

## **Lake Sustainability Committee Update – March 2026**

The Lake Sustainability Committee met on February 21 to continue planning for the long-term health of both Holiday Lakes and Big Bass Lake. Here are the highlights of what we're working on:

### **Planning for the Future**

The committee is working towards a 2-, 4-, and 6-year sustainability plan to guide major projects such as spillway repairs, dredging, shoreline protection, and long-term lake management. This plan will include both lakes. As these projects take shape, we will share updates so residents understand expected costs, timelines, and the risks of delaying critical work.

### **Main Lake Spillway Repairs**

The main lake spillway remains a top priority. We are preparing to gather bids for needed repairs, including evaluating concrete delamination and exploring the option of adding an electric motor for safer gate operation. Osborn Engineering recommends completing these repairs within the next 1–2 years.

### **Big Bass Lake Spillway Replacement**

Engineers from SS&ME identified significant deterioration of the Big Bass Lake spillway and drain pipe, along with erosion in the outlet ravine. Much of the concrete has now degraded to gravel. With ODNR scheduled to inspect all dams and spillways in 2026, it is possible that significant repairs or full replacement of the Big Bass spillway will be required.

This work will be incorporated into the long-range sustainability plan and future budgeting.

### **Dredging the Lakes**

To improve navigation and reduce silt buildup, the committee will be reviewing dredging proposals for several key areas. The goal is to restore a minimum depth of 4 feet in coves and continue monitoring sediment levels over time.

Understanding sedimentation rates will help establish a dredging cycle and long-term maintenance budget.

### **Wiers and Sediment Monitoring**

Wiers will be cleaned again next year to measure annual silt accumulation. Committee members will also monitor them monthly, and we may bring in an engineer to review their design and downstream impact.

### **Shoreline Protection**

Erosion control is another major focus. The committee is considering clear riprap standards and identifying high-priority areas—especially in the coves—where shoreline protection is most needed.

### **Environmental Observations**

Freshwater clams and mussels were observed on the lake bottom. A couple of members have stated they have seen zebra mussels in the main lake. We will be asking ODNR for assistance in evaluating the situation and recommend whether any mitigation steps are needed.

### **What's Next**

A comprehensive Scope of Work is being drafted to guide all lake-related projects and align them with the long-range sustainability plan. The next committee meeting will be held Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 AM at the Lodge.