



Our Dam

“The narrows are too shallow” - “Water levels are too high”, “run off streams are dry”, “the ice is cracking “ - “draw down is too early” - “draw down is too late”

Historical Perspective

For decades the dams on Salmon Lake, Long Pond and Great Pond were owned and operated by Central Maine Power. In 1980, as CMP was reorganized, the dams were sold to the Belgrade Development Corp and subsequently acquired by the towns of Belgrade and Rome. The three dams were being operated under the protocol of the Soil and Water Conservation guidelines. In 1985, the select persons of the town of Belgrade petitioned the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a new water level regime for these lakes. After public hearings and a thorough review of criteria, the Belgrade Area Dams Committee was developed with representation and costs prorated to Oakland, Belgrade and Rome based on lake size and town frontage. A water level management plan was established by the DEP, taking into consideration the following Findings of Fact in 1985:



Spillway Level measure at dam site

Therefore;

1. The dam owner shall drawdown the lake following Labor Day to achieve a water level of between 1 and 1.5 feet below spillway crest by November 1st.
2. Between November 1st and April 1st, the dam shall be managed to maintain the water level between 1 and 1.5 feet below spillway.
3. Following April 1st, the lake level shall be gradually raised to a target level of between 0.0 and 0.2
4. Between June 1 and Labor Day, the lake shall be maintained as close to spillway crest as possible
5. A minimum instantaneous flow of 1 cfs shall be maintained in the outlet stream at all times

Summary: The dams of Great Pond, Long Pond and Salmon Lake are owned and operated by the legal entity, The Belgrade Area Dam Committee. The water level management plan was developed in 1985 by the DEP to take into consideration all stakeholders. While everyone has their personal rationale for water levels and draw downs, the dam operator, Roger Pelletier is obligated to follow the written protocol. While there is allowable deviation, it must be based on pre established guidelines. Copies of various documents will be available for interested association members at the annual meeting.

Findings of Fact;

1. Access to McGrath Pond is from Salmon Lake – Water Levels lower than 1 foot below spillway interfere with passage between the two ponds.
2. Fish & Wildlife Habitat and Water Quality – Maintenance of stable water levels is important in the spring (ice out) through early summer for both fish and fowl. Fall draw down should occur to achieve stable water levels several weeks prior to ice cover. Extreme high water leads to increased shoreline erosion with greater movement of nutrients into the lakes
3. Accommodation of precipitation and run-off: To prevent flooding during the winter and spring a maximum draw down level of 1.5 feet below spillway was established for Salmon Lake.
4. Water Supplies and Hydropower Considerations: Minimal effect on Salmon Dam
5. Downstream Flow: Salmon Lake is connected to Great Pond by Hatchery Brook, a small outlet stream approximately ½ mile in length. In order to maintain aquatic life in the stream, a minimum of instantaneous flow of 1 CFS is required at all times.

Who is the Dam committee?

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Belgrade: | Richard MacKenzie, chairman
Dennis Purrington
Roger Pelletier, Operator
Percy Ackerman
George Hoy |
| Rome: | Timothy Comeford
Jack Schultz
John Mulville |
| Oakland | Mark Fisher |



Docks make great water level gauges



Spillway feeds Hatchery Brook