

ILA Bulletin



INTERMEDIATE LAKE ASSOCIATION

December 2022

Meet Antrim County's New Operator of Dams!

Mark your calendars for January 14th at 10am! The Intermediate Lake Association is pleased to announce an informal "Meet & Greet" social event to say "job well done" for the outgoing Antrim County Operator of Dams Mark Stone and to introduce his replacement, Leslie Meyers. This is for ILA members only (yet another great reason to join the ILA!). While we will miss Mark, we are very excited to welcome Leslie into the job. Leslie brings strong qualifications and much experience to the role and is looking forward to building on the foundation Mark has built during his tenure as Operator of Dams. Stop in to greet and say hello to Leslie! Here are the details – we hope to see you there!

Meet & Greet with Leslie Meyers & Mark Stone

Date & Time: Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 10am

Location: Forest Home Township Hall

RSVP Required: Yes, to ILAemail@intermediatelake.org

Changing of the Guard — Operator of Dams

Antrim County has a new Operator of Dams! After more than two decades in the position, current Operator of Dams Mark Stone will be retiring at year's end. Taking over for Mark will be Leslie Meyers. Leslie is currently Antrim County's Emergency Services Coordinator. The ILA welcomes Leslie to her new position as Antrim County Operator of Dams and will be working closely with her as we have with Mark. The Operator of Dams oversees operation of both the Bellaire Dam on the Intermediate River and the Elk Rapids Dam at the mouth of the Chain of Lakes. The Craven Pond Dam on the Cedar River in Bellaire is owned and operated by the Village of Bellaire.

The Intermediate Lake Association thanks Mark Stone for his years of service here in Antrim County – he has done a great job as Operator of Dams and in his other positions during his tenure in Antrim County. Mark has many significant achievements to be proud of. To name just a couple: keeping both the Bellaire and Elk Rapids Dams in proper working order passing their periodic inspections and certifications; helping to get the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to develop the Hydrologic Model of our Chain of Lakes; securing most of the funding for the project through the USACE; leading the effort to bring the Antrim County Board of Commissioners on board to fund the county's share of the project's funding; and working with the ILA to modify the operating protocol for the Bellaire Dam.

ILA Bulletin

Lake Level Studies Update

The Intermediate Lake Association is working with Antrim County to obtain funding for continued development of the Hydrology Model of our Elk Rapids Chain of Lakes (ERCOL) and studies using the model. This is being made possible through a new grant program from the State of Michigan. The county has proposed a \$50,000 grant under this program (\$45,000 from the state and \$5,000 from the county). We will find out in the first half of 2023 if we are successful in receiving this grant.

Proposed objectives for the program, if we receive the funding, are twofold. First, we want to expand the model to include the Elk Rapids Dam, thus making the model cover the entire ERCOL. Second, we plan on using the model to study the Bellaire Dam during significant precipitation events (i.e., a 100 year flood event). Can it handle the water flow without over topping the dam? Should another weir be added to increase throughput during 100 year flood events. This sort of risk assessments are just what the Hydrology Model was developed for.

Winter Lake Levels

With our recent stretches of wet and/or snowy weather and the varying level of Intermediate Lake that accompany these periods, it's good to review how the Bellaire Dam is operated during the fall and winter. Remember that the targeted winter time level of the lake is a bit more than 7 inches lower than the summer target level. Therefore, starting after Labor Day, Antrim County fully opens all the gates on the Bellaire Dam to help lower the level of Intermediate Lake to its winter target level (Antrim County owns, maintains and operates the Bellaire Dam). So, be assured the dam has been fully open since early September and will remain 100% open all through the winter and into the spring months.

Opening the Bellaire Dam gates after Labor Day to help pull the lake level down to the winter target is part of the modified operating guidelines that the ILA developed working with the Operator of Dams and which were implemented a few years back. These improved guidelines have made a significant difference during the last two winters.

Website: intermediatelake.org/home.htm
Facebook: Intermediate Lake Association
email@intermediatelake.org
P.O. Box 795, Central Lake, MI 49622
ILA is a 501c3 non-profit