Community open house to examine Lake Street Dam alternatives

Officials will host an open house next week to share information and receive public input regarding the study of engineering alternatives for the Lake Street Dam in Petoskey.

The open house will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at Petoskey City Hall, 101 E. Lake St. The public is invited to attend one of two sessions: 3-5 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. The study, funded through a Great Lakes Fishery Trust grant obtained by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, will review potential alternatives for the dam, which include replacement, removal, or modification of the structure. The dam is owned by the City of Petoskey.

A 2018 inspection report produced by OHM Advisors indicated that no structural deficiencies were identified through visual observation — but that monitoring, maintenance, and further review of the dam and its impact on the Bear River are warranted.

The open house will include short presentations by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Trout Unlimited and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Those unable to attend the open house will be able to provide feedback via an online survey that will be made available after August 21. Hard copies of the survey will also be available at Petoskey City Hall. A second open house will take place in May of 2020 to provide the community with the results of the engineering study.