

CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: April 30, 2026
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of May 4, 2026

Lake Shamrock Dredging. Mechanical dredging by the city will continue at the west end of the lake as time and weather permit but we are also under the fish spawning restriction as of March 15. We will be able to fully operate again starting July 1. Savin's hydraulic dredging continues to be paused due to fish spawning restrictions. The fish spawning restriction runs through June 30th so this means Savin will be back at the beginning of July to complete the dredging when the restriction is lifted. They estimate about 4 to 6 weeks of dredging remaining with completion by mid to late August hopefully.

Lake Shamrock Dam Project. For the dam project, our engineering firms, GEI and Spicer, have completed the design work for the new dam, emergency/auxiliary spillway, and the new walkway. The bids came in higher than anticipated by well over 2 million dollars. Fisher Contracting was low bid at \$8,891,895 and Anlaan Corporation was \$9,970,000. Currently, we do not have enough funding in place with the grant dollars we have received to fully fund both phases of the project at those costs. The engineers are completing a detailed review to ensure the bid items are correct and to find ways to allow the city to reduce the costs by changing the scope or phases if possible. Fisher Contracting is also reviewing the project to see if there are potential cost savings on any pieces of the project. We spoke with EGLE and FEMA to see if there are additional grants or other funding sources available. The engineers at GEI and Fisher met on April 29th to discuss additional strategies moving forward for the project and project cost savings. Once the bids are fully reviewed and the numbers verified, I will bring a recommendation for approval to the City Commission. We submitted for Federal budget allocations from Moolenaar and Slotkin's offices, and so far, we have heard back from Slotkin's office that the project was not selected to move forward for submission for funding. We are still waiting to hear from Moolenaar's office. We are still waiting to receive the grant agreement with FEMA. The EGLE permit is still progressing well. They have stated that they will be able to give us a permit for both phases of the project which we can then modify if needed, and we can only do phase one at this time (just the dam removal and replacement and site prep for the auxiliary spillway for the future).

Lake Shamrock Levels and Dam - Flooding. Lake levels have been steady and we were able to close all gates that were open for regulation of the levels. The Little Tobacco Drain has also receded well and is back to its normal spring levels. As a side note, the city participated with Clare County Emergency Management and Gladwin County Emergency Management in a table top and real-world exercise on Saturday, April 25th to stage and practice the operations and procedures that would take place if there were a dam failure at Lake Shamrock. The exercise was well done and it is always great to work a problem like this in practice so that we are as prepared as possible if it were to ever happen for real.

Cemetery Building. At a recent Cemetery Advisory Board Meeting, it was brought up that the small storage building at the west end of the cemetery is in severe disrepair. During the most recent ice storm a tree fell on it and it has multiple large branches that have pierce through the roof. The building itself is also cracking and has significant structural issues. It has been proposed to demolish the building rather than spending the money to repair it. It is no longer being used for any needed purpose. Currently it is storing old foundation forms that are no longer used because we now buy precast foundations. I just wanted to check with the City Commission to see if they have any concerns before we have DPW take the building down.

City Commission Nominating Petitions. Nominating Petitions were due at 4 p.m. on April 21, 2026. Four petitions were turned in and verified for the two available seats. With only four, there will not be a need for a Primary (runoff) in August so the four will be on the November ballot for selection by the voters.

Attachments: None.