

## CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission  
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager  
DATE: October 31, 2024  
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of November 4, 2024

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Lake Shamrock Dredging and Dam Project. Mechanical and hydraulic dredging both continue with great progress. Mechanical dredging by the city is operating 10 hours a day Monday through Thursday each week. With the time change happening Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will probably have to evaluate if there is enough daylight to continue the 4 ten-hour days and at some point, go back to 8 hours a day Monday through Friday for the City mechanical dredging operation.

Hydraulic dredging by Savin Lake Services is still operating Monday through Friday 24 hours a day most days and some alternate day and night shifts on the weekends as well. They have one barge still working the north side of Barnes Island and have been making great progress in the West finger of the lake. Great news, EGLE finished reviewing the permit for the East finger and area on the East end of the lake by the dam, and we now have a fully executed permit for those sections of the lake as well. Savin will move into those sections next after they complete the areas they are currently working in the lake.

For the dam project, our engineering firm GEI, has begun design work for the dam and we had a very productive kickoff meeting with them and staff for the project on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This grant (Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program – DRRGP) is the one for \$600,000, with the total project cost at \$670,000, \$70K is the city's match. The project will be quite extensive and should finish up late Summer or early Fall next year. We are still waiting on a grant agreement for the second grant (High Hazard Potential Dams – HHPD) to cover the next phase of the project. However, we do have more good news regarding the grant amount. Several other applicants have dropped out, so our grant share has increased to \$758,971.50. The city will pay a 35% match of the total project cost. The next phase will likely be the actual bidding and construction of the dam. As you recall the total cost of all the phases to design, bid, and construct the dam and emergency spillway was around \$7,000,000. These two grants add \$1,358,971.50 to our funding for the project. The city's matching funds for these grants, as well as additional dollars for the project, will come from the original 6.8M state revenue allocation we received for the dredging and dam project. We will also be pursuing further rounds of both the DRRGP and HHPD grants in hopes of receiving additional grant dollars for the project to get us all the way to the preferred design of the dam as recommended by the engineer, and to meet all the requirements of EGLE.

Rail Trail. The project is essentially complete. The only major piece that was left was the rail crossing gates and fencing at the end of Pioneer Parkway. Those are beginning to be installed as I write this memo and likely will be fully completed in the next week. The ribbon cutting and official trail opening celebration was held Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the new trail head located at the Depot. It was a wonderful celebration of a project that had been decades

in the making. Approximately a hundred people were there to celebrate, and many took to the trail after the ceremony. Representative Tom Kunse presented an official proclamation at the ceremony which was presented to the City of Clare and received by Parks and Recreation Director Joy Simmer. It will be in the Commission Chambers on the night of your meeting for you to see. Thank you again to all those who were involved in bringing this project to completion. I have attached a few pictures to this report as well of the celebration and the trail.

November General Election Information. Just a reminder that the November General Election is Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the lower level of the Pere Marquette District Library for City of Clare residents. You can vote in person at the polling location or return your absentee ballot by 8 p.m. election day at the Clerk's office or in the drop box located at City Hall in the front lobby.

For the purpose of registration for Elections at the City of Clare or any questions, Elections staff may be contacted by calling (989) 386-7541; or emailing [elections@cityofclare.gov](mailto:elections@cityofclare.gov). Election staff will also be working on Sunday, November 3, 2024, from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. to register voters and/or issue and receive Absent Voter Ballots.

City Hall Generator – Transfer Switch. As you know, City Hall has had a generator in place for many years. However, this generator currently needs to be manually switched on and off in times of power loss. Recently City Clerk Diane Lyon was able to obtain two grants for election location upgrades and we will be able to utilize that funding to install an automatic transfer switch. This will allow City Hall to immediately switch over to generator power if there is a loss and then switch back to line power when it comes back. This will be much smoother transfer of power and safer for all our equipment in City Hall and provide protection for uninterrupted power at City Hall for elections if a power outage event were to happen on election day.

Depot Elevator. Just a quick FYI, the elevator at the Depot Building is now fixed. It has been down for over two months due to the storms that went through the city on August 28<sup>th</sup> which caused electrical spikes and outages for several days. The parts finally arrived and were installed so it is now fully functional again.

Veteran's Day. City Hall offices will be closed to the Public on Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be in the office working that day cleaning up old files and gathering files that have reached their retention dates for disposal. A shredding company is coming to shred and dispose of the documents collected.

Attachments:

1. Rail Trail Ribbon Cutting Pictures.





Pere Marquette State Trail





Completed  
October 2024



Use the shirt  
\$25 each  
including GOLF  
club  
membership

WELCOME SHOP



Today we celebrate  
the completion of  
the Clare "Gap"  
in the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail  
October 24, 2024







CLARE  
CITY LIMIT

STATE CHAMPIONS  
12U GIRLS SOFTBALL  
2022

