

## SID UPDATE on Levee Restoration Project Feb 25, 2022

Most property owners in the district are very aware of the pending project that has been in planning and preparation stages for almost 2 years now. The information on the plan and process to get to this point is still on the website at [www.sid1.org](http://www.sid1.org) Click the **IMPORTANT LEVEE INFO** button on the homepage. As the construction project progresses, we will keep the information here up to date and accurate. We will also post information here regarding any road closings, restrictions, etc.

It is important to understand that this project is a US ARMY CORPS of ENGINEERS (USACE or CORPS) project. It is their responsibility and the contractor selected to perform the work, KEU, reports directly ***and only*** to the CORPS. The SID is responsible for a percentage of cost sharing on parts of the project and was financially and contractually obligated to perform all of the preliminary work that we have been doing for over a year now including the purchase of land and homes, removal of homes, relocation of utilities, procurement of materials, enter into easements and agreements, etc.

This is an extremely complex project. However, in its simplest form, the project can be broken into 5 sections or phases. These are:

- Levee widening INSIDE the lake at the North end (either side of flagpole)
- Partially fill in the bays or inlets on either side of Bullfrog Bay Dr.
- Construct a “cut-off wall” on the river side of the levee near Bullfrog Bay & East Lake Dr
- Reconstruct roads in Bullfrog Bay and where East Lake Dr. meets the levee at the north end
- Levee widening in the Noerrlinger farm area

The most pertinent questions that most people are asking relate to lake level, recreation boating, and interruption of use of the road.

We met with the CORPS and KEU this past Tuesday. It was a very good meeting. Both are acutely aware of the SID’s desire to minimize interruption of recreation boating and use of the area in and around the lake. During this meeting the USACE gave “notice to proceed” to KEU. The contract calls for completion within 180 calendar days. KEU is planning to start work in the lake at the north end within the next 3 to 5 weeks. There are certifications and other administrative steps that need to happen prior to any work. The lake will need to be lowered approximately one more foot for this work. All parties realize that this is best if it can be done while the river and lake are low, the ground is dry and to try to work before spring rains. KEU projects approximately 3 weeks to perform this first phase. Once they are to a point where they are far enough along, they will give us the go ahead to start filling the lake. While the lake is low, KEU will construct temporary dams across the inlets. This will allow for work to progress on the inlets and also allow us to bring the lake level up for boating at the same time. Any NO WAKE zones, if needed, will be decided by all parties during construction. Once the work in the inlets is done, the temporary dams will be removed and the inlets will be at lake level.

**The SID suggests homeowners perform SEA WALL and SHORE/SWIM AREA repairs during this low lake level period**

The SID is also very concerned for the safety of the community and visitors to Waconda and for the protection and respect for the construction materials and equipment of KEU. During our discussions Tuesday, the SID informed both the CORPS and KEU that we will do all we need to expedite the project and are willing to close, restrict, reroute, traffic (vehicular and pedestrian) when and where we may need to. We will keep everyone posted on any of these decisions as they are made.

There is a lot of moving parts with this project and the SID, CORPS and KEU are going to do all we can to complete this in a timely and safe manner. We all are asking for everyone's cooperation, understanding, and patience as this project progresses.

**PLEASE share this information with family members and guest of ALL AGES.** It will take a commitment from all of us to get the best results possible.

If you have any questions, you can contact Jim Noerrlinger, Matt Burnham, or Jon Meyers via phone or email. Contact information is on the contacts tab at [www.sid1.org](http://www.sid1.org)

On behalf of the SID board, we thank you.

Jon Meyers