

Stewart Landing Dam

Summary of events (from DEC files at Northville)
* (comments by reviewer)

6/97

The original dam was constructed in 1895 for logging and power. The present dam was constructed in 1911.

4/11/66 Partial copy of deed, Oregon Mt. Club to James & June Read: usage of property below the 1545.0 elevation is by "permanent easement to the existing waterline". *(do other deeds contain the same, are there any restrictions of use?)

4/21/66 The deed from the Niagra Mohawk Power Corp. to the Oregon Mt. Corp. contains a summer water elevation restriction of between 1541.0 and 1543.91 ft.

4/9/73 Legislative act and acceptance of the dam by DEC.

10/74 12" FLASHBOARDS (SEE SANZA AFFIDAVIT)

7/28/75 Management objective, water level, 1542.83 ft., or midpoint of high and low deed restrictions. (T. Shearer)

Level of concrete spillway 1542.41 ft.

Level of 9 in. Flash boards 1543.16 ft. (7/1/75)

10/18/76 Evaluation of automatic level control gates. Considered by Engineering to be to expensive and not suitable. Setting of Flash boards preferred.

5/77 Association differs (with engineering) that automatic level gates are to expensive, and suggest their cost at an estimated \$15,000.00. DEC to investigate (no results in file).

5/16/77 General meeting of all concerned. Agreed that:

Gates will be closed on 5/15, level raised to 1542.83 ft.

10/1 level decreased to 1539.83 ft.

12/1, level decreased to 1536.41 ft. (drained)

Minimum drawdown for maintenance, 5/20 - 6/25 & Labor Day - 10/25, to 1541.00 ft.
(Similar recommendations from DEC Fisheries)

11/1/77 (T. Shearer)

Maintaining summer level at 1542.83 ft.

Dam operator adjusting gates after heavy rains.

Suggests that the Department of Health inventory and evaluate sewage disposal systems of lakeside residents.

Suggests proper septic system design.

5/16/78 General inspection (lake level 1542.8 ft.)

Low lying camps having sewage problems.

Some shoreline erosion.

Some thought the 1542.8 ft. level to be ideal.
Some favored a year-round constant lake level.

6/6/78 General meeting of those concerned.
Agreed to leave flash boards as-is at 1543.16 ft.

1 to 3 ft. Interim fall level requested to allow dock repairs, 10/1 - 12/1 suggested.

7/20/78 All parties in agreement with 1542.8 ft. level objective. The dam operator, through "various techniques" is maintaining this level.

8/7/78 Pres. Dieffenbocker, Stewart Landing Dam Assn...:
Favors Fisheries input in determining lake levels.
Requests warning when levels are to be lowered other than by schedule.
Favors leaving summer levels "as is" & allowing flow over the dam to regulate the level naturally.

9/28/78 Objective continues to be 1542.83 ft.

12/1/78 Directive from the DEC Regional Operations Supvr. to reduce the flash board ht. From 9 in, to 6 ½ in. This after a review of recorded water levels were averaging somewhat high.

3/22/79 DEC declines acceptance of 80 acres of the stream of Stewart Landing Flow (Sprite Creek).

4/27/79 Flash boards now cut and lowered 2 ½ in. (.2083 ft.) (D. Decker)
*(flashboards now measure 8 3/8 in. - why?)

4/28/83 Simultaneous readings at the dam & at Green Lake indicate a 10.8 - 12 in. difference in elevation. *(no record of how this was accomplished) A 4-7 in. differential is accepted by the Stewart Landing Dam Assn.
* (the difference is the head of water flowing toward the dam. It would increase after recent rainfall, and decrease during dryer periods.)

9/85 Henry Eifort, Pres., Stewart Landing Dam Assn.. Proposed controls:
Gates closed at "ice-out"
Summer elevation 1542.83 ft.
Elevation controlled by natural flow over the dam.
Periodic opening and closing of the gates to occur only in extreme emergencies.
1542.83 ft. elevation to be maintained until 11/15.
Final drawdown & 11/15 to 1536.41 ft.
Intermediate drawdown every four years (leap years), 10/15 - 11/15, - 1539.81 ft.
Final drawdown 12/1.

2/19/ 86 General meeting of those concerned.

Spring closing to remain at "ice - out".

Association would like to see the gate remained closed during the summer.

Fall drawdown changed to 10/15.

Summer elevation now 1543.1 ft. * (background leading to change not recorded to file.)

Fisheries yet to recommend effects on fish during drawdown.

11/14/88 Engineering evaluation - whole upstream side of dam pitted & in need of resurfacing.

11/9/89 Refacing of dam to soon begin during the winter months. Anticipate closing by 6/1/90.

6/8/90 General meeting (construction). From memory of one of the participants, the gates were closed toward the end of June.

6/1/94 Comparison survey of the two level gauges at the Green Lake bridge, Scott Orr, Licensed Surveyor.

*(a discrepancy was suspected by the Operations Supervisor)

Accepting the USGS benchmark on the upstream abutment as the true elevation, the popular elevation board the opposite and downstream abutment was found to be mounted .628 ft. to high. Thus 1543.1 ft. read on this board is actually 1543.728 ft.!

*(Future agreements should refer to the true elevation)

*(Utilizing the true elevation, water falls 1.09 ft. between the Green Lake gauge and the dam.)

10/96 Drawdown to allow the Town of Caroga to replace road culverts near the West Lake Fish Access Site. (Drawdown properly announced.)

6/6/97 Present Assoc. Presidents:

Doug Gniewek

Stewart Landing Dam Assn., 56 Huntwood Dr., Clifton Park, NY.

Camp 315-429-3043, Home 518-371-1676

Mr. Fielding

Canada Lake Assn., Canada Lake Store

Store 518-835-6069

*(In recent years the Northville DEC has been trying to lessen the effects of high water by adjusting the dam gates. Doing so actually violates the operation agreement which says that the "water level will be maintained by natural flow over the dam", and that the "gates will be opened only in cases of extreme emergency".

*(DEC has not had the services of a full time Dam Operator (actually Maintenance Assistant) since Bruce Busch retired on 12/30/87.

6/6/97 Summarized by John Buyce, DEC, Northville NY 12134. (DEC operations supervisor replacing Don Decker & Wayne Blanchard.)