
Village of Hesperia, Michigan
Village Council Work Session
November 10, 2025
7:00 PM

President Farber called the Work Session to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Donald Bostrom, Dan Herin, Sheri Hunt, Joyce McDonald, Jennifer Nearanz, Jackie Slocum and Mike Farber

Also Present: Clerk Burrell, Steve Micklin, Todd Hren, Debra Pagan, Tammy Nguyen, Andrea Bird, Kyle Alger, Morgan Carden, Gretchen Trast and Dan DeVaun

Topic: DAM Design and Fish Passage

President Farber opened the work session and gave a brief description of what the representatives from GEI Consultants would be presenting for the option for the dam rehabilitation and fish passage.

President Farber introduced Dan DeVaun and he thanked the council for all of their support for this project and for attending the Dam Open House. He stated that they were there to answer any questions that the council had.

Dan and his team went through the options for the dam.

- Option #1 Fixed Labyrinth Weare style with no gates. Cost \$17.6 million
- Option #2 Straight crest with four gates Cost \$18.7 million
- Option #3 Smaller Labyrinth Weare style with 2 gates Cost \$15.9 million

All of the options will be for a full rehabilitation of the current Hesperia Dam. Option for debris control would be the straight drop because it is more accessible to have the debris removed. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of each option. Dan also recommended having a debris boom located upstream to collect any unwanted items that would be caught before it passed through the dam structure.

Dan and his team discussed the possibility of a fish passage.

- Option #1 Naturalized fish passage Cost \$1.5 million (contingent on current property owner's permission)
- Option #2 Technical fish passage Cost \$1.5 million

The fish passage would allow the jumping species of fish to pass through the dam. Both versions would stop the passage of sea lamprey. There will be a gate that would need to be operated during spawning season so the sea lamprey would not be able to pass.

President Farber stated that with Option #2, approximately 30 feet of the swimming area would have to be removed to allow for the dam.

Gretchen Trast spoke about what grants were available out there and would help us apply for grants and funding. She said that she would target the ecological stewardship grants first. Dan DeVaun said he would work with Nicole Lexson from Great Lakes Fishery Commission about sea lamprey control and to see what the most economical route would be. He also mentioned that there were other partners that may be willing to help with the cost share of the fish passage.

More questions were asked and answered.

Work Session ended at 7:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki R. Burrell
Hesperia Village Clerk

“Village of Hesperia is an equal opportunity provider and employer”