

Letter from the Chair

The district would like to pass on information on the activity at the Montello dam gates. This is the information received from the DNR:

As you may already be aware, recently some issues have been noted concerning the Montello Dam on the Upper Fox River, City of Montello.

On Wed. Oct 19, DNR staff visiting the dam noted that the left bank rock wall did not appear normal. This was reported to dam safety engineer Brent Binder. Dam safety engineer Hanna Johnson followed up with an onsite investigation to confirm any suspected issues with the structure. Subsequently the site was visited by dam safety engineer Brent Binder, and he confirmed there was some scour on the bottom of the lock channel by using an underwater video camera.

Brent confirmed that the lock channel floor and a portion of the south wall are experiencing an instability due to base material scour. Brent recommended that staff immediately Armor/fill the current void with 4-6" cobble to protect against further scour within the void.

Steps taken so far by DNR staff include:

1. Per recommendation by dam safety, Park staff immediately placed barriers on each end of the pedestrian bridge across the lock channel, these will remain in place until further notice.
2. Parks and fisheries management staff have placed the recommended 4-6' rock by hand into the void.

Other steps to be completed or continue include:

1. Continue to monitor and inspect the site.
2. Coordinate a dive inspection for the week of 10/25-29.
3. Flow through the gated spillway is being managed to limit scour.
4. Alternatives for a more long term, while still temporary, stabilization are being vetted with detail needed from the upcoming dive inspection to finalize a recommended course of action. This would be acted on in the next few months.
5. A repair/reconstruction of the lock channel would follow at a later date.

Once dam safety staff understand the site fully a final plan of action can begin and further notices will be sent to inform stakeholders.

We hope this information will explain the activities that will take place.

Joe Dion