**Stanton Township Board**

**October 08, 2026**

**Special Meeting Minutes**

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the special meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. Board members present: Trustee/Jim Heinonen, Trustee/Mark Haataja, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Tina Hatman.

Marty introduced Brian Belmore, P.E. the Vice President & Senior Civil Engineer of Barr Engineering, and the Redridge Dam Project Engineer for Stanton Township.

Brian gave a Powerpoint presentation explaining the history of the Redridge Dam, a timeline of how the Dam changed throughout the years, what the current state of the Dam is, the options considered for repair, maintenance, preservation and/or removal of the Dam, and what the Stanton Township Boards plan looks like going forward for the Dam considering all factors.

The Powerpoint presentation showed the option selected by the Township board for moving forward was the removal of the majority, if not all, of the Timber Crib Dam structure, and removal of the steel dam structure, as well as portions of the concrete foundation for the steel dam, while maintaining a concrete sea lamprey barrier. This would in effect change the Salmontrout River back to somewhat of free flow state, as it was prior to construction of the Dams in the late 1800's, with minimal impoundment remaining behind the lamprey barrier.

Public Comment with Q & A:

Q: Lori R. - Who owns the trestle that goes across the Redridge Dam?
A: The township and Barr Eng are in the process of looking into ownership of the trestle.

Q: Alice P. - What happens to the water flow after the Dam removal?
A: It will go back to a similar flow as in the 1800's before the Dam was built.

Q: Kim H. - Stated she is a resident of Redridge and wondered what could happen to the local homes and area in Redridge? Will there be new culverts put in the Freda Road?
A: It was understood the concern for the local residents. The Houghton County Road Commission would be the ones deciding if there is a need for a new culvert.

Q: Debbie H. - Where will the sediment go from the timber crib dam from its removal?
A: The portion of rocks that are under the timber crib dam will be excavated and the minimal amount of sediment there, that was environmentally tested, does not need any special type of removal, but would likely be disposed of in an upland area, or incorporated into the restoration work if allowed by permit.

Q: Kirk K. with MOLPUS - Are there any plans for wetlands in that area afterwards?
A: This has been looked into, but no restoration plans have been determined at this stage of the planning, but the board will also be willing to work with MOLPUS and/or any organization offering assistance as we go forward.

Q: Tim P. with The Keweenaw Report - With there being only 2 steel dams remaining in the United States, has there been any input on the removal of this dam?
A: There has not been any record of input to the township board on this.

Marty **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 6:44PM. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan**.

**Submitted by:_____Tina Hatman, Clerk**

**Approved by:_____Marty Rajala, Supervisor**