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Media Release
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Local Flooding Emphasizes Need for Dam Reconstruction

RICHLAND, Mich. - Recent incidents of flooding near lakes throughout Southwest Michigan emphasize the need for a new dam on Gull Lake. After 136 years of service, the Gull Lake Dam Association (GLDA) has asked lakeshore residents, local area businesses and the public for help to replace the aging dam.

In May, GLDA launched a fundraising campaign for the complete replacement of the dam. To date, nearly \$400,000 of the \$700,000 needed has been raised. The goal is to complete the fundraising effort by the end of September and put a "shovel in the ground" in late 2019.

Last year, the GLDA's Board of Directors received the results of an engineering study on the structural integrity of the dam from Prein & Newhof, Civil & Environmental Engineering. The findings determined:

- The Gull Lake Dam has lived beyond its usefulness and should be replaced.
- The normal life expectancy of the type of dam that controls Gull Lake is 50 to 100 years. Gull Lake's existing dam was built in 1883 and is now 136 years old.
- The estimated cost of replacing the dam is approximately \$700,000.

By regulating the lake's water levels and shorelines, the Gull Lake Dam preserves property value and lake activities.

The lake's superb water quality attracts residents and visitors who enjoy fishing, water skiing, boating, canoeing, sailing, swimming, and even scuba diving. In the winter, ice skating, ice fishing, ice boating, and ice golf are common activities.

Gull Lake is a 2,030-acre, glacial lake located about 11 miles from Kalamazoo in southwestern Michigan. It is approximately five miles long and one mile wide with 18.5 miles of shoreline.

There are two points for public access on Gull Lake. Prairieville Township Park, located on the north shore, provides a boat launch ramp that can fit 70 boat trailers. A smaller boat access on the northeast shore can be accessed via Baseline Road. Gull Lake is home to Ross Township Park as well as Michigan State University's W.K. Kellogg Biological Station and Bird Sanctuary.

For more information please visit the GLDA website at GullLakeDam.org.

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About the Gull Lake Dam Association (GLDA): The GLDA was incorporated in the State of Michigan in 1921 and is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Its purpose is to own, maintain, improve, repair, replace as needed, and operate a dam at Gull Lake in order to maintain control of the water level at Gull Lake, to the extent made possible by the dam: (i) so that Gull Lake can be enjoyed and used by all; (ii) so that the area around Gull Lake is protected from flooding; (iii) so that the environmental quality of Gull Lake can be maintained; and (iv) to facilitate education and scientific endeavors involving Gull Lake.

Editor's Note:

Three files are attached for your use, including:

- An aerial image of Gull Lake
- An image of Gull Lake at sunset
- An image of the Gull Lake Dam