

Problem – the White River channel through the Flowage has become very shallow through, at least, the first third of the flowage.

Goal – return, and maintain, the channel to a depth of at least 1-2 feet starting at the head of the Flowage.

Possible Action – At a June 17, 2013 meeting, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) representatives stated that a drawdown of 1-2 years (permit cost \$500.00) appeared to be the best action. They further suggested that the potential for water diversion, at the head of the Flowage, should be considered once the direction of the channel was indicated during the drawdown.

District representatives stated that they would contact the dam owners for a written statement concerning the depth and possible cost of various levels of drawdown, review the potential impact of a any drawdown on the flowage, call a WRFLMD Board meeting to determine if a Special District meeting should be called, and bring the information to the District, at a District meeting (if so decided by the Board) to determine if any drawdown is desired by the District.

Background - On June 26, 2012 a meeting was held between DNR representatives and White River Flowage Lake Management District (WRFLMD) representatives to review the impact, on the Flowage, of the very large amount of silt deposited at the head of the Flowage after a drawdown of the Wautoma Mill Pond. At this meeting, the DNR representatives recommended that the WRFLMD wait until June of 2013 before taking any action concerning the problem in order to allow the natural head cutting of the channel to take affect. A meeting was held on July 9, 2012 between representatives of the City of Wautoma and representatives of the WRFLMD to discuss the same problem.

On June 17, 2013, representatives from the DNR, Waushara County, the City of Wautoma, and the WRFLMD met to review the status of the White River Channel in the Flowage. While some head cutting is evident at the start of the Flowage, the channel is still very shallow and the problem has extended a significant distance down the Flowage. The DNR representatives stated that there were 3 primary potential actions: 1) do nothing, 2) drawdown (full or partial), and 3) dredging. In addition, the potential for water diversion, at the head of the Flowage, should be considered. Dredging is very expensive. The extent of a drawdown (if any) would depend on the flow restrictions at the dam, and the cost of any lost generation or other expenses, loss of use of the flowage by residents, potential loss of fish, etc. A meeting was held on June 12, 2013 between representatives of the City of Wautoma and representatives of the WRFLMD to review the same problem.