

Creating a Dam Management District (DMD)

The following is a brief outline of the major steps that were followed in the creation of the Pascoag Reservoir Dam Management District:

1. Identify an existing group or association on your lake that has an interest in creating a DMD.
 - If no group exists, start by creating one.
2. Start by becoming knowledgeable about the following;
 - The Dam Safety Regulations
 - Enabling Legislation for Dam Management Districts
 - Inspection of Dams and Reservoirs - Chapter 46-19-5 & -9
 - These and other documents can be found online at our new web site www.prdmd.org under the Dam District tab.
3. Use that group to write and submit a resolution or petition to the appropriate local government.
 - Have it signed by all the officers and/or board of directors or lake residents.
 - If your lake is in more than one town, start with the one in which the dam is located.
4. Ask your local government to pass a motion that instructs the Ordinance committee to work with your group in writing an appropriate ordinance.
5. In our opinion, there were two items that were missing in the Enabling Legislation:
 - Language that would allow the local government to exempt the DMD from taxation of real and personal property that is owned by it.
 - Language that would explicitly allow for the collection of fees in the same manner as provided by law for the collection of taxes by the towns.
 - The first one may not be important to you if you will not own any property. The second one, in my opinion, should be pursued to insure that you can enforce the collection of fees.
 - Refer to the two amendments passed for the Pascoag Reservoir/ Echo Lake DMD which can be found on the website.
6. If you need to have changes made to the enabling legislation, the following is suggested;
 - Work with your local government to write and submit a resolution to your state representative and senator for the required amendments.
 - Personally engage with your Representative and Senator.
 - Assuming you only ask for the same language as we did, this should be relatively easy to get done... Just need to get your town/lake added to the two amended items that are already there.

The timing for the above took us a little more than two years. And that was with the excellent cooperation of both towns and our legislators. We are just starting our next steps which will consist of the writing of the bi-laws and determining an initial budget. We expect that this will take 10 to 12 months.

Leo Plouffe & Kevin Menard

April 5, 2010

Pascoag Reservoir Dam Management District