

