



Sanford Dam Debris Removal to Begin Soon

Property Owners May Claim Items Piled at Dam, Volunteers Needed

MIDLAND, MI – October 12, 2020 – Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF) has received grants from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and State of Michigan to remove the debris pile at Sanford Dam, and will begin doing so the week of October 19, 2020. The process is expected to take about two weeks.

“This is an important milestone in the clean-up process and we are grateful to NRCS for its financial support, as well as many volunteers who are helping to remove, sort and label residents’ belongings and coordinate the process,” said David Kepler, president, FLTF.

As part of the clean-up, FLTF will inventory recovered items that have distinguishing marks (owner’s name, registration number, etc.) and contact property owners to let them know they can pick up their recovered item. FLTF is asking all property owners who have or think they have personal items piled at Sanford Dam to submit a debris claim form at bit.ly/FLTF-debris. Residents should complete the form regardless of whether they wish to claim the item.

A recent video of the dam shows the debris pile and can be viewed at bit.ly/Mowbray-Sanford-Wixom.

Once retrieved, property will be stored at 264 W Center St, Sanford, MI 48657 in a gated, locked area that is monitored by local law enforcement. Volunteers will contact property owners to let them know they have a recovered item. Law enforcement will call people whose property is registered with the state and has a registration number or VIN (vehicle identification number) (i.e. trailers, boats or motors).

If property owners claim large items like boats or trailers, it is their responsibility to retrieve them during the allotted pick-up time. Unclaimed items will go to the landfill. They will not be sold or given away.

Residents are not permitted to go onto or near Sanford Dam to recover their personal property from the debris. Moving an item may cause other items to move and shift, potentially increasing the risk of additional damage to the dam. Fisher Contracting will perform the debris removal.

Volunteers needed. FLTF is asking for volunteers to help categorize, sort and label recovered items from the Sanford Dam debris and distribute them to their proper owners. Volunteers can sign up for a shift on any of the following days: October 22-23, October 26-30, November 2-6 and November 9-13.

To volunteer or to claim property, go to <http://www.four-lakes-taskforce-mi.com/debris-removal.html>.

Reporters:

For access to the dam during the debris removal process to take photos or interview workers, contact Sanford Village President Dolores Porte at djp12@hotmail.com or 989-245-9246. For general questions about FLTF, please contact Stacey Trapani at stacey@trapanicomm.com.