

Silt/Muck Update

I wanted to get you up to speed on what has taken place at the two latest meetings that have taken place since this silt/muck was discovered in the channel at the North end of the flowage. On June 17th a meeting was held at the North end. This meeting was attended by seven (7) reps. from the DNR. One of these reps. is the third highest, ranking official in the DNR. After much discussion, it was decided that a partial or full drawdown of the flowage is the best action to take concerning this situation. The district members will have to vote on any drawdown at the Sept. Annual Meeting. There are several pro's and con's to any type of drawdown action;

A Partial Drawdown;

1. Any drawdown will most likely help to control the wild rice crop that grows larger each which has been a problem for the district for several years,
2. A drawdown will deepen and widen the channel at the north end of the flowage. Residents at the north end of the flowage will also have a chance to clean channels to their docks,
3. Aquatic plant population at the north end of the flowage will diminish,
4. White River Trail Landing can possibly have much needed improvements,
5. Will affect the Invasive Aquatic Plant population,
6. No Chemical Treatments in 2015 & possibly 2017
7. The DNR has suggested they would bring in boulders and trees to form channel at north end. No comment on cost at this meeting, but suggested they could HELP.
8. \$500 cost for permit for drawdown, City of Wautoma MAY help pay this expense.
9. Depending on the depth of the drawdown, recreational use of entire flowage could be affected for 1-2 years

The second meeting took place with the owners of the North American Dam located on County Road YY at the south end of the flowage. Several DNR reps were present along with two reps from the dam and several members of the Friends of the White River from Neshkoro. Our conversation with the dam reps concerned loss of productivity and cost for this loss. I explained that our District is a victim in this situation and I didn't want the district to have to pay for loss of productivity. These reps totally understand our situation but they didn't have the information needed for this meeting and it was decided that the information needed be compiled and a second meeting was set for August. We need elevation figures for the flowage, example, if the dam drops the water level a foot at the dam, what does that equate to in feet at the north end of the flowage. Also when would be the best time of season to do a drawdown. The Dam reps suggested early spring is a perfect time because of the snow melt and rainy conditions. They have extra water passing through the dam and usually have to dump water, meaning there is too much water passing through the dam.