
Village of Hesperia, Michigan
Village Council Work Session
May 28, 2026
10:00 AM

President Farber called the Work Session to order at 10:00 AM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: Donald Bostrom

Also Present: Clerk Burrell, Todd Hren, Scott Rumsey, Joe Rumsey, Lou Nemastil, Kevin Hunt, Todd Laizure and Dan DeVau

Topic: DAM Design Alternate Options

President Farber opened the work session and explained the reason the council should re-visit the options for the dam. He introduced Dan DeVau from GEI Consultants and he briefly went through the three 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

Dan explained that his team has identified approximately \$9 million in grants and they are already running short of options to fund the dam project. He stated that there was a grant from FEMA for High Hazard dams but the program was no longer available. He stated that maybe the project might have to be pushed out another year to 2028 maybe 2029. He stated it was GEI's goal to get the dam project mostly funded by the partners and if a less expensive option was chosen, it may improve the village's chances of reaching that goal. Dan stated that as his team was going through the funding process, it made sense to chose another option now before the design phase started. He asked the council to please consider another more economical option than Option #2 that was previously voted on. He would like to have an answer in the next month or two so his team can begin the design process.

Dan stated that GEI would be reaching out to the Little River Tribe to invite them to collaborate with the partners on the project. He encouraged the council to reach out to their local and state representatives and tell them that Hesperia has a high hazard dam and is in need of funding to save it as a Sea Lamprey barrier.

Dan talked about the fish passage and said that his team is still pursuing funding for it. He answered all the questions that were presented by the council members.

President Farber asked if there was any Public Comments. Lou Nemastil spoke regarding his property that is above the dam. The council members received copies of his letter dated May 24, 2026. It included pictures of the flood waters and areas where there was no water due to the stop logs in the dam not being replaced. He asked the Dan if this project included silt removal upstream of the dam. Dan explained that this project did not have funding for silt removal upstream. Lou commented that the issues that were occurring upstream needed to be addressed, not just the replacement of the dam. Lou mentioned that there was an agreement made between the home owners upstream of the dam and the village dated 1926. He said that he would get a copy to Dan and GEI would review the document. Jackie Slocum asked Dan if a study had been done after the lowering of the White Cloud dam. Dan stated that yes a brief study was done and the outcome was that the lamprey eel barrier needs to be in place. President Farber stated that the inspection had been done and the stop logs would be replaced soon. Dan DeVaan said he will look into some of the subject matters that were brought up and would get back to the council.

Work Session ended at 10:35 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki R. Burrell
Hesperia Village Clerk

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