

Shawano Lake Water Levels

Much activity continues to take place around our efforts to bring final resolution to the water level challenges that we have faced since a complaint was filed in 2015. Through November 15, 2023 the Shawano Paper Mills dam is operating under a temporary amendment of exemption that allows them to maintain the pool elevation of the Wolf River pond at a level of 802.9 feet msl year round. Recall, this is our historic target elevation which we deem appropriate to ensure safe navigation on the river, channel and lake. This order was granted in late July 2021. Since that time SAWM, North Eastern Wisconsin Hydro (dam operators) and our project consultant, Gomez and Sullivan, have been working to finalize a filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to secure a permanent amendment to the operating exemption allowing the dam to operate at this higher level in perpetuity. For those that have monitored this effort, you'll recall two earlier filings were attempted without success.

Recently, a very key hurdle was crossed as our consultant and NEW Hydro completed a desktop hydrologic study which was provided to the WI DNR for review and comment. The WI DNR indicated they had no concerns with the study or operation at the proposed target level of 802.9 ft vs the current "normal" pool height of 802.5. The hydrologic study compared the flooding potential if a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability event occurred at the normal pool height of 802.5 vs the proposed value of 802.9. The results displayed no meaningful difference in results.

During this time, SAWM attended board meetings with the surrounding city, county and villages and towns to educate elected officials on the status of this project. Further consultation with these elected officials will occur in the coming months as we share with them the details of the final draft filing. The draft amendment application is scheduled to be provided to the WI DNR for review in mid August with the final amendment application filed with FERC by year end.

We remain optimistic and hopeful that these actions will be the final steps in resolving this very costly and time consuming issue. Unfortunately, instead of directing revenue toward other important topics effecting our waterways, we will have spent near \$100k working to return the water level to its historic value. We can't provide enough thanks to our partners at NEW Hydro and Gomez and Sullivan for helping us navigate this final effort.