

**Request to Members of the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors
Regarding Condition of Lake Merriweather Dam – Safety Procedures and the
need to
Keep Public Informed and Involved**

January 25th, 2010

Citizens who are concerned about the condition of the Goshen Dam at Lake Merriweather have not received information to reassure us that the County is fulfilling its responsibilities.

With respect to the failure of a gate at the dam on January 4th, 2010, we request from Rockbridge County:

- Please provide a report on the incident. We would like a clear summary of what happened including time and why it happened, who was involved on site and off, and what actions were taken. Was human error or mechanical error involved?
- Describe measures taken to notify the public (including timeline). The Rockbridge Alert system has its merits but many citizens in the area of inundation, or otherwise impacted, either do not have text or email access or would be better able to prepare if notified by other methods. Are Supervisors aware of what the existing public notification system for planned releases of water is and do you believe this is an adequate solution? Downstream residents want a diverse notification system that will provide as much warning as possible when the dam malfunctions as well as adequate warning whenever there will be a planned discharge of water from Lake Merriweather.
- All dams such as the Goshen Dam are required to have an **early flood warning, search, rescue, evacuation, and recovery plan (ESEP)** that is available to the public. Is this complete and available to the public? Does it contain a map of the inundation zone in the case of a catastrophic dam failure?
- The dam has not complied with the state dam safety standards for many years (if ever). What is the county currently doing to make sure that it will meet those standards in the future?
- Who is in charge of repairing the damage? Who is reviewing and approving the planned repairs? When will the work be completed? Is there an increased probability of failure in the meantime? What is the plan for informing the public of these decisions?
- What is the County planning to do to understand, monitor and mitigate impacts from the January 4th “gate failure” on the water quality and health of the river?

Names of those joining this request on reverse page

Cochran and Clover Lyle

Taylor Cole

Sharon Kirk

Jennifer Ashworth

Jim McLaughlin

Paul Cabe

Robert Humstone

Jan and Eric Sisler

Jay Gilliam

Margaret Spencer

Craig Siska and Linda McKinnis

Peggy and Willard Hays

Frankie and Meredith Benincasa

Linda Larsen and Eric Smeltzer

Mary Stuart Gilliam

Jeff and Brenda Dudley

Beverly and Phil Mohler

Ben Mitchell

Peyton and Karin Cron

Melvin and Lenora Fix

Catharine Gilliam

Lib Chittum

Justin Smith

L.J. Malloy

Bobby Chittum

Nettie Chittum

Sally and Larry Mann

Brian Entsminger

Jim Warren

Mandy Miller

Chad Ruley

Natalie McCaughrin

Charles Miller

Janice Miller Kirk

Rachael Work

Mitchel Zitmore

Red and Pam Rickett

Kay and Larry Smith

Paula Hunter

Louise Davenport

Steve Newcomer

JL and Bonnie Clemmer

Joan and Richard Wells

Bob and Martha Burner

George and Mary Ellen McVey

Stella Bosworth

Mark and Eliza Askin

Hannah and Matt Franz

Anne D. McClung

John Miles

Dan and Nancy Allen

Kate Beard

James Hopkins

Steve Richards

John Welsh

Nat and Wisty Jobe