

Beulah Dam - No Time To Hold Back

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COVER STORY

NO TIME TO HOLD BACK

Land owners,
county, lake district
eye reconstruction of
poorly rated dam

By **TOOD MISHLER**
HENRY WHITE

TROY TOWNSHIP — They don't expect Mother Nature to wreak havoc in the short term. However, local, county and state officials have their eyes on preventing a perfect-storm situation with a long-term solution.

The earthen outflow dam on Lake Beulah under County Highway J was built in the late 1800s to raise the level and form one contiguous body of water from the original Mill, Crooked and Long Lakes. And the current configuration of the concrete spillway structure is believed to be about 90 years old.

Combine that with a lack of regular inspections and maintenance, and it's easy to see why in



Paul Wirth of Patrick Engineering looks over records and makes notes during an inspection of the Lake Beulah dam area late last month. The earthen dam is No. 5 on a priority list of 15 publicly owned dams across the state that need to be repaired, abandoned or removed.

January the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources rated it No. 5 in a priority list of 15 publicly owned dams across the state that need to be repaired, abandoned or removed.

Local land owners, the Lake Beulah Management District and Walworth County have agreed that the estimated \$1.15 million reconstruction project is necessary

and should be tackled in 2013 rather than waiting, especially considering the approximate \$390,000 DNR grant may not be available again after the current budgetary window.

LJRM Chairman Dave Skotarszak moved to the area in 1972, so he knows how important the project is to residents.

"It's a high-hazard dam, so it's a

safety issue," Skotarszak said. "That's what is paramount. Something needs to be done for the long haul, and most people would agree to that. The DNR doesn't have funding available often, so we think it's wise to use it, get the project done and do it right."

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OFF ALL PAIN MEDS!



Larry and photos

First I went to the medical doctor; I had to use a wheelchair to get around his office. I was too sore and weak to walk. They ordered a MRI which showed several disc injuries and an EMG which showed I had some nerve irritation in my right leg. I was prescribed pain pills. I pretty much couldn't do anything but lay on the couch. I couldn't sleep in bed. I couldn't walk without the use of a cane. After 4 weeks of care with Dr. Dittmann, I am sleeping all night in my bed, I'm off all pain meds, I'm able to cut my grass, take out the garbage, wash dishes and other chores I could never do before. I haven't used my cane in weeks! Now with the exercises Dr. Dittmann showed me I'm getting stronger everyday!

Larry - Delavan

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