



Hunter's Run

CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

1030 Winton Court . Lancaster . Ohio . 43130
Phone: 740-409-2131
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www.huntersruncd.org

July 19, 2019

TO: HRCD LANDOWNERS

Re: Hunters Run Dam Structure Information

Dear Landowner;

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the recently appointed HRCD Board of Directors, update you with HRCD current activities, and provide general HRCD operational and easement information.

The new Directors are:

Lindel (Lindy) Jackson, President
Mike Monnin, Vice President
Heather Malinowski, Director

Current Activities:

- We are pleased to state that Fairfield Co. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) personnel have been assisting HRCD with dam maintenance and debris removal following rainfall events.
- HRCD is accelerating brush removal and mowing the dams. Several dams will be mowed by a contractor & we will notify landowners individually prior to contractors entering your property.
- HRCD has begun planning for continuation of operations for 20 years into the future to assure sustainability of protection to Fairfield Co residents.
- HRCD now has a web site: www.huntersruncd.org

General Easement Information:

You as landowners, own the property occupied by HRCD structures; and HRCD has an easement for:

- Free access to the structures as necessary for the continuation of structures to operate as intended. This work typically consists of mowing, inspection of structures following rainfall events, repairs to inlet/ outlet structures. It also allows free access to others with responsibility for dam safety in Ohio (such as Fairfield Co Emergency Management Agency, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Water Management, Dam Safety).
- HRCD dams are designed for temporary storage of storm water runoff, and have flood storage reservoirs above the dams. Therefore, HRCD has a flowage easement for the emergency spillway and the area above the dam that can be inundated with floodwater. As a practical measure, this area is associated with the top of dam (crest) elevation.

Operational Comments (please reference attached generalized sketch for terminology):

- ODNR is responsible for the “hazard” classification of Ohio dams; and the classification is based upon 3 criteria:
 1. Total height of dam
 2. Volume of water in flood storage reservoir
 3. Potential damages resulting from failure of dam (ranging from probable loss of life: Class I, down to damage to agricultural land: Class IV)

Currently HRCD operates 28 dams; of these, 16 are hazard classified by ODNR as high or significant (Class I, II, or III), and the remaining 12 are small dams that fall below the ODNR classification threshold. HRCD’s primary mission is to operate the dams for the continuation of public safety associated with flood protection.

The purpose of this discussion is to alert the public that a small “unclassified” dam can become a high hazard dam if someone builds a structure within the flood storage reservoir, or within the downstream area impacted by failure of the structure. When a dam is reclassified to “high hazard”, the dam must then be modified to meet higher ODNR storm flow criteria. The cost to meet these modified criteria can be significant.

HRCD is aware that property adjacent to some dams has been sold or is currently for sale, and ask that owners are aware of the risk of building structures in inappropriate locations. We ask for your understanding and help to carry out our primary mission of public safety.

- The dams are designed to handle smaller rainfall events through the principal spillway structure. As larger rainfall events occur, the reservoir fills, and water may then begin to flow over the emergency spillway “control” section. The control section is designed as a flat area to uniformly distribute flow over the entire width of the emergency spillway. Flow then continues down the emergency spillway to outlet safely below the dam.

The purpose of this discussion is to alert the public that the emergency spillway is critical to the safe operation of the dam; some observations include:

- Landowners may desire to raise the elevation of the principal spillway riser to increase the pool area; this reduces the designed flood storage capacity, and increases the likelihood of emergency spillway flow.
 - The emergency spillway has been used as a roadway (control section is most critical), which causes flow in the spillway (both normal rainfall and emergency flow) to concentrate in wheel tracks. Travel ways also damages uniform vegetative cover. These conditions then then increase the possibility of erosion and failure. A failure of the emergency spillway can cause the dam to fail if erosion encroaches into the control section.
 - Landowners have constructed fences or planted trees in the emergency spillways. This creates a hazard by catching debris that will likely be in emergency spillway flow, thus increasing erosion and failure potential as noted above.
- The goal of HRCDD is to maintain the dams, emergency spillways, inlet channels, and outlet channels in uniform grass cover for optimal performance. Fencing and livestock grazing on or around the structures may compromise uniform vegetative cover and impair structure access. Free access to structures is important for routine maintenance such as mowing; and also, for inspections to detect impairments such as rodent damage, erosion, and monitoring toe drains. We ask landowner assistance with our efforts.

We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with each of you, and please notify us if you have questions, particularly if you wish to discuss the performance of the dam on your property.

Respectfully,

HRCDD Directors

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