

August 2020 Transcript of the Big Canoe POA Board Meeting

Speaking below is Scott Auer, General Manager of the Big Canoe Property Owners Association (POA)

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Great thank you Bob. The first thing I wanted to talk about was the dam. Um, many of you have heard me said before the the place to find truth is usually not on facebook, and that's why we did Ask The POA, and, and many of you have sent in uh, questions about the dam, and things you've read, and so uh, since that's been a frequently asked question, I thought I would uh, tell you guys everything I know. So Georgia Safe Dams is, is an Act that's been adopted by the State of Georgia, and it requires quarterly inspections of a class one dam. We are a class one dam. We're actually the second largest earthen dam in the State of Georgia. Um, they also require every two years that you have an engineering report done. Uh, we have chosen for many years, and certainly this year, to be more stringent than the State of Georgia requires, so we work with a professional engineering company called Geosyntec. Geosyntec works extensively with the TVA. This is what they do for living. So uh, although we're not required to do this by Georgia Safe Dams, we have them inspect the dam quarterly. So they've done three inspections this year, and their last inspection will be in fourth quarter, and every year we have them actually do the complete engineering report for us, which again is twice as stringent as what Georgia Safe Dams requires. Um, the, the summary of that, at this point, is if you gave me a blank check to spend on the dam I wouldn't write it anything on that check, because there is nothing that has come up in the report for the first three quarters that says we have to go spend money and do something immediately on the dam. There is always as you can imagine with any huge public works project. There's always little things that need to be maintained, like we found a tree growing out of the side. Please have the landscaping department remove that. We've seen some little animal burrows. Please fill those things. We see some areas where the, the grass seed is is not taking like it should. Please have Matthew come out and redo that. So that is normal operating procedure for us in, in public works and landscaping. So that is why we have the dam inspected every single, every single quarter. There is one additional thing that we're doing, uh, this fall. Uh, one of the other things Georgia Safe Dam requires is that we have an emergency action plan in place, an EAP, and one of the things the EO, EAP requires is that you do a periodic inspection of the sluice gate. For those of you who are not dam experts, the sluice gate is the thing at the very bottom of the dam on the lake side. It's a hundred feet down, and it is a big piece of metal. It's a metal gate, and if you open that gate it allows you to essentially drain the lake. You can drain Lake Petit in a controlled way if you ever needed to do that. So Geosyntec is bringing a dive crew out to, uh out to the dam. Uh because it's a hundred feet down, Georgia law requires that you have a decompression chamber available, because for a diver 100 feet is pretty deep, and so we will be closing one lane of the dam and there'll be tractor trailers out there with generators and decompression chambers and all kinds of stuff like that. Um but they will be going down and they actually inspect that gate. You know, what what they will find, that I don't know, but that is not in any way a safety issue. It's something that's just part of the operation of the dam. We need the ability to control the sluice gate if there was ever any type of emergency. So again, standard operating procedure. That's what's in our eap. That's why we hire Geosyntec. That's why they're coming out. That'll all be in their fourth quarter report. So I just want to rest everybody, everybody, is sure rests that there, there is nothing we know to do today to the dam, and there is certainly no, no safety condition that we all need to be concerned about. because if there is we'd be taking care of it like right now. Promise.

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