

Ashuelot Pond Dam Village District Members  
Washington, NH 03280

30 June 2024

RE: APDVD Updates and Dam Repairs

Dear APDVD Member:

The purpose of this letter is to provide brief updates relative to the work completed on Ashuelot Pond Dam, Dam #D245005, since the 2023 Annual Meeting, outline the agenda for future work, and justify the funding requested in Warrant Articles 3 and 4.

### **Highlighted Work Completed in the Past 12 Months & Ongoing Repairs**

On August 9, 2022, the APDVD Commissioners received a Letter of Deficiency (LoD) from NHDES outlining numerous action steps to ensure the dam's safety. Numerous steps have been taken to ensure compliance with the LoD as outlined at the 2023 meeting, and the following items have been completed since the 2023 meeting.

- Successfully tested the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) notification checklist.
- Monitored the dam for leakage/seepage.
- Explored FEMA funding for repairs (we did not receive any grants).
- Remedied the leakage over the existing gatehouse inlet lintel.
- Dewatered the gatehouse water pit and provided a Gate House Structural Evaluation Report to NH DES.
- Launched and designed a new website, [APDVD.org](https://www.apdvd.org) (design work provided in-kind by Alisa Andrusiak).
- Continued work on redistricting to expand the boundaries of APDVD (additional details below).
- Approached completion on an actuator on the new gate.
- Drafted a new Emergency Action Plan (final updates to the inundation map and final details to be submitted by August 1, 2024).
- Removed brush and saplings from the dam crest and sprayed for poison-ivy with non-toxic weed killer.
- Conducted deed research and obtained a legal opinion to provide documentation to NH DES demonstrating that APDVD has access and maintenance rights to the far (east) spillway for routine maintenance, repairs, and reconstruction.

### **Redistricting**

The APDVD Commissioners submitted a petition to the Town of Washington, NH Selectmen, in compliance with RSA 52:5, to expand the APDVD district boundaries to include all properties with direct frontage, deeded access, or that lie within the inundation mapping of Ashuelot Pond. The selectmen held a public hearing on December 9, 2023, and issued their final decision on February 9, 2024. That decision outlines the properties to be included and dictates that the boundary expansion will not come before APDVD for ratification until the items in the 2022 NH DES LoD are satisfied (tentative vote on the expansion scheduled for the 2025 Annual APDVD Meeting).

## Future Work

To become compliant with the LoD, APDVD needs to: provide a breach analysis and assess the hydrology of the watershed to determine the capability of safely passing the required runoff from the 100-year storm event for a High Hazard Dam and submit a report to NH DES consistent with the findings of an engineering analysis for the removal or reconstruction of the dam; perform continued maintenance on the spillways; reinforce the dam and level the dam crest; and install a baffle system to allow maintaining consistent water levels during drawdowns. We are also exploring structural engineering support for the design of a pedestrian bridge and abutments/center pier for providing a safe access to the far (east) spillway in a high-water event. Survey work and evaluation of the discharge capacity of the far (east) spillway were significantly delayed as an abutter to the far spillway claimed to own the property under the spillway and asserted that APDVD had no rights to access the spillway, which resulted in the aforementioned legal research and opinion.

## Budget

As outlined in this letter, there is extensive work that still needs to be completed to bring the dam into compliance with the LoD. At present we have approximately \$122,000 in our Capital Reserve Accounts. We owe approximately \$10,500 upon the completion of the actuator. See Warrant Article 3 for additional details on administrative expenses, registration fees, insurance, and other expenses.

We are seeking \$80,000 for the Capital Reserve Fund so we can complete the required work to come into compliance with the LoD for the safe operation of our dam.

## 2024 Annual APDVD Meeting

Please see the enclosed Warrant outlining the Articles to be acted upon on July 12, 2024, at 7 P.M. at Camp Morgan Lodge in Washington, NH. We encourage you to view the dam updates and additional details at [APDVD.org](https://www.apdvd.org). We have invited Bob Carter, owner of NH DAMS, LLC, to answer questions on the dam maintenance and repairs. Additionally, Joseph Schmidl from NH DES will speak about the Ashuelot River instream flow management program at the end of the 2024 APDVD annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Gary Carney  
Gary Mahaffy  
Rich Andrusiak  
APDVD Commissioners