

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – SUPPORTS ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY OF DAMS

WHEREAS, in a news release dated August 9, 2022, Consumers Energy announced it will “gather opinions from the public about the 13 dams they own and operate on five Michigan rivers to help guide their decisions about the future of those electric generating facilities”; and

WHEREAS, within the new release, Norm Kapala, vice president of generation operations at Consumers Energy, explains, “We need to perform due diligence now as the licenses to operate our dams begin to expire in 12 years. We do not want to assume we know how individuals and communities feel about our dams as we develop plans to either continue investing in or remove any of our river hydro facilities,” and acknowledges “We are keenly aware dams have great significance for local communities and impact recreation for Michigan residents and visitors statewide. Public input will be an important component in our long-term strategic planning regarding the future of our dams”; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2022, Consumers Energy held a public meeting in Allegan County regarding Calkins Bridge Dam; and

WHEREAS, Calkins Bridge Dam creates Lake Allegan, a 1,659 acre lake that is home to a vibrant and growing community; and

WHEREAS, public members and local leaders expressed great concern regarding the potential removal of the hydro facilities/dams during the meeting and have further expressed concerns in writing to the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners believes that Lake Allegan is an integral part of our region and should be preserved; and

WHEREAS, to support Lake Allegan and to learn the economic impact of the decommissioning of the 13 potentially-affected dams across our great State of Michigan, it is imperative that we obtain reliable and objective data relative to the operating costs and full economic impact of each dam to the respective community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners requests the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission take the necessary and immediate measures to secure funding and assistance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to conduct a full economic impact study of each dam (eight of which exist within the West Michigan region); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the assistance of the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) is also requested to secure the necessary funding and services from the MEDC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Administrator is authorized to direct the services of Midwest Strategy Group in support of this effort; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Boards of Commissioners of the other counties in which Consumers Energy dams exist, and each Allegan County State Representative and State Senator.

Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Jessup to approve the tracked changes as presented during the Board of Commissioners meeting on October 13, 2022. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 7 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

Moved by Commissioner Jessup, seconded by Commissioner Thiele to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 7 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

ATTEST, A TRUE COPY



_____, Clerk-Register

APPROVED: October 13, 2022

cc: Admin. - Finance - Human Resources