

Pelican Lake Dam update

PGOLID has been working with the DNR to have the Pelican Lake Dam repaired. See the attached pictures for a better understanding of the problem. This has been a very slow process and the timeline goes something like this.

In the summer of 2003, the center island of the dam washed out and the water level of Pelican Lake started to drop quite rapidly. In the fall of 2003, a steel plate was placed in the washout with rocks and sand filled in front of it as a temporary repair. It was determined at that point, that the DNR controlled the dam and was responsible for any repairs. In 2005, PGOLID started pressing the issue of repairing the dam with the DNR and in the fall of 2007, it appeared the DNR was going to do the actual repairs to the dam. Unfortunately, the DNR thought a repair meant throwing a few bags of quickcrete in front of the temporary repair and that is what they did in the winter of 07/08.



In 2008, more meetings with the DNR occurred and a consensus was reached, that the dam should be repaired before it washes out again, as the cost would be much higher if the dam washed out before repairs could be executed. Paul Diederich of Industrial Builders provided a budget bid of \$250,000 to make those repairs. It was learned that 3 years earlier, the DNR also received a budget bid for the repairs at \$200,000. In the fall of 2008, conversations with the State director of the Waters division of the DNR revealed the budget for repairing dams for 2008 was \$2M and there were 100 dams on that list with the Pelican Lake dam not currently on the top 20 list. The New London Dam is #1 at \$2M and Brunson State Park is #2 at \$8M which adds up to not-enough-money. More conversations with DNR and our state representatives concluded some sort of cost sharing between the DNR and PGOILD might be the only alternative to accomplishing the repairs and talks are continuing along those lines. This is clearly a slow process with steps forward and backward.

At this point it's unclear where it will all end up, but as more progress is made, updates will be available. If you have questions, contact Jeff Peltier jeff@pgolid.org as he has been taking the lead in this process.