



August 27, 2024

Public Notice: Low Water Levels - UPDATE

I am writing to provide additional context to the public notice released August 26. I have had several questions and calls regarding the low water levels at the dam. This provides a timeline in hopes of providing additional clarification.

Water Levels were lowered at the beginning of July for Dam repairs.

Repairs were anticipated to last approximately 3 weeks. There were two additional deficiencies found underneath the road (that were not visible to the public). Those additional repairs required fiscal approval and the order of materials that had to be shipped from out of state, which extended the completion of the Dam repairs until 8/13/24.

On 8/13/24, The city was notified that the dam repairs were finished. Tridonn Construction requested that the Engineer do a final inspection prior to Tridonn removing their equipment.

On 8/16/24, The Engineer approved the repairs and notified Tridonn that the project was completed to satisfactory conditions and standards. They could remove their equipment.

There was some rainfall on the weekend of 08/17-08/18. We did not benefit from that rainfall to increase the water levels due to the equipment waiting for removal. It appeared that the water level increased when it rained, however, no boards were able to be placed to retain that rainwater.

On 8/20/24, Tridonn Construction removed their equipment from the Auxiliary Spillway.

On 8/20/24, in the afternoon, the city was notified that the equipment had been removed. We began to raise the water level by placing boards back into the dam.



On 8/26/24, Following assessments of the dam and lake levels, the steel gates were closed on the auxiliary raceway and a row of boards were added. With the gate closed, there is no water flowing OVER the dam or boards in the raceway.

On 8/27/24, We received multiple calls and correspondence that residents were reporting a dam failure to EGLE- State of Michigan and the news media. After several discussions with the Dam Safety Unit, they concurred that we are taking the best corrective action considering the circumstances of the pond. There is regulation on the amount of water that we can or cannot hold in the pond and the amount that we discharge.

The water that you see and hear is NOT going over the dam or the boards. There is water flowing *through* the boards, which is a requirement of EGLE in order to draw water from the bottom of the pond/river for cooler temperatures. We cannot completely stop the flow downstream, as that is a violation. We are ONLY permitted to do what we can do what we can and are permitted to do to correct this. The water level has increased over the past 36 hours, and we expect it to continue to rise.

The city has continued to advocate and fight to keep the dam, as a majority of the resident's desire. The city has no intention of removing the dam nor any intention of the water level remaining low permanently. The combination of circumstances made a "perfect storm" for undesired water levels, and we are taking as much affirmative action as we can to restore water levels.

We are continuing to monitor the water levels and actively making decisions and adjustments within our authority with the guidance of EGLE to restore the water levels.

*Please call City Hall or email citymanager@cityofwhitecloud.org if you have additional questions or would like further clarification. I will not be answering or responding to questions or comments on Facebook as we do not have the capacity to monitor social media content daily; we use it as a means to provide information.

April Storms
City Manager