

Regular Meeting #13 - 2015
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
March 17, 2015

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:04 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin, Aundrea Cordle, Michael Kaper, Bob Clark, Jon Kochis, Carl Burnett, Dennis Keller, Holly Mattei, and Branden Meyer.

- **Legal Update**

Mr. Dolin reported that he has spoken with the attorney involved in the 7.389 acres of Walnut Township to be annexed into the Village of Thurston. Everything appears to be in order; he has no objections at this point.

Ms. Brown reported that the resolution will be on the Tuesday, March 24th agenda for a vote by the Commission. The item will need to be removed from the table before taking an action. It was previously reported that the intent was to have the item before the Commission for a vote on March 24th.

- **Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List**

A. Highlights of Resolutions

Ms. Brown reported that today there is a resolution to approve a proclamation for Sunshine Week. During Sunshine Week and every week, we encourage public participation. We encourage members of the public to attend the public meeting to be held this evening at 7 pm at Liberty Center to discuss concerns surrounding Buckeye Lake Dam. A press release was issued for this evening meeting. In addition, a press release was issued to announce the Community Development Implementation Strategy public meeting that will be held today at 1 pm. We expect good participation from a variety of community leaders. We further encourage people to review the Sunshine Review pages of our website. We will issue a press release for the State of the County Address, too. The State of the County Address will be held on March 24th at Liberty Center.

There is a resolution to approve the continuation of a lease with DAS for the probation office space in the Hall of Justice; the rental rate is the same as indicated in the previous lease.

There is a proposed contract with Bennett and Williams for services that are connected with compliance with the City of Lancaster interim policy relating to the jail and public safety facility. The services include preparation of cross sections for the site, evaluation of potential offsite factors relating to the Miller Park well field, installation of monitoring wells, preparation of a risk mitigation plan, and additional updates. The contract is not to exceed \$113,500.

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Commissioner Davis asked that the Board table the Bennett & Williams contract that is on today's agenda for approval until further guidance has been received from the City of Lancaster regarding their interim policy. There needs to be some additional discussion with the subject matter experts.

Ms. Brown reported that the Engineer proposes the approval of a contract and the commencement of a bridge project. In addition, the Engineer proposes changes in bridge load ratings.

There are budget adjustments for special revenue funds, and there are the traditional bill lists and then and now items to approve.

There are resolutions to account for health insurance administration fees in February and March.

Further, there is a resolution in progress for next week to reduce appropriations within the Sheriff's department of the general fund budget, accommodating appropriations that are within a special revenue fund instead.

B. Administrative Approvals and Budget Update

Ms. Brown reported that the review packet contains a list of administrative approvals for the week. There were no questions about the administrative approvals.

C. Public Safety Facility and Financing Update

Ms. Brown reported that Administrative staff continues to meet with subject matter experts and contractors. As previously mentioned, there is a contract in progress with Bennett and Williams for services connected with compliance with the City of Lancaster's interim policy. These services will provide additional information for the final plans. In addition, the concept of a contract manager at risk is under review with legal advisors. The timeframes for the bond should be met without problem, though, given all construction projects that are part of the bond issue.

Commissioner Davis reported that 10% of the bonded amount has to be appropriated within 6 months of the bonded date. The 10% also includes the Utilities projects.

Ms. Brown reported that about \$3.39 million will be appropriated at a minimum to reach the 10% mark.

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D. March 24 - State of the County Address

Ms. Brown reported that the draft slide show is ready to go. There will be adjustments to account for the latest information available. The Chamber of Commerce sent out invitations, and a global email was sent as a reminder to all elected officials and department heads. The centerpieces are ready to go, and we thank Patty Bratton with Community Action for arranging the centerpieces.

E. Training

Ms. Brown reported that the Customer Service Seminar was held on March 12th. Notes from the seminar have been sent to all elected officials and department heads. She stated that she appreciated everyone's attendance and participation, especially the participation of the Commissioners and Branden Meyer, Clerk of Courts, and the department heads. Demonstrating a commitment to the value of customer service from the top down is critical in establishing the most effective organizational culture to facilitate excellence in public service.

In other training topics, on March 20th, the Ethics Training and Benefits Training is scheduled at Liberty Center. An electronic survey was sent to track attendance, and there are about 60 people registered for this training at this point.

F. Sunshine Week

Ms. Brown reported that in preparation for Sunshine Week, there was Certified Public Record Training held in the Board of Commissioners Hearing Room on March 6th. Sunshine Week begins March 16th. The review packet contains recent press releases. The website has been updated.

- **Old Business**

- a. Buckeye Lake Dam**

Commissioner Davis reported that there is a public meeting regarding the Buckeye Lake Dam tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Liberty Center. He has had productive conversations with Director Zehringer with ODNR. Discussions will continue yet today regarding the potential meeting with the Board of Commissioners. Attending tonight will be Senator Troy Balderson, Senator Tim Schaffer, a representative from Senator Portman's Office, representatives from Congressman Steve Stivers' Office, Licking County Commissioners, and Perry County Commissioners. There will also be law enforcement officers from the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Department, given there is an expected robust attendance.

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Commissioner Davis stated that County Facilities Director Dennis Keller and his staff are getting Liberty Hall ready for tonight. The Commission has contracted with Bob Competti to video the meeting. The Commission has also hired a stenographer to transcribe the meeting. Commissioner Levacy stated he will make possible recommendations to Ms. Brown later today for conduct of the meeting.

Commissioner Davis stated that tonight's meeting gives the public an opportunity to convey their concerns. There will be a queue arranged for members of the public that want to speak. Commissioner Davis stated that tonight's meeting will be challenging. The meeting has been promoted by the civic associations and the news media.

Commissioner Davis reported that the fire department recalculated the maximum occupancy for Liberty Hall. The maximum occupancy has not changed; it is 800 people. Commissioner Davis reported that it is uncertain at this time ODNR will have representatives attending the meeting.

b. Letter of Support for the Leach Xpress Project

Ms. Brown reported that the review packet contains a draft letter of support for the Leach Xpress project. This letter is available for consideration following the presentation made at the last meeting by Mr. Zane Daniels.

Approval of letter of support for the Leach Xpress Project

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Dave Levacy, the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the letter of support for the Leach Xpress Project.

Discussion: Ms. Brown reported that the letter of support will be mailed to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and emailed to Mr. Zane Daniels.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy and Mike

Abstaining: Steve Davis

c. Meals On Wheels Budget

Ms. Brown reported that Anna Tobin was scheduled to review the Meals on Wheels 2016 budget projections with the Board at 9:30 am this morning. She will reschedule this review for next Tuesday. The review packet contains the Meals on Wheels submission of their budget documents.

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- **New Business**

Commissioner asked if there was any new business to discuss. No new business was discussed.

- **General Correspondence Received**

- a. Clerk of Courts 2014 Annual Report

Ms. Brown stated that the annual report was a good documentation of increased workload and good customer service. She thanked Clerk Meyer for his partnership and for the notation surrounding the \$800,000 title surplus transfer.

- b. Memo from Clerk of Courts regarding alternative vacation leave policy

Ms. Brown reported that the alternative vacation leave policy is being reviewed by Human Resources Director Jeff Porter for future consideration of inclusion to the county personnel policy.

- c. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Ms. Brown reported that a proclamation will be done prior to April breakfast to support Child Abuse Prevention. The breakfast is on the calendar for all three commissioners.

- **Calendar Review/Invitations Received**

- a. *Pickerington Area Chamber Luncheon – Thursday, March 19 @ 11:30, Senior Center*

Commissioner Davis is attending and will be a speaker.

- b. *MCJDC Special Meeting to discuss pending litigation – Monday, March 23 @ 9:00 a.m.*

All three Commissioners will attend.

- c. *Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Off Breakfast – Wednesday, April 8 @ 8:30 a.m., Location: Fairfield Co GSC, 1st floor EMA – Also, “Wear Blue” to support Child Abuse Prevention*

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- d. *Circus Night for Child Abuse Prevention – Thursday, April 23 @ 5:00 p.m. & Candlelight Walk @ 6:30 p.m.*
- e. *State of the Schools Address – Friday, April 10 @ 11:30 a.m. – Mt. Pleasant Elementary School*

Commissioner Levacy and Commissioner Kiger will attend.

FYI

- a. *Ohio Public Utilities Commission Notice of Filing*
- b. *Copy of a letter to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, letter from Neustar, Inc.*
- c. *Ohio Department of Transportation – Notice of Public Meetings regarding the Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program*

Holly Mattei, Director of Regional Planning Commission, will be attending the March 31st meeting in Newark.

Issues Bin

- Sensory Trail & Park

Ms. Brown reported that the Park District is doing additional research regarding the donation of the property. Dennis Keller provided an overlay of a map showing county property that will be retained and could be donated for the expanded park.

Ms. Brown reported that she has reached out to the Friends of the Sensory Trail leadership and the Soil and Water Conservation District to let them know that the Board of Commissioners wants to continue to be helpful in case there is a need to have the indemnification agreement prior to donated work by a private company.

Ms. Brown reported that the concept of a park fits the mission of the Parks District. The transfer of property requested puts the District in a better position for grants and to manage the future operations of a park.

Open Items from Participants/Roundtable

- Ms. Brown reported that Brian Hill is the new Director for the Decorative Arts Center. We have a note of congratulations for him. A meeting will be scheduled with the Board to meet with him in the near future.

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- Ms. Brown reported that the Veteran's Service Commission is working with the Prosecutor's Office on the draft lease of space located at 1651 N. Memorial Drive. Look for that to appear on the agenda at some point in the future.
- Mr. Kochis reported that today is EMA Legislative Day. He will be meeting with EMA officials and legislators throughout the day. He will also attend the Buckeye Lake Dam meeting that will be held tonight.

Recess

Commissioner Davis stated at 9:30 a.m. that the Commission would take a recess until the 10:00 regular meeting.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 beginning at 10:03 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Mike Kiger, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Christina Foster, Branden Meyer, Jason Dolin, Jeff Baird, Jon Slater, Jeremiah Upp, Dennis Keller, Michael Kaper, and Jon Kochis.

Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis asked everyone to rise as able, and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Commissioner Davis asked if there were any announcements.

Ms. Brown stated that there is a proclamation on the agenda to promote Sunshine Week. Once the proclamation is approved, it will be displayed in the office. She thanked the Elected Officials and Department Heads for attending the recent training.

Commissioner Davis thanked the Elected Officials, Department Heads, and the Commission's Staff for their efforts in replying to public record requests in a timely and accurate manner.

Public Comment

Commissioner Davis asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments.

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No comments were made.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, March 10, 2015, Regular Meeting and Thursday, March 12, 2015 Special Meeting

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, March 10, 2015 Regular Meeting and the Thursday, March 12, 2015 Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger and Steve Davis

Approval of Adult Probation Office resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Adult Probation resolution:

2015-03.17.a	A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Adult Probation Fund 2689 [Adult Probation]
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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Approval of Auditor-Finance Office resolutions

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Auditor-Finance Office resolutions:

2015-03.17.b	A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer for the General Fund 2% administration fee for managing the county insurance program, Fund# 7671 TO GENERAL #1001 – Fairfield County Auditor [Auditor- Payroll]
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2015-03.17.c	A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer for the General Fund 2% administration fee for managing the county insurance program, Fund# 7671 TO GENERAL #1001 – Fairfield County Auditor [Auditor- Payroll]
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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

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Approval of Clerk of Courts/Title office resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Clerk of Courts resolution:

2015-03.17.d A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Clerk of Courts Title Fund #2326 Certificate/Title Admin [Clerk of Courts- Title]

Discussion: Commissioner Kiger thanked Clerk Meyer for the Title Surplus transfer made at the end of the year.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Approval of Commissioners' Office resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' Office resolutions:

2015-03.17.e A resolution authorizing the approval of a proclamation recognizing March 16 – March 21 as "Sunshine Week" [Commissioners]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Approval to table the contract by and between the Fairfield County Commissioners and Bennett and Williams, Environmental Consultants, Inc. relating to the Interim Policy of the City Of Lancaster

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger the Board of Commissioners voted to TABLE the following Commissioners' Office resolution:

2015-03.17.f A resolution to approve a contract by and between the Fairfield County Commissioners and Bennett and Williams, Environmental Consultants, Inc. relating to the Interim Policy of the City of Lancaster – Fairfield County Commissioners

Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that there is communication with the City of Lancaster regarding their interim policy to come.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

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Approval of Commissioners' Office resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' Office resolution:

2015-03.17.g A resolution authorizing the approval of addendum No. 2 lease and Memorandum of Lease with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services for space at 224 E. Main Street [Commissioners]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Approval of Emergency Agency Office resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' Office resolution:

2015-03.17.h A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category EMA 2707 Emergency Management Performance Grant Fund [EMA]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Approval of Engineer's Office resolutions

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Engineer's Office resolutions:

2015-03.17.i A Resolution to Approve the Contract with BUD's, Inc. for the GRE-37, FAI-CR17-3.266 Pleasantville Road over a Tributary to Walnut Creek Bridge Replacement Project. [Engineer]

2015-03.17.j A Resolution to Approve the Notice to Commence [Engineer]

2015-03.17.k A resolution to change bridge load ratings. [Engineer]

2015-03.17.l A Resolution to Approve an LPA Federal Project Agreement with ODOT for Signage Upgrade. [Engineer]

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Discussion: County Engineer Jeremiah Upp stated that the bridge replacement was a standard process. There were changes in ODOT and Federal analyses relating to the bridge load ratings. There is a project to update signage.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Approval of Payment of Bills resolutions

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Payment of Bills resolutions:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 2015-03.17.m | A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval [Commissioners] |
| 2015-03.17.n | A resolution to approve the payment of vouchers without appropriate carry-over purchase orders for all Departments that are approved by the Commissioners [Auditor- Finance] |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Ms. Knisley announced that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Brown stated that she and Ms. Knisley will be attending the 1:00 p.m. Community Development Implementation Strategy Public Hearing.

Recess

Commissioner Davis stated at 10:14 a.m. that the Commission would take a recess until the 7:00 p.m. Buckeye Lake Dam meeting.

Back to Regular Session

Commissioner Davis stated at 7:00 p.m. that the meeting was called to order.

Approval to remove from the table a contract by and between the Fairfield County Commissioners and Bennett and Williams, Environmental Consultants, Inc. relating to the Interim Policy of the City Of Lancaster

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to remove from the table the following Commissioners' Office resolution:

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2015-03.17.f A resolution to approve a contract by and between the Fairfield County Commissioners and Bennett and Williams, Environmental Consultants, Inc. relating to the Interim Policy of the City of Lancaster – Fairfield County Commissioners

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Approval of the contract by and between the Fairfield County Commissioners and Bennett and Williams, Environmental Consultants, Inc. relating to the Interim Policy of the City Of Lancaster

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' Office resolution:

2015-03.17.f A resolution to approve a contract by and between the Fairfield County Commissioners and Bennett and Williams, Environmental Consultants, Inc. relating to the Interim Policy of the City of Lancaster – Fairfield County Commissioners

Discussion: Ms. Brown reported that the subject matter experts have connected throughout the day, and that the City of Lancaster was pleased with the proposed elements of the contract and its connection with the interim policy. Moving forward with this contract furthers the jail project.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Ms. Brown reported that there was an additional resolution to consider, a payment of an invoice.

Approval of a resolution authorizing the approval of a payment of invoice

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' Office resolution:

2015-03.17.o A resolution to approve a resolution authorizing the approval of a payment of an invoice

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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Buckeye Lake Dam Public Meeting

Commissioner Davis called the advertised meeting to review Buckeye Lake concerns to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, and Staci Knisley. Local, State, and Federal Elected Officials were present and members of the public.

See attached the transcript for minutes of the meeting. Sign in sheets are also attached.

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Dave Levacy and a second of Mike Kiger the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

The next regular meeting for the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

Motion by: *Dave Levacy* Seconded by: *Mike Kiger*

that the March 17, 2015, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: *Levacy, Kiger, Davis* NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on March 24, 2015

Steven A. Davis

Steven A. Davis
Commissioner

Dave Levacy

Dave Levacy
Commissioner

Mike Kiger

Mike Kiger
Commissioner

Staci A. Knisley

Staci A. Knisley, Acting Clerk



Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS

Steven A. Davis
David L. Levacy
Mike Kiger

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Carri L. Brown

CLERK

Rachel A. Elsea

March 17, 2015

The Honorable Cheryl A. LaFleur, Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Support of the Leach Xpress Project PF 14-23-000

Dear Chairman LaFleur:

We are writing in support of the Columbia Gas Transmission's proposed Leach Xpress pipeline project. Columbus Gas Transmission has initiated the Leach Xpress pipeline construction project traversing 158 miles and crossing portions of West Virginia and Ohio. We are supportive of the project based on the positive impact it is expected to bring to our county.


According to an analysis released by Kleinhenz & Associates in November 2014, Fairfield County's property tax revenues for all entities will increase by \$3,720, 582, and there will be thousands of jobs created in the area. Corresponding increases in sales are expected.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Leach Xpress project. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 740-652-7096 if you have any questions or should need any additional information.

Sincerely,

The Fairfield County Board of County Commissioners

Abstain


Commissioner Steve Davis, President


Commissioner Dave Levacy, Vice President


Commissioner Mike Kiger, Commissioner

RE: BUCKEYE LAKE DAM

PROCEEDINGS

March 17, 2015



prompt. precise. professional.

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THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- - -

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

- - -

PUBLIC HEARING
IN RE: BUCKEYE LAKE DAM

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

Before Commissioners Steve Davis, David L. Levacy,
and Mike Kiger at the Fairfield County Liberty
Center, 951 Liberty Drive, Lancaster, Ohio 43130,
March 17, 2015, at 7:05 p.m., taken before
Julia Lamb, RPR, CRR, a Notary Public in
and for the State of Ohio.

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 --0-- 2 PROCEEDINGS 3 --0-- 4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Folks, we 5 appreciate you all being here tonight. We 6 invited folks to come share with the Fairfield 7 County Commissioners and others -- I'll get to 8 in just a second -- your questions, your 9 comments, and your concerns. 10 We've got representatives here tonight. 11 State Representative Hayes is here. Senator 12 Balderson is here. Representative from the 13 United States Congressman Stivers' office is 14 here. Representative from United States Senator 15 Portman's office is here. I think State 16 Representative Schaffer is en route. He was 17 having some trouble getting out of a hearing in 18 Columbus. 19 What we thought -- and if I'm -- I'm 20 going to miss a bunch of people, and I don't 21 mean it that way at all. But I think I saw just 22 about every Perry County commissioner here this 23 evening. I see President Bubba and the Licking 24 County commissioners are here with us this</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 representatives with us this evening, which we 2 really appreciate, Stephanie Leis -- Leis -- I'm 3 sorry, Stephanie -- and Rodney Tornes. Are you 4 just being nice to me? Okay. You're starting 5 off being nice to me. 6 Anyway, just a little bit on format, if 7 I might. What all these politicians and 8 representatives from these political offices and 9 ODNR, what we're supposed to be doing here 10 tonight is listening to you. 11 If you've read the corps report, you 12 know that in Section 5.4, the final 13 recommendation before any decisions are made was 14 to listen to the community, listen to the 15 residents and the business owners and those who 16 would be affected by the decisions that are made 17 on Buckeye Lake. That's in the corps report 18 that we're supposed to listen to, and so that's 19 what we intend to do. 20 From a format standpoint, we've got this 21 microphone over here to my left, which is hot. 22 If you would like to address the commission, all 23 these politicians that have gathered here to 24 listen to you, ODNR included, we would ask that</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 evening. We appreciate them being here. 2 Just a couple seconds on background, if 3 I might, how we got here. On Tuesday, I believe 4 it was the 10th of March -- if I got the date 5 wrong, I apologize -- we were having our regular 6 meeting, and we'd gotten some indications that 7 the corps report that would be released on 8 Wednesday the 11th might be rather dramatic. 9 And so we, anticipating that possible 10 issue, scheduled a special meeting for the 12th, 11 which was Thursday morning, and invited ODNR to 12 attend that meeting, and that was, like I say, 13 kind of an add-on meeting. We had that out at 14 the utilities office. Didn't really invite the 15 public, but nonetheless, 80 folks came to see us 16 that morning. We didn't have seating for 17 everybody, like we don't tonight. We thought we 18 would. But that gave us an indication of 19 concern that we thought we should be more 20 responsive to. 21 I had the opportunity over the last 22 couple days to speak directly with Director 23 Zehringer and asked if ODNR could be present 24 here this evening, and they do have a couple</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 you begin by approaching that podium and stating 2 your name and residential address, and then 3 state your question, your comment, your concern. 4 It's difficult to have a meeting of this 5 size and to manage it well. So a couple of 6 rules, if you would. Please direct your 7 comments to the commissioners as opposed to each 8 other or to others in attendance. It would be 9 very much appreciated. That's meant to kind of 10 keep the temperature down a little bit if we 11 could. 12 I'm going to ask you, too, if you would 13 please to try to abide by a three-minute 14 guideline for your remarks. If you get cut off 15 as a result of that guideline, you'll be given 16 an opportunity to reappear and extend your 17 remarks once everybody who wishes to speak has 18 been given the opportunity to do so. 19 If you are with a group or association 20 and have had the foresight to appoint a 21 spokesperson for your vantage point, that would 22 be appreciated. We are not on the clock. We're 23 here to listen about the questions, the 24 comments, the concerns. I think some of the</p>

1 things that might be most prudent for folks to
2 hear is what some of the immediate effects on
3 the lake have been merely as a result of the
4 announcement.

5 Additionally, I know many of you are
6 aware from reading the corps report that there
7 are a multitude of potential risk reduction
8 alternatives. What your concerns might be about
9 the implementation of some of those different
10 risk reduction alternatives would probably be
11 helpful for this assembly of politicians and
12 leaders to hear from you about.

13 Those are just my thoughts. Those are
14 not to restrict your comments in any way, shape
15 or form. So -- now, that's kind of the set-up.
16 Just a couple of notes, too. I know there are
17 some cameras back here from the media outlets,
18 but at the same time -- where's my friend Bob
19 Competti?

20 MS. BROWN: He's set up, yes. He is
21 already set up.

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: All right. We've
23 got a videographer that we've hired for the
24 evening to record the entire night so this will

1 be preserved in that regard. We also have a
2 stenographer who will be taking down all the
3 questions, comments, and concerns that come from
4 the public.

5 I also wanted to mention, too, that why
6 we very much appreciate the representatives from
7 ODNR being willing to be here tonight and to
8 listen, they're also on a bit of a schedule. So
9 at 9 or 9:15 or so or something like that they
10 may leave. That's fine. We understand that,
11 and we also understand if this meeting were to
12 exceed that time frame, we will make sure that
13 they get the video and the transcript of what
14 transpired. So all the questions, comments and
15 concerns that are derived from this meeting are
16 given to them.

17 One final thing, I want to apologize for
18 those who are standing room only, and I want to
19 apologize for having the meeting in Lancaster.
20 And I want you to understand why that was. When
21 it became apparent to us that a meeting was
22 needed -- needed because we needed to have your
23 input before decisions are made, not after --
24 this is the largest meeting room that Fairfield

1 County had control of, and for immediacy in
2 getting the meeting scheduled, and set up, and
3 promoted, that's why we did that. It wasn't to
4 make you drive or to be rude in any way. We're
5 trying to be helpful. So we really appreciate
6 you all coming out tonight. And don't be shy.

7 We'll start right here at the podium to
8 my left, and I'll invite the first person who
9 would like to address the commission and the
10 assembly of leaders tonight with your questions,
11 your comments or concerns. And if I could
12 remind you, sir, please begin by stating your
13 name residential address. Thank you.

14 MR. OLSEN: My name is Chuck Olsen. My
15 residence is 4471 North Bank Road, which is the
16 last house in Fairfield County right next to
17 Licking County.

18 One comment, as I think, draining the
19 lake permanently is not a solution that anybody
20 wants. My other comment is, is that whatever we
21 decide on let's please not drag this out for
22 years. Let's get it done so we can get over the
23 financial impact and recover our property
24 values.

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

2 Is there anyone else who would like to
3 address the commission?

4 MR. BAUMAN: Ray Bauman. I live on Moon
5 River Lane, Edgewater Beach, which is Licking
6 County. I would like to hear from DNR if it
7 would be possible to get an additional three
8 feet in the lake if the community was to get
9 together, put together a volunteer dam
10 monitoring force to patrol North Bank dam and
11 embankment and West Bank dam and embankment and
12 report on conditions found to a coordinator from
13 DNR or from another entity sanctioned by the
14 State so as to limit the liability, and have
15 these volunteers patrol the bank once or twice a
16 day in teams of two from the residents that live
17 along there so we don't have a lot of movement
18 in and out, and so that the people whose
19 properties are being patrolled understand that
20 these are their neighbors that are helping to
21 add a little bit more water into the lake to
22 make it more navigable, to lessen the impact
23 while the decisions are being made.

24 Currently the lake is not at winter

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1 pool. It is approximately a foot to 16 inches
2 above winter pool based upon measurements at my
3 end of the lake. We would -- I believe we can
4 find enough interest from the residents of North
5 Bank and the residents all the way around the
6 lake to put together this force. It will take a
7 conscientious effort to do it. It will take a
8 conscientious effort by DNR to help us limit the
9 liability of the people that are doing it, and
10 it will take a great effort to train these adult
11 people in doing this. Each team will have to
12 have a backup or two to it. So -- and we have
13 to limit the distances that they travel so that
14 it's not an undo burden on them. That's an idea
15 on how to temporarily put water in the lake
16 until the decisions are made and we know what's
17 going on.

18 The other question that I have is are
19 there any mitigation efforts or ways that we can
20 lessen the stress on the dam other than dropping
21 the water level or keeping it winter pool? Do
22 we have to remove docks? Do we have to remove
23 sidewalks? Do we have to remove decks? Do we
24 have to remove anything, including the trees?

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1 Granted, no matter which way they build this
2 thing, the trees are gone. No dam in the
3 country has trees growing on it, and I don't
4 think we want to be the first one.

5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

6 MS. COOKSTON: My name's Karen Cookston.
7 I live at 113 Anchors Way, which is a Cranberry
8 Bay addition. I also wear the hat of the
9 planning and zoning commissioner -- officer at
10 Buckeye Lake.

11 One of the things that I'm concerned
12 about is the potential of unintended
13 consequences of not making this decision quickly
14 as to what potential ability we have to make
15 corrections.

16 As the last gentleman identified, is
17 that at winter levels we have the potential --
18 in our evaporation rate of our lake in July and
19 August -- to lose anywhere from one to four
20 feet. With that being said, with the shallower
21 lake, that's going to happen sooner.

22 If that occurs in August, we are going
23 to lose our lily pads, we're going to lose our
24 bird sanctuaries, we're going to lose all the

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1 heron issues. And with that being said, the
2 lake is probably not going to be able to recover
3 its ecosystem from that standpoint. So in my
4 opinion the time frame of how we all work
5 together and get this done is incredibly
6 important.

7 On a separate note, as the chair -- as a
8 chairperson of the planning commission, my phone
9 is ringing off the hook from literally bank
10 presidents all the way down asking questions
11 about currently pending loans, values of homes.

12 As a matter of fact, my house was being
13 appraised on Wednesday when we made this
14 announcement. My home's appraisal that came
15 back today is on hold, and they're actually
16 taking over \$75,000 off the value of my house
17 that was appraised five years ago.

18 So the impact of people waiting to make
19 decisions and those kinds of things greatly
20 affects, again, not only the ecosystem, but the
21 economic system, and clearly we all know lives
22 are important. And I think everybody in this
23 room is willing to be part of the solution.

24 And I appreciate you having this meeting

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1 tonight, but I think we all need to look at how
2 do we work together for the solution and not let
3 it drag out too long, because we only have a
4 couple more weeks of good rains, and trust me,
5 in July, I don't think anybody is turning their
6 hoses on to fill the lake to manage that space.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you.

9 MR. BONNETTE: My name is Ronald
10 Bonnette, B-O-N-N-E-T-T-E. I'm a resident of
11 Canals on Buckeye Lake, northern Perry County.

12 First thing I want to do, I want to
13 express my appreciation to all the public
14 officials who have attended tonight who have
15 listened to my calls. Specifically, Perry
16 County commissioners, Mr. O'Brien, Steve
17 Stivers' office, the governor's office, they
18 have really listened. ODNR has some parking
19 points, but at least they listen.

20 And what I want to point out is the
21 immediate impact. Nobody here wants anyone
22 downstream to be flooded out or killed as a
23 result of the dam bursting. I was part of the
24 family back in the shady side (phonetic) floods.

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 Flooding is not a good thing.</p> <p>2 However, I'm immediately impacted, all</p> <p>3 my neighbors are. First thing is winter pool,</p> <p>4 the canals on northern Perry County dry up or</p> <p>5 they have so very little water in there you</p> <p>6 can't get a kayak or canoe on it.</p> <p>7 My immediate concern is here I got</p> <p>8 watercraft that are stranded and a boathouse on</p> <p>9 the dock. I can't get them out. If ODNR is</p> <p>10 correct, then assuming that they even fill it</p> <p>11 in, if it's going to take 18 to 24 months to</p> <p>12 design -- which I don't understand why they</p> <p>13 don't have a design if they've known about this</p> <p>14 for 20 years, but --</p> <p>15 (Applause.)</p> <p>16 MR. BONNETTE: -- another three to five</p> <p>17 years to build it, and I understand it's going</p> <p>18 to take that long. It really is. I mean,</p> <p>19 they're not fooling anybody saying that or</p> <p>20 trying to fool us.</p> <p>21 The question is what's going to happen</p> <p>22 over seven years we have without the lake. I</p> <p>23 have a mud puddle in my backyard right now. I</p> <p>24 have a second investment house up in Thornport.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 going to do about that because now we're</p> <p>2 impacted?</p> <p>3 Thank you.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>5 MR. SEVERANCE: I'm Dean Severance. I'm</p> <p>6 the mayor of the Village of Millersport, and I'm</p> <p>7 here on behalf of the entire community, our</p> <p>8 businesses.</p> <p>9 One of the concerns I have is what is</p> <p>10 going to happen to Cranberry Bog? Cranberry Bog</p> <p>11 is a natural treasure that we have on our lake.</p> <p>12 And one of the concerns that I have -- and I</p> <p>13 know other people do, too -- is what is going to</p> <p>14 be done to try to preserve that? Is there a way</p> <p>15 that they can preserve that regardless of what</p> <p>16 happens?</p> <p>17 And the other thing is my son works with</p> <p>18 situations like this all the time, and he was</p> <p>19 asking me tonight, have they considered what</p> <p>20 they call soldier peers that they can put in in</p> <p>21 order to shore up -- they do it for construction</p> <p>22 all the time to shore up things so they go in</p> <p>23 and actually do the work when the water is still</p> <p>24 in the lake and not to allow the lake just to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 I was trying to better the neighborhood, fix the</p> <p>2 house up. The house value just -- the lady just</p> <p>3 spoke to me says, dropped -- bottom dropped out.</p> <p>4 They don't know how they're going to appraise</p> <p>5 it. Right now speculation, house values have</p> <p>6 dropped.</p> <p>7 So ODNR has created a problem for those</p> <p>8 of us out there, not to mention that a lot of</p> <p>9 people are going to take their money and run.</p> <p>10 It's going to affect all the businesses around,</p> <p>11 it's going to take the neighborhood -- if you're</p> <p>12 going to save 25 cents on the dollar, what kind</p> <p>13 of people are you going to get in there and put</p> <p>14 reinvestment back in the place?</p> <p>15 You know, there's a lot of impacts, and</p> <p>16 I'm asking ODNR to address that issue and the</p> <p>17 governor's office to address that issue for</p> <p>18 those of us who are immediately impacted. Okay?</p> <p>19 Understand, you can't float people downstream.</p> <p>20 But what about those of us in this room, around</p> <p>21 me, and my neighbors, and economic development,</p> <p>22 everyone in the state of Ohio or even the nation</p> <p>23 who enjoyed Buckeye Lake or have enjoyed Buckeye</p> <p>24 Lake or could enjoy Buckeye Lake, what are you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 drop down, but maybe there's -- as one of the</p> <p>2 alternatives that could be brought forth to help</p> <p>3 assist with that. And I don't have a business</p> <p>4 on the lake, but I have a lot of friends that</p> <p>5 do, and I'm very concerned for their welfare and</p> <p>6 their well-being. So I think that everybody</p> <p>7 here is in the same boat, if you will.</p> <p>8 So thank you for your time.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>10 MS. DEBRUIN: Hello. Patty DeBruin,</p> <p>11 3635 Blacklick-Eastern Road in Millersport.</p> <p>12 So thank you, county commissioners,</p> <p>13 representatives, other officials. I'm glad</p> <p>14 you're here. It shows you care. It shows your</p> <p>15 concern about Buckeye Ocean, but thank you</p> <p>16 members of the audience for speaking about the</p> <p>17 place that we call home.</p> <p>18 My husband's president of the Buckeye</p> <p>19 Lake for Tomorrow Association, and that has</p> <p>20 increased my knowledge about what's going on.</p> <p>21 It's let me know that there are a lot of</p> <p>22 different facets about this, but our lives have</p> <p>23 been dedicated to raising our family in</p> <p>24 Millersport and serving the community for 32</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 years with our veterinary practice, which is 2 located beside the creek that feeds the water to 3 Buckeye Lake: Feeder Creek. 4 I want a safe place to live. I want a 5 safe place to work and play. I want to continue 6 to provide our 22 employees with jobs, and I 7 want to provide their families with security. 8 We need to work together to quickly address 9 these issues that affect specific areas of the 10 dam. 11 Why can't we come up with a temporary 12 solution for those areas that are really at risk 13 while we work on a long-term solution? 14 Many businesses around the lake cannot 15 survive even one season without water. Can we 16 have one foot below summer pool? 17 Local businesses are in your hands. The 18 impact on the regional economy is close behind. 19 I trust you to help us all reach a workable 20 solution, one that allows our economy to 21 flourish. Don't write us off. Don't make us 22 the endangered species due to lack of water. 23 Don't let us drown in a poor economy. Ask not 24 what your dam can do for you, but ask what you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 someone else to refinance, please do so. 2 So I have a personal interest, and I'm 3 sure there'll be a lot of other people that will 4 as well. 5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Just a real quick 6 announcement. We do have representatives from 7 the fire department here tonight, and they're 8 keeping track of the number of folks that are 9 with us tonight. I just understand that number 10 crossed 470, and I should just remind you that 11 your entrances and exits -- where you came in is 12 obviously an entrance and an exit, and we have 13 an exit back here to the back which will remain 14 open for the balance of the evening. And if you 15 would, just try to keep aiseways clear if in 16 the event anybody would need to leave quickly. 17 I apologize for slowing you down, ma'am. 18 MS. MILLER: You know, there's no 19 slowing me down. Fran L. Miller, 3702 20 Stringtown Road, Lancaster. 21 Hi, everyone. Being a realtor for 26 22 years, I really -- my empathy is going with the 23 people that are the landowners, the property 24 owners, and all of you have a huge amount at</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 can do for that dam. 2 (Applause.) 3 MS. DEBRUIN: Remember, raise the water. 4 Thank you. 5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you. 6 MS. GEE: My name is Darendra Gee, and I 7 live at 73 Lake Street, Buckeye Lake, which is 8 on Crane Lake, Licking County. I moved out to 9 the lake in 1963 so I have the same passion and 10 concern as everyone else in here, but I have a 11 personal concern that I wasn't going to bring up 12 and decided after listening to Karen I needed 13 to. 14 I bought a house in July of last year on 15 the waterfront after many years of wanting a 16 home on the lakefront. I financed part of it, 17 but I did a renovation with a lot of my own 18 money with an agreement with a local Licking 19 County bank that once the house was done they 20 would refinance for me. 21 I moved in 10 days ago, and I received a 22 note from the bank last night: Our appraisers 23 have placed a moratorium on Buckeye Lake 24 properties at the moment. If you can find</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 stake. It is such a shame that a project like 2 this has gone on for this many years. 3 (Applause.) 4 MS. MILLER: There have been books 5 written about Buckeye Lake, about the big swamp, 6 about the Cranberry Bog which maybe you know or 7 don't know, it's not attached. It floats. It 8 counts on -- oh, yeah, that's called water, 9 isn't it? We need that. 10 But more than anything, we can't think 11 of the lifestyles as I've heard it put, oh, it's 12 just a lifestyle, the lake. It's an economy. 13 It affects not one county, but three. Doesn't 14 anyone, like, hear that? 15 And if you can go up and down 33 and 16 build a bypass that I thought maybe I'd never 17 get to see -- but I did get to, and it's done 18 and it's great -- but if you can do that, and 19 buy homes, and fix things, and go ahead and go 20 forth, there is no reason on this God's green 21 earth that you cannot go ahead and fix that dam. 22 It's just dirt. 23 MS. HOLLER: Hi, all. I'm Lois Holler, 24 North Bank resident, 3983 North Bank. I've only</p>

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1 lived here for 30 years so I'm pretty much a
 2 newbie as far as this is concerned. But I
 3 really want to say this report that initially
 4 came out was essentially a rehash of the one
 5 that was discredited 10 years ago.
 6 Be that as it may, it's a total fiasco
 7 sprung on us, and it really makes me unhappy.
 8 But it was couched in the most inflammatory
 9 terms, and I -- that's sad.
 10 Likely to burst. What is likely? It is
 11 likely that a satellite will land in our lake
 12 tomorrow, too, or an astroid. How likely is
 13 that? Actually, it is not very darn likely that
 14 the dam will burst. It might leak on West Bank
 15 somewhere where it's been leaking for 30 years,
 16 but it is not going to burst. If it does burst,
 17 you're not going to get an eight-foot wall of
 18 water out of a six-foot body.
 19 (Applause.)
 20 MS. HOLLER: We need to put water in to
 21 uphold the economy. Do not take a hundred
 22 percent chance of devastating 6 to \$10,000 -- 6
 23 to 10,000 people, businesses, economy, ecology,
 24 and everything else for a

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1 less-than-one-in-10,000-percent chance that you
 2 will have a leak.
 3 That's pretty much it. Thank you.
 4 MR. JOHANSEN: My name is John
 5 Johansen. I live in Perry County, 9429
 6 Lighthouse Cut in Thornville.
 7 I just would like to make two comments.
 8 First, I think that we've heard people talk
 9 about property values already and business
 10 values. One of the things that I think would be
 11 very helpful is if we could have an affirmative
 12 and declarative statement from whoever the
 13 authority is that the dam will be fixed so we
 14 can put to bed once and for all the ambiguity
 15 about whether we're going to drain the lake or
 16 what is -- just, that would give us something
 17 that we could take to our banks for refinancing
 18 or whatever it might be that says, yes, the plan
 19 is to fix the dam.
 20 We don't have to go into all the details
 21 about how that's going to happen, but some
 22 declarative, affirmative statement that that dam
 23 is going to be fixed will go a long way in
 24 restoring the faith in the community, and help

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1 us as we begin to go forward with our property
 2 values.
 3 The second thing is where we live in
 4 Perry County, as has already been mentioned,
 5 it's very shallow already. And if there's any
 6 opportunity that some way we could raise that
 7 lake level to three or five feet, something that
 8 would allow us to float our boats and allow us
 9 to actually use our docks, while still
 10 preserving the safety and the issues that we
 11 need in terms of safety, I would very much
 12 appreciate if that would be seriously
 13 considered.
 14 Thank you very much.
 15 MR. ERVIN: My name is Cameron Ervin. I
 16 live at 7713 Highpoint Road, Thornville. I want
 17 nothing more than what's best for the 3,000
 18 people that would be affected by the dam
 19 failing. But if the lake is to be kept at
 20 winter pool, will not the entire population
 21 surrounding Buckeye Lake, not only those in the
 22 flood plain, be affected by the West Nile Virus
 23 carried by mosquitoes that live in such shallow
 24 waters, not to mention the chemicals that will

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1 be used to combat the virus-ridden insects?
 2 Thank you.
 3 MR. SHEPHERD: Hi, my name's Dave
 4 Shepherd. I grew up in Avondale. I actually
 5 live in Dublin now, but I still have property
 6 over there. And the thing I want to bring up is
 7 if you read this report, it says the structural
 8 integrity of the dam has been significantly
 9 weakened by the more than 370 homes and other
 10 structures, et cetera, et cetera.
 11 I would submit those homes were not
 12 occupied by squatters. Those homes were sold by
 13 the State, those lots were sold by the State,
 14 the State approved every utility easement and
 15 right-of-way in that dam, and I think it's worth
 16 exploring what legal options all of us has
 17 available with regard to the liability from the
 18 State of Ohio.
 19 I've started a...
 20 (Applause.)
 21 MR. SHEPHERD: ... website. You can
 22 find it on gofundme.com/saveBL.
 23 Thank you.
 24 MR. MASONE: My name's Robert Masone. I

http://www.priohio.com

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1 live on North Bank. I think that puts me at the
2 epicenter. I'm one of the trustees of the
3 Buckeye Lake Civic Association, and I'm a new
4 village councilman at Buckeye Lake.

5 So somebody wanted something to bring to
6 a bank. In my bag I have two things you can
7 bring to your bank. One was an engineering
8 study by the Rizzo (phonetic) Company in 1997
9 that said the bank was safe. There was some
10 seepage, and they put monitors in it.

11 The other thing in the bag is the
12 Dodson-Lindblom Study. Both of these studies
13 paid for by the State to see if the dam was
14 safe. The Dodson-Lindblom Study in 2002,
15 quote -- I quote, says, this lake is safe even
16 at full level in an earthquake. It says that.

17 They monitored the monitors that were
18 put in by the previous engineers and said the
19 seepage hasn't changed. The lake is safe. So I
20 await the Army Corps of Engineers' report
21 looking for new data.

22 I'm a scientist. I'm a physician.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. MASONE: I'm a scientist. I'm held

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1 accountable to evidence-based medicine. I'm an
2 expert witness a lot. I'm held to account in
3 court. For what I say has to be based on
4 evidence and not just my opinion, even though I
5 have all this gray hair.

6 So I looked at this report, and there's
7 no evidence. They say they've walked it.
8 There's pictures of broken sidewalks, and they
9 used this as evidence that the dam's unsafe.
10 And what they did was they took the old studies,
11 and they said, we put it in new software
12 modeling programs we have. And the software
13 modeling programs state there could be a breach.
14 But there is no breach. So if there is no
15 breach, full pool it must reach. If there is no
16 breach, full pool it must reach.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. MASONE: So we really beg for
19 evidence. Everybody here says, if that dam is
20 unsafe and you prove it to us, we -- look at the
21 crowd that will be behind you. We are
22 reasonable people. But if there is no evidence,
23 then back off and let it go and continue to
24 monitor it.

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1 But do not shut it down, affect three
2 counties, as you heard, affect property values,
3 cause a lot of pain up in that area. My village
4 at Buckeye Lake is poor, and property values are
5 going to go down. There will be no business
6 there. The revenue into that town will be next
7 to nothing. We have three trailer parks, four
8 food banks, and we will not be able to sustain
9 the lives of these people that depend on this
10 lake on no evidence.

11 MR. BUTTERWORTH: Trevor Butterworth, as
12 in the syrup, 3727 South Bank. I've got pages
13 here. I'm not going to give you what the State
14 spent or is not going to spend. I'm going to
15 give you the good stuff.

16 Yesterday I went to Leibs Island State
17 Park office to see why I hadn't received my
18 yearly letter for my boat dock fees. The note
19 on the window states the office is no longer
20 open. Please call this number or use Dillon
21 State Park. They consolidated.

22 Okay. So I called the number. Push
23 one, push two, push zero for Buckeye Lake State
24 Park. Please leave your name and number. We'll

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1 get back with you.

2 Called ODNR on Morse Road. They finally
3 got me in touch with Jason Wesley at Buckeye
4 Lake State Park, and he informed me -- which
5 everybody will be happy -- they're no longer
6 sending out the 3,700 dock stickers this year
7 because of the problem with the lake. You don't
8 have to pay your 80 bucks. Okay. I told them I
9 would inform you people you're not going to pay
10 your 80 bucks.

11 Now, for the fix. I came here 11 years
12 ago. This is my retirement home. I sold my one
13 in Florida. Bad mistake. Okay. It was 35
14 bucks when I came here. It's now up to 80.
15 Okay.

16 I confronted ODNR about this increase.
17 They said at the time they were planning to
18 install a 20-foot rock wall 20 feet out from the
19 original dam. In other words, they're removing
20 all the boat docks, coming out 20 feet, grass
21 topping it. You could drive from Leibs Island
22 to North Bank boat ramp. That's what they were
23 planning. So it was going to be topped with
24 grass. All the funds were being put in the

1 general fund. Morse Road. 3700 docks at 80
2 bucks. That's 296,000 a year. Over 10 years
3 that's 2,960,000. Okay. The staging area is
4 there at Leibs Island State Park and North Bank
5 boat ramp and the parking lot area. The dirt
6 from all the cleaning out of all the spillway
7 channels is sitting behind Feeder Creek right
8 now. It's on Route 37, piled up. It's on Leibs
9 Island from all the dredging. It's piled there.
10 It's sitting there. It's there for free.

11 They're going to give it away this year. All we
12 need is the granite. The dirt's there. Let's
13 get the granite. Let's put the dirt on it.

14 Let's get it done. Get the trucks. The parking
15 lots are there. Back it in. Put the granite
16 up. Put the dirt on it. The dam's done.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. ADAMS: Dave Adams, A-D-A-M-S, 2821
19 Terrace Street, Millersport, Ohio. I'm on the
20 Tour of Homes committee, and all of us in this
21 room basically have a vested interest what's
22 going on. I think everybody agrees with that.

23 I've heard a lot of things about why
24 things sure shouldn't be done, but I don't know

1 if anybody's thought about the facts. I've got
2 to address you guys, not you guys. Anyway, if
3 we could maybe go full pool and have no wake
4 maybe in the area of the dam, say from north
5 shore ramp, west, that maybe takes the stress
6 off the dam -- okay? -- while you guys are
7 working on it. This needs to get worked on, but
8 at least let the community have its lake back.

9 The schools, that's going to be a big,
10 big problem. We already know the schools are
11 asking for a tremendous amount of money every
12 year. If this happens, they're not going to
13 have it. The property values are going to go
14 down. The kids are going to be in trouble. So
15 you need to think about that also.

16 But we need a solution to give us full
17 pool and let people live their lives, not just
18 for pleasure, but people have businesses out
19 here, people have reasons to be out here, and
20 please let's let this happen.

21 MR. BARTHOLOW: Merv Bartholow,
22 B-A-R-T-H-O-L-O-W, 95 Delmar Place, Hebron.

23 You know the State of Ohio began this
24 campaign last year. First, they raised the

1 water level in the lake last summer by six
2 inches up to the top of the Sellers Point
3 Spillway. Most of us were pretty happy to have
4 the extra water in the lake, but had no idea
5 what was really going on.

6 Was that action taken by the State to
7 place as much steady, long-term extra pressure
8 on the dam as possible?

9 Then last summer we noticed all the
10 large evacuation signs that were put up all over
11 the area with no apparent rationale for where
12 they're going.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. BARTHOLOW: Then the Army Corps of
15 Engineers were brought out to conduct an
16 assessment and to make recommendations for the
17 repair and maintenance of the dam. And on
18 March 1st the State left the spillway gate open
19 while waiting for a report from the corps; a
20 report they had seen in draft form two months
21 earlier.

22 For the past two weeks they've been
23 conducting a campaign with the media and elected
24 officials to emphasize the danger that exists

1 and the catastrophic impact that will occur
2 should the dam collapse. We have been had. The
3 Army Corps report primarily focuses on past
4 studies and problems that existed with the dam
5 prior to the construction of the Sellers Point
6 Spillway, which was designed to take the
7 pressure off the dam and prevent overtopping.

8 The only problems since 1992 were caused
9 by the failure of the State to include in that
10 project a proper method to get rid of the water
11 that flowed over the spillway, resulting in
12 flooding behind the dam, not through the dam
13 from the lake.

14 There are many ways to correct the
15 problem with the dam, both temporary and
16 permanent. None, however, have yet been
17 considered or discussed during the entire
18 process that has taken place over the past year.

19 Instead, the State has wasted precious
20 time preparing for their disaster announcements.
21 Time that could have been used to correct any
22 deficiencies that might exist.

23 In 2004 the State presented a plan to
24 build a new dam 20 feet in front of the current

1 dam. Many parts of that plan were unacceptable
2 to the community, and attempts to work with the
3 State to improve the plan were unsuccessful.
4 The State knew best. I'm willing to listen to
5 any other ideas. Seems like deja vu all over
6 again.

7 The Buckeye Lake dam became an
8 unacceptable and unsafe embankment in 1895 when
9 the State of Ohio sold the first section of the
10 dam and allowed the structures to be constructed
11 on it. That action 120 years ago has given
12 heartburn to dam engineers since and caused them
13 to declare the lake unsafe.

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Sir, I apologize
15 for interrupting you, but if you would conclude
16 your remarks, I would appreciate it.

17 MR. BARTHOLOW: All right. I've got two
18 sentences to go.

19 We must support our local leadership as
20 they attempt to work with the State to reduce
21 the level of hysteria that's been created
22 through their latest campaign. We also need to
23 accept the fact that some change has to be made
24 to bring our dam up to today's standards of

1 safety.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. HORNING: My name's Dave Horning,
4 H-O-R-N-I-N-G. I live at 3811 North Bank Road.
5 I came up to talk about a report that was
6 mentioned a couple times by a couple people in
7 the past. It was a report dated May 5th, 1997,
8 and it's the Rizzo report, and it was a study
9 done, and the purpose of the study was to study
10 the dam's stability at Buckeye Lake.

11 And the reason that the study was done
12 was because it was noted that there was a breach
13 threat at the dam based on the wall not being
14 high enough above full pool. So the idea was
15 that you want to have your dam, you want to have
16 the top of the water of your dam to be five feet
17 above full pool, and so the interest was in
18 increasing the height of the dam by five feet to
19 prevent any possibility whatsoever of a breach
20 in even the most severe flood conditions.

21 So the study was done to determine if
22 the dam itself was stable enough to support a
23 higher pool level, five feet higher, and they
24 did a huge analysis of the materials comprising

1 the dam itself, as well as the permeability of
2 water through the foot of the dam, and this
3 report -- and it was -- ODNR did provide this to
4 me, and I had to get it from them because I
5 couldn't find it anywhere on the web. There
6 were links to it, but you follow the links and
7 it wasn't there.

8 Anyway, this report is directly in
9 opposition to the current Corps of Engineers'
10 report. There's a lot more science in this
11 report. It's over two inches thick with tons of
12 engineering data to back it up.

13 Their conclusion was that there was no
14 real permeability through the dam itself, and
15 that it does have enough stability to support
16 not only the full pool level we're at here, but
17 a pool that's five feet higher, on a temporary
18 basis.

19 So I think we're -- I think there's been
20 a lot of fear that's been stirred up, and I
21 understand that ODNR has got to be real
22 frustrated with nothing happening over the
23 years. But I don't think the threat is a threat
24 from seepage, based on these reports. Yes,

1 there's somewhat of a threat if we have -- if we
2 have significant rainfall that takes us way
3 above the current pool level, the maximum -- the
4 normal pool, but there's way too much fear being
5 connected with this.

6 I think it's for the purpose of trying
7 to light a fire on the legislature, but it's
8 also having the effect of lighting a fire under
9 everybody, and that's just wrong. I have the
10 report here.

11 MR. HAND: Hello. My name is Jason
12 Hand, H-A-N-D. I live 96 Anchors Way, and I was
13 at the safety meeting yesterday, and the guys
14 were talking about evacuation and safety and
15 lives being lost. And I was wondering if
16 they're so worried about it why aren't they on
17 the dam right now watching? Why is this guy
18 from ODNR even here if the dam is going to
19 collapse? I mean, seriously. He should be
20 conferencing, calling in on this, number one.

21 As a matter of fact, at the meeting they
22 said they had one guy that may or may not patrol
23 the 4.1 mile per day maybe. So are you really
24 concerned it's going to collapse? You got one

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1 guy that may or may not be walking the four
2 miles an hour -- the four-mile strip?

3 Secondly, I moved here because this is
4 the lifestyle I chose. They're saying years for
5 this. Every day this winter I woke up, I could
6 not wait for summer, and now we have this. My
7 neighbor is 87 years old, and we're going to
8 wait two or three years. Who knows if we're
9 going to be here next summer. I was waiting for
10 this summer. I'm really sad about this, and
11 upset.

12 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Folks, I appreciate
13 your enthusiasm and your passion, and I just
14 would like to reiterate that it was the
15 Fairfield County Commissioners' office that
16 spent the last couple of weeks urging ODNR to
17 come and listen tonight. So I want to take
18 responsibility for that. They didn't call this
19 meeting, and we urged them to be here. We
20 wanted them to hear you, and I just wanted to
21 reiterate that. Again, I'm not yelling at you
22 yet.

23 Sir, I apologize for delaying you.

24 MR. BABBERT: That's not a problem. My

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1 name is Craig Babbert, B-A-B-B-E-R-T. I live at
2 12552 West Bank Drive, Millersport, Walnut
3 Township. I'm a Buckeye Lake Area Civic
4 Association trustee and I'm a West Bank
5 Homeowners Association trustee.

6 In the March 13th article in the
7 Columbus Dispatch ODNR spokeswoman Bethany
8 McCorkle said, yes, there have been multiple
9 reports, and, yes, we've known about problems
10 with the dam for years. But every time there
11 was a report there was an equal amount of
12 push-back, if not more, and with every report
13 there was someone pointing out holes in his
14 credibility. ODNR spent last week telling
15 people how the Buckeye Lake residents are in
16 denial. Other politicians disparage the
17 residents by claiming they think they are dam
18 engineers. Both thoughts demonstrate they do
19 not understand the thinking and motivations of
20 people that live and work in this area.

21 The push-back comes from our practical
22 experience and fear that ODNR will ram another
23 harebrained idea down our throats, causing more
24 harm than good, as evidence to the additional

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1 flooding caused by the Sellers Point Spillway.

2 See the harm caused by the 1997 spillway at
3 Grand Lake St. Marys. Do a Google on that one.

4 See the mess they made with changes to
5 Leibs Island ramps and park. See the efforts to
6 raise the dam that other folks have talked
7 about.

8 If ODNR would work together with the
9 people out here, they wouldn't get so much
10 resistance. The Buckeye Lake Area Civic
11 Association has been trying to work with them
12 for over 10 years. It seems the current
13 administration is tired of the additional effort
14 required to work with people that understand the
15 Buckeye Lake area.

16 Why do you think they brought in the
17 Army Corps? You think it's because they didn't
18 understand the problems? You know what, an ODNR
19 spokeswoman just admitted they knew about the
20 problems. It seems ODNR needed to leverage the
21 Army Corps' credibility to roll over the
22 residents.

23 Why is ODNR -- ask yourself this, and I
24 would ask the commissioners to ask ODNR this

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1 question: Why has ODNR not maintained the dam?
2 The last significant investment in proactive
3 maintenance was done in 1992 and 1993, that's
4 more than 20 years ago, with the new spillway
5 and an upgrade to the old spillway.

6 Their decision to keep the water at an
7 unusable level will result in an economic
8 disaster, not only to the people that live and
9 work here, but also those who depend on those
10 jobs and those home sales and all of the
11 downstream economic activity that occurs.

12 Why have we reached this point in
13 crisis? Is it perhaps because ODNR needs a
14 crisis to get the money and roll over resistance
15 to bad solutions? The people of Buckeye Lake
16 should not have to pay for ODNR's mismanagement.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. BABBERT: So I have two simple
19 requests. Maintain the lake at a safe, usable
20 level that is not the winter pool, and work with
21 the people of Buckeye Lake to find the best
22 possible solution that can be implemented in a
23 very short period of time.

24 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: For you folks that
2 are standing, I see there's a few seats that
3 have become available towards the front if folks
4 would like to sit.

5 I'm sorry to have delayed you, sir,
6 please continue.

7 MR. GHIZ: William Ghiz, G-H-I-Z.

8 Fear a lot of times can get you change.
9 How much of this report is fear? How much of
10 this report is facts?

11 There's a gentleman from the Corps of
12 Engineers that was quoted in the Columbus
13 Dispatch as saying, in fact, Spoor (phonetic) --
14 who is Mike Spoor -- said there was concerns
15 that the dam might fail in the coming months
16 between when the Corps first was contacted last
17 summer and when the report was released today.
18 If they weren't concerned about public safety
19 then, how can they say they're concerned about
20 public safety now?

21 MR. BAUMANN: My name is Matt Baumann,
22 216 Lakeshore Drive West. I guess I'm kind of
23 an environmentalist, and I'm really concerned
24 about the lake staying down a foot or two foot.

1 I mean, a third of the volume of the water's
2 out. And because of this, the fish in the
3 lake -- which it's the second biggest population
4 of fish in the state of Ohio. Second only to
5 Lake Erie. -- will probably all die. I mean,
6 we'll have a major fish kill. With a third of
7 the volume of water missing, we are going to
8 have horrible algae blooms in August, which are
9 going to cause these fish kills, and I don't
10 believe the lake will recover from the algae
11 blooms.

12 We've been working really hard to clean
13 up the water coming in the lake. We have some
14 great people working in this area. I mean,
15 Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow's spent years working
16 on these problems. I know a lot of you know the
17 people that are in Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow,
18 and we want to clean the lake up. We've been
19 doing all this work for it for years now. And
20 now if they do this, I'm really afraid it's
21 going to kill the lake. It's not just going to
22 be the fish kill and the algae, Cranberry Bog's
23 going to go. And I don't think we'll recover.

24 I think that we can't count on the State

1 of Ohio. And if you live on North and West
2 Bank, you're going to have to do the same thing
3 I do in my yard. If you got sink holes, you
4 better get out there and start filling them.
5 Don't count on the State of Ohio. Get out
6 there, cut away the side, get paver gravel, tamp
7 it down, put another foot in, tamp it down, put
8 the dirt back on, the sod back on top.

9 You see your sidewalks caving in, dig up
10 around it, find out what's going on. You can
11 balloon them back up, pack it in. We got to
12 take some responsibility. We should fix some of
13 the things like that. And you'll be surprised
14 at some of those sink holes. They're going to
15 take wheelbarrows full of dirt. I have 180 feet
16 of frontage, and I know. I mean, we go out and
17 take care of it every year, and you got to do
18 it. We got to maintain our own yards.

19 And the State of Ohio needs to use some
20 common sense. If we got some bad spots on the
21 walls, let's put up some cover dams temporarily
22 so we can get the level up and save the lake,
23 because I'm afraid if we don't get the water up
24 a little higher, it's going to be gone. It's

1 not going to recover.

2 MS. THOMPSON: Hi. My name is Robyn
3 Thompson, T-H-O-M-P-S-O-N. I live at 3295
4 Lakeside, Millersport, Ohio, and I have been
5 through all the floods, '67, water spewing
6 through the lake frontage. I've been here when
7 the steel wall was put in, and in 1990 we had
8 the nine inches of rain in five hours, and I am
9 getting tired of being flooded on Lakeside.
10 State Route 360.

11 I played with ODNR for -- since 1980.
12 I've been to energy management, I've been
13 through all the Fairfield County commissioners.
14 Everybody's got to stick together. We got to
15 fight this. We really do. It's a problem. It
16 has been a problem for a long time.

17 For eight, nine months I watched the
18 Licking River, made all -- how it flooded, how
19 it came up. We were all going to have meetings.
20 I never heard a word. So everybody's got to
21 stick together, and we got to get tough, and it
22 does need fixed. And you guys got to quit
23 giving building permits out and letting people
24 put houses into this lakefront, if it's not

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 going to work. 2 (Applause.) 3 MS. THOMPSON: I don't have flood 4 insurance. Back in the '60s, we never flooded. 5 We had high water. We're down by the new 6 spillway on 360. I ain't sure it works either. 7 Come on, guys, let's do it. 8 MR. DEBRUIN: I'm Steve DeBruin, 9 D-E-B-R-U-I-N. I live at 3635 Blacklick-Eastern 10 Road in Millersport. So looking around the 11 room, I'm glad to see everybody here. I know a 12 lot of you. I own the veterinary clinic at 13 Feeder Creek in Millersport, and I have a couple 14 issues and one leads to the other. 15 Straight out, I think the US Army Corps 16 of Engineers made this decision last August, and 17 like Merv said, that lake was six inches above 18 normal. The higher the lake is the more 19 pressure it puts on the dam, the more chance for 20 seepage. 21 My concern is as a veterinarian if you 22 bring your dog to me and it was hit by a car, 23 I'm going to look at your dog right away, and 24 I'm going to say with my experience this dog</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 we don't make any money at our veterinary clinic 2 from people coming to the lake directly, but 3 there's a whole lot of people that work at the 4 gas station, work at the local eaterie places, 5 the Pizza Cottage, those kind of places, and 6 they all do come to our veterinary clinic. 7 I'm in a small business association 8 there around Buckeye Lake, and they're all 9 people like us. We are very small, private 10 businesses. If the lake is lowered even for one 11 summer, most of our small businesses cannot 12 survive for the second summer. 13 (Applause.) 14 MR. DEBRUIN: There are alternatives. I 15 come from a family of engineers, and, you know, 16 I'm the black sheep, being a veterinarian, but 17 there are alternatives where we can build, like, 18 lagoons around those parts of the dam that are 19 broke, if they need repaired and it's immediate 20 repair. We can let the rest of the lake stay at 21 level. 22 You know, we talk in the Buckeye Lake 23 for Tomorrow group that even a foot below level 24 would still make it acceptable to have a bar on</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 needs immediate surgery, or we'll x-ray his 2 broken leg, give him a few stitches, and he'll 3 be good. 4 What I hear now in this report that was 5 done in August is that these engineers are now 6 saying, we're in fear of imminent collapse and 7 imminent death of people. And if that was that 8 bad, I think as a responsible engineer, that day 9 I would have went over and released the water 10 out of the dam before any people died. 11 (Applause.) 12 MR. DEBRUIN: You know, as an engineer, 13 if you really thought that was a real probable 14 solution, that should have happened that day or 15 within the next day or two. You should have 16 called up the governor and said, Governor, we 17 have a problem. This lake needs to be drained 18 then. Instead, we let it lay there six inches 19 above water level for the rest of the fall. So 20 that's one thing I'm going to say. I take my 21 animals to surgery right away if they need it. 22 If they don't need it, we work on it. 23 The second thing is, is a lot of people 24 in this room come to our veterinary clinic, and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 the lake or to have a boat float in the lake. 2 So I think it's really imminent that we 3 make sure that this lake gets filled up. Like I 4 said -- I guess I didn't say. I'm actually 5 president of Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow 6 organization right now, and that lake does not 7 fill much after May. So the reality is we've 8 got to get something done in the next 45 days at 9 the very most and preferably -- April is when we 10 get our rain, guys. 11 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: If I could ask you, 12 sir, to conclude your marks. I apologize. 13 MR. DEBRUIN: Well, I think I'm pretty 14 good. I'm going to say one thing. Our governor 15 has worked really hard on job creation, and this 16 whole thing is like job destruction. 17 MR. PANIAN: Hello. My name is Bob 18 Panian, P-A-N-I-A-N. I live at 9481 Vista 19 Point, Thornville, and that's in Perry County. 20 And I, like one of my neighbors, I'll be 21 landlocked at winter pool or lower which I 22 certainly am not looking forward to. Most of 23 you have probably done a little research on dams 24 or Googled things as I've been doing. I'm sure</p>

1 you've heard of Lake White in Ohio which also is
2 experiencing some type of a leak -- leakage. So
3 things happen. It's a 400-acre lake, and the
4 State of Ohio is spending \$35 million to fix the
5 dam on Lake White.

6 So, you know, like you talked about, the
7 State knows they have a problem. The State
8 knows how to get money when there's a problem.
9 And we all have to lean hard on our legislators,
10 our representatives. They are our
11 representatives in government. That is their
12 job. They want to hear from you. They want to
13 hear our concerns. It is the political process
14 to, you know, let them know your businesses are
15 going to fail; that you -- you know, your
16 housing values are dropping.

17 Pressure. You know, any appropriate
18 means is the best way to say, hey, we understand
19 there's a problem. You know there's a problem,
20 but there ought to be a way we can live and work
21 through it together.

22 And the legislators I've been seeing
23 talking about this say their goal is to find a
24 way that we can do both, and that is, you know,

1 figure out the way that we're going to repair
2 the dam and also keep our lake operational. And
3 so whatever the level that needs to be to safely
4 operate watercraft and whatever we can do,
5 whether it's -- someone mentioned imposed wake
6 limits and, you know, speed limits, but let us
7 operate on our lake, let us, you know, have some
8 form of pool in the lake so that we can keep our
9 ecology, keep, you know, a safe -- meet
10 somewhere in the middle or maybe a little bit
11 higher. Thank you.

12 MS. BENNETT: Hi. My name is Gale
13 Bennett. I live at County Road 406 in
14 Thornville.

15 And I would like to, first of all, thank
16 all the elected officials for being here
17 tonight. I also would like to thank ODNR for
18 being here, and for those responsible for
19 setting this venue up, thank you.

20 I think that, you know, the purpose of
21 this tonight was to express our concerns, our
22 suggestions, and our passion, and make sure that
23 everybody hears that passion and those concerns
24 and the suggestions.

1 I may be the last speaker up here
2 tonight so what I want to make sure I feel like
3 is that at the end of the day, tonight made a
4 difference. That we came here, you heard us,
5 and it makes a difference. Show us that you've
6 listened to us. Show that you understand that
7 we're here to make sure our lake is safe, but
8 also prosperous for the whole community, and at
9 the end of the day let us know that you've heard
10 us, and you're willing to listen to us and make
11 a difference.

12 Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Folks, this is the
14 queue over here, and right now we do not have
15 anyone in the queue. So if you'd like to
16 address us, Carri will help you there.

17 And if we do get to a --

18 MS. TRUMP: Hi. My name is --

19 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Just give me a
20 minute if you would, please.

21 MS. TRUMP: Sure.

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: If we do get to a
23 point where we feel like we still have the
24 energy to continue on and there are additional

1 residents who would like to address us, I may
2 give the politicians an opportunity to make very
3 brief remarks, and I won't be as kind to them
4 when it comes time to say anything. I'm
5 kidding.

6 Please continue, ma'am.

7 MS. TRUMP: Hi. My name's Barbara
8 Trump, spelled like Donald without the S and not
9 all the money, but better hair.

10 I have a couple of concerns. When my
11 husband passed away, he thought he was leaving
12 me in a great place. I own three pieces of
13 property, and you're tanking them. I pay taxes
14 anyway. But my property level's going to go
15 down. This is how I continue to support myself.

16 I just got to say that what are you
17 going to do about the fireworks? Is that going
18 to work? Are we just going to have mud runs?
19 Because if you're talking about taking the lake
20 totally down, that's what we're coming to.
21 We're going to have a fish kill, and this is
22 what all people before me have mentioned so it's
23 not anything new, but I'm just thinking have we
24 thought this over?

1 Yes, for 20-some years I think we have,
2 since 1989, anyway. So I have a sign in my
3 front yard for the dog walkers: You can stand,
4 you can sit, but please don't shit. Let's get
5 off the pot and get this done.

6 MR. GROSECLOSE: I'm Mike Groseclose. I
7 own the Buckeye Lake KOA campground, and I came
8 here 12 years ago. I owned a campground in
9 Mississippi before that, and we moved to Buckeye
10 Lake so we could be closed part of the year and
11 have a little bit of relaxation in the middle of
12 our season.

13 I seem to have found myself on the wrong
14 side of the dam. When I hear that you should
15 get a suitcase ready and all your important
16 papers so that we can get out of town in 30
17 minutes, this is going to kill my business.
18 People have already heard that. They're already
19 calling wanting to cancel reservations. We're
20 just starting the season already. We don't open
21 until April 1st, but they're already calling,
22 making cancellation reservations. Sometimes we
23 can talk them out of it. Tell them this is
24 really not what's happening.

1 Can you imagine July 4th weekend and
2 we've got a full campground, none of these
3 people are driving cars that can drive out. If
4 you take that 6 or 700 people and divide it by
5 four, if we get four in a car and get out, this
6 is going to be crazy trying to get them out of
7 the campground, much less whichever way we go to
8 get away from the water. So this is my dilemma,
9 and somebody's got to do something quick.

10 MR. BALL: My name's Bob Ball, B-A-L-L,
11 and I'm here just to present a construction
12 option. I received -- address is 13670 King
13 Road.

14 I received a call today from a gentleman
15 who was working on the Zoar Levee dam, earthen
16 dam, near -- up 77 up near New Philadelphia, and
17 he said, why don't you guys do the Palmer
18 method? I go, what's a Palmer method? You
19 know, I'm not an engineer. He said, it's a
20 process where you blow -- put in concrete
21 chemicals into the dam, and it goes to the open
22 area and seals those openings. This is used in
23 the auto industry to close the leakage of the
24 oil wells.

1 Now, he worked with Aaron Smith who is
2 with the Huntington Corps of Engineers -- Army
3 Corps of Engineers, Huntington office. So I
4 have his -- these are about the Zoar. So I'm
5 giving this to you people to inquire about that
6 process.

7 Thank you very much.

8 MS. PYMER: My name is Sherry Pymer,
9 P-Y-M-E-R. My husband and I live in Gahanna,
10 but we have a place on 3464 South Bank in
11 Millersport. We currently have two to three
12 inches of water under our dock. So there is no
13 boat to put in the water right now.

14 We've had the place -- my husband is
15 third-generation owner of the property. His
16 grandfather bought it in 1963, and for the last
17 50 years there have been talks about the dam
18 leaking. According to the reports, it has not
19 changed much. Quite frankly, I'm a little bit
20 tired of hearing the whole rhetoric year after
21 year after year and trying to get something
22 done, if there is something wrong.

23 So I called the governor's office today,
24 and I spoke to a man who is over Director

1 Zehringer. And he -- I said, I think the
2 governor's office needs to know what is really
3 going on, and that I felt that the State and
4 ODNR had failed to maintain throughout the last
5 30 or 40 years. Every year they used to go out
6 when the water was low in the wintertime, and
7 they would patch the wall, and they would go
8 around, and they would maintain the wall. They
9 haven't done that in years.

10 And I believe that by them blaming the
11 problems with the wall on houses that were being
12 built there; A, why did they approve them? And
13 B, why did they not maintain the wall?

14 And I thought that the way that the
15 announcement came out, everything from the Army
16 Corps of Engineers to Director Zehringer at
17 ODNR, using words like, well, it was such a
18 disastrous thing. Everything from what if a
19 house -- what if a house has a gas leak and it
20 blows up and it blows a hole in the dam. Well,
21 you know, I told him today, I said, well, what
22 if somebody goes into the statehouse and blows
23 it up, and there are a thousand people there,
24 you know. You know, a lot of things could

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1 happen. Would've, could've, should've.

2 But I felt that the governor's office
3 should know what is really going on and that the
4 way that it was announced catastrophically has
5 hurt business, it has hurt property values, and
6 something needs to be done now.

7 And he said, well, I have to call Dr. --
8 or Dr. -- Director Zehringer this afternoon on
9 another matter, and we will discuss Buckeye
10 Lake. And I just happened to be having an event
11 with Governor Kasich tonight, and he said, we
12 will discuss Buckeye Lake tonight. So he will
13 be discussing with both people, and that's all I
14 have to say. They know the situation. They
15 know it's dire, and they know it's been
16 overblown.

17 MR. RITTER: Good evening and thank you
18 for everything. I'm Jeff Ritter, R-I-T-T-E-R.
19 I live at 15302 Shoreline Drive in Thornville.
20 I married a Thornville girl 34 years ago. We
21 moved from the area in 1981, but prior to that
22 my Grandfather Ritter took me to Sellers Point
23 when I was 10 years old to fish. Little did my
24 Grandpa Ritter know that I would end up being a

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1 property owner in Buckeye Lake -- or on Buckeye
2 Lake.

3 We have wonderful family on the lake.
4 We have wonderful friends on the lake. We've
5 come back to Ohio. We were gone for 27 years.
6 We came back to Ohio when my wife's mother was
7 diagnosed with Parkinson's and dementia eight
8 years ago. But I said I want to go someplace
9 fun, Honey. Let's look at Buckeye Lake. It's
10 close to Thornville where your mom is. Let's
11 get back close, let's get back, and we can have
12 a fun time. And if we ever became
13 grandparents -- which I'm about to be this
14 Friday morning for the first time -- we'll have
15 a fun place that the grandkids will want to come
16 and visit us. So that's the legacy of Buckeye
17 Lake.

18 You know, it goes back hundreds of
19 years. Obviously, you've read the stories,
20 you've read the reports. And I just want to
21 have a personal testimonial as to why I'm here,
22 because of my Grandpa Ritter taking me fishing,
23 and because of family being here, and we moved
24 back for family. And now we're on the lake, and

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1 we love it, and this is my cousin Sherry, who
2 just spoke a minute ago. And we used to go to
3 the Pymer Cottage, because my grandmother was a
4 Pymer before she married my grandpa. Seriously,
5 true story. You can't make this stuff up.

6 So you come back, and you go, this is
7 life on Buckeye Lake. And it's a community. We
8 are a community. Life on the lake, there's
9 nothing like it. Nothing like life on the lake.

10 We have wonderful friends. We bought a
11 brand new pontoon boat last summer. Good
12 timing, right? I went and I checked the record
13 today. I paid \$2500 in sales tax to the State
14 of Ohio for that boat. I would like that \$2500
15 directed exactly to this dam, please.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. RITTER: This is not a Jeff Ritter
18 original, but one of my neighbors, in talking to
19 her on Saturday, said, you know, Jeff, it seems
20 to me they build seawalls on the ocean, but they
21 don't drain the ocean to do it.

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Is there anyone
23 else who would like to address the commission?

24 MS. BRADFORD: Jean Bradford,

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1 B-R-A-D-F-O-R-D.

2 First of all, I want to say that I think
3 the Corps of Engineers did say in an article
4 last week or the week before there were
5 different ways to approach the problem.

6 So what upsets people mostly right now
7 is the fact that the big bad way is the way that
8 we're getting the message from ODNR. Now maybe
9 they sincerely think that all that's going to
10 happen, but where we live -- and we have an old
11 house -- we have no seepage. My neighbors have
12 no seepage.

13 Howard and I used to walk to the old
14 amusement park and back, which is quite a
15 distance -- can't do it anymore -- and we never
16 saw any seepage. So a lot of these people don't
17 really think it's that bad of a problem if we
18 would just fix the areas that need fixing. And
19 I don't -- gee, I hope I don't live to eat these
20 words, but I don't think it would hurt to put
21 the water back in the lake, you know, within
22 reason. Then in the fall start where they think
23 is the most -- is the area that needs the most
24 attention and do something about that.

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1 Nobody -- nobody wants anything bad to happen.

2 But just to have you told all of a
3 sudden that, you know, it's going to become a
4 mud hole, and you're going to -- well, let me
5 tell you if I was going to buy a property up
6 there now and heard this kind of information, I
7 wouldn't give you \$5 for the place. I mean,
8 what are you going to do there? The only thing
9 you have to do there is the lake, you know, and
10 congregate with people around you. They're not
11 going to want to be there if it's all stinky and
12 muddy.

13 Well, I hope I didn't leave something
14 important out. I hope you get the idea that we
15 just --

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. BRADFORD: Thank you.

18 Oh, can I say one more thing? I think
19 we've got the best governor in the United
20 States, and I'm sure that he will make sure that
21 this gets investigated.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. NELSON: Hi. My name's Lee Nelson,
24 N-E-L-S-O-N. I live at 13807 Rosewood Road in

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1 Thornville. I'm not a structural engineer, but
2 I am an engineer, and I'm a project engineer.

3 Reading the report in detail and
4 understanding scope of what's here without
5 arguing about it, it seems as though there are
6 short-term measures that can be taken that might
7 allow us to safely raise the level of water in
8 the lake. For me, that's a high priority. For
9 everybody else here, it's a high priority.
10 Beyond that, there are long-term repair stuff
11 that needs to be addressed.

12 My question would be realizing the time
13 is of the essence here for this lake, we can't
14 wait around on this decision. We need like a
15 checklist that tells us how many of the interim
16 risk reduction measures need to be implemented
17 and how many of the operation and maintenance
18 items need to be implemented before the lake
19 level can be brought back up. We're obviously
20 not going to be able to leave the lake dry until
21 we implement the long-term solutions. So just
22 want to emphasize from an engineer's point of
23 view, time is of the essence here.

24 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Are there any other

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1 residents or business owners who would like to
2 address the commission?

3 MS. WESTLAKE: JoAnn Westlake,
4 W-E-S-T-L-A-K-E, 3652 South Bank Road. I wasn't
5 going to come up here, but, you know, I want to
6 save our lake. I remember as a child going to
7 Buckeye Lake, going on the rides and swimming in
8 the pond, the pool. And my parents used to get
9 a cabin out there on the north side.

10 And I am very upset, because 12 years
11 ago we bought an old home, and we tore it down
12 and built a new home out there. And I'm like
13 everybody else, I have grandchildren that --
14 it's kind of like in between, you know. Some of
15 them live in Bremen, some of them live in
16 Columbus. So we can all get together. It's a
17 place we can get together and have a good time.
18 They can fish. They can boat. And if this
19 continues and goes on for five years, my
20 grandkids are going to be grown up, they're not
21 going to want to come back to grandparents'
22 house.

23 Please save our lake. Not only is it
24 going to affect the businesses, but it's also

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1 going to affect the environment, the fish, the
2 ducks, the geese. I mean, if you fill the lake
3 in with dirt, are you going to plant marijuana
4 there? I want to know what's going to be filled
5 in. I'm very upset. I mean, someone -- someone
6 has a plan for the land. I mean -- I'm sorry.

7 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Order, please.

8 MS. WESTLAKE: I'm sorry.

9 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: You're fine, ma'am.
10 Please continue.

11 MS. WESTLAKE: I do want to save our
12 lake, please.

13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you.

14 MS. COOKSTON: Okay. I was one of the
15 first to speak, and I'm thinking I'm probably
16 one of the last to speak. Karen Cookston,
17 113 Anchors Way.

18 I referenced that I was a chairperson at
19 planning and zoning commission out at Buckeye
20 Lake. I've been in that position for 11 years.
21 When I started, I asked the question does the
22 planning and zoning commission need to treat the
23 north dam any different than any other
24 construction at Buckeye Lake? I was told no.

1 So when we do zoning, building, anything
2 on the dam, I treat it, the commission treats it
3 exactly as we do any other property, because the
4 State told us we didn't have to treat it any
5 differently.

6 As I reflect on that and listen to all
7 of you speak, I think this is a time that we
8 have all different government people here
9 tonight, and we have the governor, and we've got
10 a lot of different ears, and I still don't hear
11 anybody talking in concert. When you're telling
12 planning and zoning commission we can do
13 anything we want on the dam, that's scary now
14 that I hear what we've done.

15 I think it's time we listen to our
16 governor and all of our different government
17 officials and ask you guys to work together, not
18 in a political calling that I've been involved
19 in a lot of years. It will take 15 years, five
20 years for you guys to shake each others' hand
21 and say, I like you, and step across the aisle.

22 It's time now for you all to get
23 together in the next couple weeks and come up
24 with a solution. We're all willing to be part

1 of the solution. And I think unanimously in
2 this room I think everybody is willing to be
3 part of the solution, but we need you to work
4 very quickly together to help us do that. I
5 know I'm raising my hand, as I'm going to ask
6 everybody in the room -- as an officer in
7 Buckeye Lake Village, I will be the first one to
8 help you do whatever you need. How does
9 everybody else feel? There's your commitment,
10 politicians. Help us quickly. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you.

12 Is there anyone else who would like to
13 address the commission? We're not going to
14 close the opportunity to do that, but I did want
15 to thank my colleagues from Licking County and
16 Perry County who are with us this evening, and I
17 see we have some state representatives here.

18 Are there any leaders from either the
19 county -- I'm going to go up the ladder here a
20 little bit. But are there any leaders at the
21 county level who would like to address the
22 residents tonight?

23 President Bubb would like to address the
24 community.

1 MR. BUBB: Tim B-U-B-B, Licking County
2 Commissioners. Honestly, you really have all
3 said it all in different ways. I think you feel
4 a little deceived, because you heard too many
5 mixed messages. I didn't just fall off the
6 turnip truck in Licking County. I've been
7 listening to this for a long time as well.
8 We've been up and down and around the lake and
9 listened to a lot of these different proposals.

10 Believe me, I think we stand united with
11 our fellow commissioners from Perry County that
12 I see there, and here in Fairfield County.
13 We're as frustrated as you are, because we
14 really feel -- we understand the economic impact
15 and how painful it has to feel when you feel
16 like you've had the rug pulled out from under
17 you.

18 I hope -- and I sincerely hope that
19 there is at least a short-term solution on the
20 immediate horizon. I understand there is going
21 to be an answer for you at least in terms of the
22 immediate use of the lake this Thursday morning.

23 So my inclination is the decision's been
24 made regarding at least the use in 2015. I

1 think that, you know, it was kind of you folks
2 from ODNR to be here today and to accept
3 Fairfield County's invitation to be here.

4 I think if we had to leave those folks
5 with ODNR -- who I think have to leave
6 shortly -- with a message, I would ask you all
7 just to consider this statement. That as a --
8 you talked about consensus a little bit a moment
9 ago. Would you be satisfied in 2015 in going
10 forward, working with the State to come up with
11 a use of Buckeye Lake that may involve a lesser
12 amount of water but protects the ecology, which
13 is precious, from the bog to the fish hatchery
14 to all things that we don't even think about out
15 there, but probably a lesser-than-full-pool
16 amount of water, but an amount of water that
17 allows the lake to be used as a recreational
18 resource, and at the same time hopefully
19 protects the property values and the business
20 interests, and that's temporary use.

21 I think -- if I had to speculate, I
22 think that on Thursday morning they're going to
23 tell you -- get ready to feel good about this.
24 They're getting ready -- I think you're going to

1 hear we're not going to drain the lake.
2 Now, is that a surprise? No. No. This
3 is what you call -- you got the nuclear bomb
4 dropped on you last week, and now when you take
5 the nuclear bomb off the table, then you talk
6 about the real solution.

7 So I would suggest that if you had to
8 carry back to Columbus a thought, the thought is
9 that these folks who have a huge investment in
10 the lake and the people of the counties that do,
11 we need enough water in the lake to protect its
12 interests so we don't kill the lake. And at the
13 same time I think most people in the room would
14 acknowledge if it's a slightly lesser amount of
15 water to take the pressure off that in the
16 interim, if there really is a threat, that may
17 be a compromise we all could live with.

18 But I don't think anyone wants a small
19 cesspool of a lake with dead fish in it that
20 dies this summer. And I would ask you if you
21 could support that kind of a thought going
22 forward -- I'm reflecting on what I've heard you
23 say today -- I'd ask you simply to raise your
24 hand.

1 I think it's unanimous that's what we're
2 asking you to carry back to the director and the
3 folks at ODNR. These folks are your
4 constituents. They believe in you. They pay
5 taxes just like the commissioners do, and we'd
6 like to see a solution that we could all live
7 with that we would be comfortable with on all
8 ends of the lake and all the counties.

9 We want a safe lake, because remember,
10 from a Licking County standpoint, we have a lot
11 at stake, too, because if they really mean the
12 dam could fail, we get it. I mean, Fairfield
13 and Perry will be disappointed to lose the lake,
14 but we get it and that's the difference.

15 And I mean -- and honestly, even though
16 it seems so unlikely, that's a Katrina kind of
17 disaster if you dump the whole lake through a
18 hole there on the Village of Buckeye Lake right
19 up into Hebron and that whole area.

20 We don't like that outcome either as
21 unlikely as that may seem, but at the same time,
22 you have to respect that possibility. So I
23 think what we're asking for is a little bit of
24 compromise and reasonableness this summer.

1 And, Steve, I think we all stand
2 together in support of that, and that's the
3 message we've all been carrying as commissioners
4 to the state officials this week. I know that
5 there's been some serious meetings today and
6 there will be tomorrow, and I can tell you at
7 least you're all waiting to hear an answer, and
8 I think there is going to be an answer at least
9 Thursday morning as to what the use is going to
10 be or what's predicted for the use this year.

11 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Mr. President, as
12 one kind president to another --

13 MR. BUBB: These are my constituents,
14 Steve.

15 Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

16 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you,
17 Mr. President.

18 Are there any other county commissioners
19 or state-elected officials who would like to
20 address the community?

21 Commissioner, please.

22 MR. O'BRIEN: Jim O'Brien, Perry County
23 Commissioner. Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

24 I want to thank Fairfield County for

1 putting on this great event. It's great to hear
2 everybody's voices. We get plenty of calls.
3 All the commissioners' offices get plenty of
4 calls, and that's what we need. We need all
5 those calls, concerns. This is a great venue to
6 put out your frustrations, but also give good
7 solid leads on what direction we're going to go.

8 I had a few people from Perry County --
9 and just like Mr. Bubb touched base on, it
10 affects all three counties in different ways,
11 but I just wanted to let the people know from
12 Perry County and all the counties that all three
13 commissioners from Perry County, Fairfield
14 County, Licking County reach out together, and
15 we're working as a unit to make sure we get this
16 right. So thanks for letting me speak.

17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Give our state
18 leaders an opportunity to address us if they
19 would like. I'm not going to call them by name,
20 because I'm not trying to embarrass anybody. I
21 just don't want somebody to leave here saying,
22 boy, I wish I'd have got an opportunity to
23 address the crowd.

24 Thank you for coming tonight, sir.

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 MR. HAYES: Sure. You're welcome. 2 My name's Bill Hayes. I am 3 representative for the 72nd district, which a 4 lot of you are not in. I represent Licking 5 County -- the southern part of Licking County 6 and all of Perry County and Coshocton County as 7 well. I don't think there's too many 8 Coshoctonians here tonight, but I appreciate the 9 rest of you coming. This is a very effective 10 meeting. I'm sure the governor will hear about 11 this. 12 And I really appreciate ODNR being here. 13 It's no fun to come and hear some of the stuff 14 you've said, to sit here and listen to it. I 15 know a lot of you have not spoken tonight, but 16 you still can speak, and I really wish you 17 would, and here's how you can do it. It's not 18 really hard to remember, but if you'll remember 19 R-E-P 72, rep72, that's my email address in 20 Columbus. It's rep72@ohiohouse.gov. If you 21 would send an email -- now, don't do the thing 22 they do on Facebook. Okay? Here's what they do 23 on Facebook: Everybody, send this email. Do 24 not do that. Do not -- because once you've seen</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 Tim. 2 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you, sir. 3 MR. SCHAFFER: Good evening, everybody. 4 State Representative Tim Schaffer, 5 S-C-H-A-F-F-E-R, Lancaster, 1173 Stone Run 6 Court, Lancaster, Ohio. 7 I want to say -- and Bill -- 8 Representative Hayes, great job. Thank you for 9 your work, and I want to recognize Senator Troy 10 Balderson over here, too. What a fantastic job 11 these guys are doing for their districts, our 12 districts, and the General Assembly, and the 13 House, and the Senate. 14 And I want to thank all of you for 15 coming out and spending your evening here. You 16 probably had other things to do you've canceled, 17 you postponed. We needed to hear this. We 18 needed to hear the stories. 19 I know Bill and I both got pages full of 20 notes from what we heard here tonight, and I 21 thank you so very, very much. We got to stay 22 strong. All of us got to stay strong to make 23 sure we protect the Buckeye Lake region, and the 24 entire economy, and at the Statehouse I talk in</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 one, they're all the same, and it has no impact. 2 Even those of you who have testified 3 tonight, if you'd put your story in an email and 4 send set to me, I will personally deliver it to 5 the governor and to Director Zehringer. They 6 need to see and hear your stories. I really 7 wish you'd do that. 8 I'm going to give you a phone number -- 9 cell phone number: 614-419-5346. Call that 10 24/7. That's Tim Schaffer's phone number. 11 (Applause.) 12 MR. HAYES: That's really mine. I just 13 couldn't pass up on that one. 14 But I really appreciate you being here 15 tonight, and I know I've used my time. That 16 number again was 614-419-5346, 5346. And if you 17 would do the emails to Tim, it's just like mine 18 only it's 77 instead of 72. He gave me 19 permission to say that. 20 I spoke with one of the governor's aides 21 on my way down here tonight, and I will stop 22 because I think Mr. Schaffer has even some 23 better news to tell you. He's had another 24 discussion.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 terms of it being the entire economy, because it 2 is an economy. It's a community, it's an 3 economy, and it's a key part, as you heard, in 4 all three of our counties. 5 I just got out of a meeting this 6 afternoon with Governor Kasich, and I can assure 7 you he is personally involved in this issue. He 8 is heavily involved in this issue. We spent two 9 hours talking, and the first hour we're supposed 10 to be talking on a different topic. The first 11 hour we spent on Buckeye Lake. It was that 12 important to him. 13 And I am very, very confident -- in 14 fact, I can tell you he is going to make the 15 right decision, and I'm very confident to echo 16 Commissioner Bubb's comments that I think 17 they're going to do the right thing, and I think 18 ODNR's going to make sure that we're not 19 draining the lake. But you will hear more about 20 that on Thursday as Commissioner Bubb indicated. 21 So, again, thank you so much for coming 22 out. I will be sticking around, as long as you 23 all want to stick around, answering questions, 24 fielding questions. I would also ask, just like</p>

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1 Bill said, make sure you send any comments, any
 2 stories you've had, anything you want us to have
 3 to help with this situation. My email -- I
 4 think he said it. I was talking to somebody,
 5 but it's rep77@ohiohouse.gov or 466-8100.
 6 That's been the House number for many
 7 generations. 614-466-8100.
 8 Thank you so much, God bless you, and go
 9 Buckeye Lake.
 10 MR. BALDERSON: Good evening, everybody.
 11 And it is an honor and pleasure to be here,
 12 seriously. I'm State Senator Troy Balderson,
 13 and I represent the 20th Senate District, which
 14 includes Muskingum County, Guernsey County,
 15 Morgan County, Fairfield County, Hocking County,
 16 Pickaway County, and parts of Athens County. So
 17 thank you very much. Third largest geographic
 18 district in the state of Ohio.
 19 I, like a lot of you here, have not --
 20 well, I've not spent a lot of time at Buckeye
 21 Lake. My family -- as some of my friends in
 22 here -- Dave Kessler, Scott Durant, Lisa -- know
 23 that my family farmed. So we had a farm. That
 24 was our -- that was my dad's Buckeye Lake and

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1 Zanesville Country Club. So that's what we did.
 2 And I can understand the passion. I can
 3 understand the hard work you put into it, and
 4 you want to keep this going, and we are working
 5 hard.
 6 I've learned some information this
 7 evening that I was not aware of going on with
 8 this Thursday announcement going on at 11:00 I
 9 guess. So we're working with ODNR. I have
 10 talked with Dave Kessler in the back of the
 11 room. I mean, the list goes on and on. We had
 12 over a thousand emails. We can't emphasize
 13 enough of that.
 14 I don't know if anybody knows Mark
 15 Watson. Mark's my neighbor. I grew up with
 16 Mark. So Mark sends me pictures. I have the
 17 latest pictures, and they're actually in my
 18 folder with tabs that have everything.
 19 I was out on the lake last year and
 20 toured the dam with some gentlemen that were
 21 nice enough to do that. He has since passed,
 22 the judge, but my email address is
 23 Balderson@ohiosenate.gov. Phone number is
 24 740-819-2580. That's Governor Kasich's cell

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1 number, too. I'll trump Bill Hayes.
 2 So straight down the middle. And, you
 3 know, we are trying very hard, we really are,
 4 and we know that you are, too. I can say
 5 90 percent of the people, the constituents from
 6 Fairfield County, have called and said, look,
 7 just compromise with us, work with us here.
 8 We'll work with the State, we'll work with DNR,
 9 we'll work with the governor and the
 10 administration, and I think that's important
 11 that you continue that effort. We have to do
 12 this together. So thank you very much.
 13 MR. WHITE: Hello. Good evening,
 14 everyone. I will keep my comments brief,
 15 because I think I might be one of the last
 16 speakers here today. So I'll introduce myself.
 17 My name is Steven White. I work for US Senator
 18 Rob Portman who wishes he could be here tonight.
 19 Actually, he's in Washington, D. C. doing the
 20 good work of the people, and so he asked me to
 21 be here in his stead tonight. I work as his
 22 central Ohio director, which includes Fairfield
 23 County.
 24 Now, some of you know Senator Portman,

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1 he was just here at Buckeye Lake fairly recent.
 2 We've been doing a lot of work with Merv and the
 3 county commissioners and Dave and others on the
 4 algae bloom situation, and Senator Portman
 5 has -- we've been working on a number of issues
 6 dealing with Buckeye Lake, but particularly on
 7 the algae bloom, and he was here just last
 8 summer out boating with Merv and a few other
 9 folks with Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow. So we're
 10 continuing to work with Merv and others on that
 11 issue and Buckeye Lake, but this obviously is an
 12 extremely important issue.
 13 Now, as was said tonight, this is a
 14 state dam, and we recognize that, but at the
 15 same time we want to know that if there is a
 16 federal role to play here, we stand ready to be
 17 helpful, and Senator Portman stands ready to be
 18 helpful.
 19 He was just in Licking County just this
 20 past weekend sharing that with the folks in
 21 Licking County as well. So I'll be here for the
 22 remainder of this evening. I'll be in the back
 23 here. So if anyone wants to come up and ask me
 24 questions or wants to share any information to

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1 Senator Portman, I'll be happy to field those.
 2 I do know that representatives from Congressman
 3 Tiberi and Congressman Stivers' office is here
 4 as well. And I know they'd be more than happy
 5 to talk to folks as well.

6 So thank you, Commissioners, for putting
 7 together this event today. Thank you, ODNr, for
 8 being here as well, and most importantly, thanks
 9 to each and every one of you. I think the
 10 comments here that were shared this evening are
 11 extremely important. I'm glad they were voiced.
 12 So thank you so much for having me.

13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

14 I want to just be clear I'm not in any
 15 hurry. If there's still any resident or
 16 business owner who would like to address the
 17 commission, I'd like to give you another
 18 opportunity to do that.

19 I'd like to give my colleagues --
 20 Commissioner Kiger, would you like to make any
 21 remarks, sir?

22 MR. KIGER: I'd just like to say that
 23 I've been listening. I listened last Thursday.
 24 I listened tonight, and a couple new ideas come

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1 up. I've got a couple phone calls today with
 2 some interesting ideas also. So I think, you
 3 know, that's what this meeting is for, to hear
 4 what you folks want to have done, and I
 5 understand your pleas, and we'll do what we can.

6 MR. LEVACY: I would like to thank
 7 everyone for being here and being so respectful.
 8 I think that's a very important message we can
 9 send to the governor as well as ODNr, and we
 10 want a solution for this. And our willingness
 11 to work together with each and every one of you
 12 and finding a solution that will work.

13 You know, more importantly, we need to
 14 be concerned about lives but also livelihoods
 15 and the ecology. So all those factors are very
 16 important, and we recognize that, but, again, I
 17 want to thank everybody for being here.

18 MR. LITTON: My name's Bill Litton, 517
 19 Lakeshore Drive West. I've heard all these
 20 people talk, and there's a few things that no
 21 one [sic] has failed to mention. I've been on
 22 Buckeye Lake since 1982, and I've seen a lot of
 23 changes. I've seen people build walls. When I
 24 first came, I had a stonewall -- like the man

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1 said, every year I'd have to keep putting dirt
 2 behind it, rocks and stuff. So then I made an
 3 investment by having a steel wall put in, and
 4 I've not had any trouble.

5 When I first come out here, I used to be
 6 able to walk from my dock over pretty near to
 7 the Blue Goose before I would ever hit water.
 8 Now, since they've dug out and made areas for
 9 Heron Bay and other places, the water has not
 10 been let out.

11 So then what happens? So then the
 12 residents have to put bubbling systems in
 13 because the water's not going out. So when you
 14 put bubbler systems in, that means the ducks,
 15 the geese -- I never saw the geese until about
 16 eight years ago. They just weren't here. But
 17 now that all the water moves all the time they
 18 got a place to feed, they got a place to stay
 19 all winter long.

20 But if I can put a wall up, a steel
 21 wall, within one day, there's no reason that
 22 this matter continues going on and threatening
 23 us residents. Who in here ever thought there
 24 would be million-dollar homes on Buckeye Lake?

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1 No one. Lady said she's been out here since
 2 '60s something.

3 When I come out here, the only possible
 4 close was Wolf Island, you know. Then Dave
 5 Thomas bought, you know, the island, but then
 6 Kakonis (phonetic) builds a million-dollar home.
 7 There's million-dollar homes in Heron Bay. So
 8 there is a lot of investment here.

9 I mean, I just retired -- not retired,
 10 but I sold my house in Columbus. I moved out
 11 here four years ago. I love this place. This
 12 is better than Florida as far as I'm concerned.
 13 You know, I walk 80 feet out to my dock, I got a
 14 boat, I got wave runners. It's an enjoyable
 15 lake. It's been this way for 30-some years.

16 So why all of a sudden are you putting
 17 pressure on the homeowners? There's no reason.
 18 If the water was let out like it was before,
 19 those walls could be fixed. Doesn't take a
 20 whole lot. I'm not an engineer, but it just
 21 seems like there's lot of solutions, but no
 22 one's applying to them.

23 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.
 24 Is there anyone else who would like to

http://www.priohio.com

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1 address the commission?
 2 MR. SHERMAN: My name is Gene Sherman.
 3 I live in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. And I've visited
 4 the lake since I was in high school. I grew up
 5 in Pataskala. And that lake will kill you, I
 6 was told that when the sewage went in there and
 7 I was swimming in Fairfield Beach, and some
 8 remnants went floating by me. So there's been
 9 danger in Buckeye Lake.
 10 Buckeye Lake is not a pristine lake. It
 11 is not like Canadian water, and you don't go out
 12 and drink out of the lake. It's a mud hole,
 13 it's always been a mud hole, and it's our mud
 14 hole, and we love it. It's six feet -- you got
 15 three foot of water in most of that lake. That
 16 six feet's hard to find unless you go to
 17 Cranberry Marsh, but it is what it is.
 18 We've abused that lake. Who builds on
 19 dams? Buckeye Lake and Indian Lake are the only
 20 lakes in the state that should build directly
 21 right on the shoreline. But that's what makes
 22 it unique and why people love it, and they're
 23 neighborly, and there's relationships in this
 24 area.

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1 A couple of issues are the only relevant
 2 issues. First of all, we heard everybody's
 3 heart being poured out about this lake, which,
 4 you know, sometimes your brain doesn't work when
 5 you love it so much.
 6 And then the facts that come out, the
 7 only facts that come out that are really
 8 relevant, a couple guys -- and no one else
 9 addressed those -- is the guys questioning the
 10 breaches.
 11 Now, we've got engineers, two different
 12 groups, and the State -- you know our
 13 government, how it works. They've hired a
 14 couple different engineering groups, and they've
 15 given us engineering reports that we like to
 16 have because it supports what we want.
 17 Then all of a sudden we got the Corps of
 18 Engineers, they're the number one engineering
 19 group in the world. Well, they did a good job
 20 down in New Orleans, I'll tell you that. But
 21 somebody is referred to as an expert. Well,
 22 it's like coaches. Whoever has the pen in their
 23 hand last wins, when you're drawing offense or
 24 defense. So whichever guy gets it, he's the one

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1 that's going to win.
 2 I don't know the accuracy of the
 3 reports. We've listened to all this stuff, and
 4 the politicians, they've given us some positive
 5 remarks, but we need action. And the whole deal
 6 on this thing is this: Those two guys that
 7 talked about the evidence -- I've seen the
 8 drawings that come out in the newspaper of the
 9 doggone -- what's going to be flooded. What's
 10 the one thing that we don't know anything
 11 about -- and it would help me to accept all of
 12 this report -- where is that seepage at? I want
 13 to see where in this dam is that seepage coming
 14 from?
 15 I know it's abused. You shouldn't be
 16 building on there, but what's done is done. And
 17 you can find fault with a variety of things.
 18 There's enough blame to be passing around.
 19 Whether it has to be limited horse-power, what,
 20 I don't think it has to be anything done to make
 21 good sense. But you know what we're waiting on?
 22 A report back from a committee. Who gets a
 23 blame on a committee? That's a group of people.
 24 You got to be a stand-up guy and saying, fill

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1 her up. Somebody has to say fill this lake up
 2 and knock the nonsense off because there's all
 3 kinds of issues just like --
 4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Sir, I apologize
 5 for interrupting you, but if I could ask you to
 6 conclude your remarks.
 7 MR. SHERMAN: All right. I'll be glad
 8 to do that. I don't mean to go too far on this,
 9 but I would like to see in the newspaper where
 10 this exact breakdown is on the lake. I'd like
 11 to take a look at it myself. That would help me
 12 to accept it, because everybody's like body
 13 parts, opinions -- everybody's got opinions.
 14 And so that's all I have to say. You
 15 know, it's an emotional issue and -- but
 16 somewhere common sense has got to prevail.
 17 Otherwise, Dave Levacy and the boat boys, the
 18 prop business, they're probably hiring --
 19 ordering props right now.
 20 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.
 21 Is there anyone else who would like to
 22 address the commission?
 23 On behalf of the Fairfield County
 24 Commissioners, we want to thank you all for

1 coming tonight. Thank you for your courtesy.
 2 I want to thank the representatives from
 3 the Ohio Department of Natural Resources who are
 4 with us this evening. Thank you.
 5 Also want to thank our friends in the
 6 state legislature and at the federal level, and
 7 we will keep this issue on the Fairfield County
 8 Commissioners' agenda every Tuesday until this
 9 issue is resolved.
 10 I'm looking for a motion.
 11 MR. LEVACY: So move.
 12 MR. KIGER: Second.
 13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: I got a motion to
 14 adjourn and a second. All those in favor,
 15 signify by saying aye.
 16 (All say aye.)
 17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Opposed, same sign?
 18 Motion carries. This meeting is
 19 adjourned.
 20 --O--
 21 Thereupon, the proceedings of March
 22 17, 2015, were concluded at 8:53 p.m.
 23 --O--
 24

1 CERTIFICATE
 2 I, Julia Lamb, RPR, CRR, a Notary
 3 Public in and for the State of Ohio, do hereby
 4 certify that I reported the foregoing
 5 proceedings and that the foregoing transcript of
 6 such proceedings is a full, true and correct
 7 transcript of my stenotypy notes as so taken.
 8 I do further certify that I was called
 9 there in the capacity of a court reporter, and
 10 am not otherwise interested in this proceeding.
 11 In witness whereof, I have hereunto
 12 set my hand and affixed my seal of office at
 13 Columbus, Ohio, on this 20th day of March, 2015.
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20 *Julia Lamb*
 21 Julia Lamb, RPR, CRR
 22 Notary Public, State of Ohio.
 23 My commission expires: 10-10-17
 24

<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">\$</p> <hr/> <p>\$10,000 22:22</p> <p>\$2500 60:13,14</p> <p>\$35 50:4</p> <p>\$5 62:7</p> <p>\$75,000 12:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <hr/> <p>=0=- 2:1,3</p> <p>=O=- 90:20,23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <hr/> <p>10 19:21 22:5 30:2 40:12 58:23</p> <p>10,000 22:23</p> <p>10th 3:4</p> <p>11 29:11 65:20</p> <p>113 11:7 65:17</p> <p>1173 76:5</p> <p>11:00 79:8</p> <p>11th 3:8</p> <p>12 54:8 64:10</p> <p>120 34:11</p> <p>12552 39:2</p> <p>12th 3:10</p> <p>13670 55:12</p> <p>13807 62:24</p> <p>13th 39:6</p> <p>15 66:19</p> <p>15302 58:19</p> <p>16 10:1</p> <p>17 90:22</p> <p>18 14:11</p> <p>180 44:15</p> <p>1895 34:8</p> <p>1963 19:9 56:16</p> <p>1980 45:11</p>	<p>1981 58:21</p> <p>1982 83:22</p> <p>1989 54:2</p> <p>1990 45:7</p> <p>1992 33:8 41:3</p> <p>1993 41:3</p> <p>1997 26:8 35:7 40:2</p> <p>1st 32:18 54:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> <p>2,960,000 30:3</p> <p>20 14:14 29:18,20 33:24 41:4</p> <p>20-foot 29:18</p> <p>20-some 54:1</p> <p>2002 26:14</p> <p>2004 33:23</p> <p>2015 68:24 69:9 90:22</p> <p>20th 78:13</p> <p>216 42:22</p> <p>22 18:6</p> <p>24 14:11</p> <p>24/7 75:10</p> <p>25 15:12</p> <p>26 20:21</p> <p>27 59:5</p> <p>2821 30:18</p> <p>296,000 30:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <hr/> <p>3,000 24:17</p> <p>3,700 29:6</p> <p>30 22:1,15 54:16 57:5</p> <p>30-some 85:15</p> <p>32 17:24</p> <p>3295 45:3</p> <p>33 21:15</p> <p>34 58:20</p>	<p>3464 56:10</p> <p>35 29:13</p> <p>360 45:10 46:6</p> <p>3635 17:11 46:9</p> <p>3652 64:4</p> <p>37 30:8</p> <p>370 25:9</p> <p>3700 30:1</p> <p>3702 20:19</p> <p>3727 28:12</p> <p>3811 35:4</p> <p>3983 21:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <hr/> <p>4.1 37:23</p> <p>40 57:5</p> <p>400-acre 50:3</p> <p>406 51:13</p> <p>4471 8:15</p> <p>45 49:8</p> <p>466-8100 78:5</p> <p>470 20:10</p> <p>4th 55:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <hr/> <p>5.4 4:12</p> <p>50 56:17</p> <p>517 83:18</p> <p>5346 75:16</p> <p>5th 35:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <hr/> <p>6 22:22 55:4</p> <p>60s 46:4 85:2</p> <p>614-419-5346 75:9,16</p> <p>614-466-8100 78:7</p> <p>67 45:5</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <hr/> <p>700 55:4</p> <p>72 74:19 75:18</p> <p>72nd 74:3</p> <p>73 19:7</p> <p>740-819-2580 79:24</p> <p>77 55:16 75:18</p> <p>7713 24:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <hr/> <p>80 3:15 29:8,10,14 30:1 85:13</p> <p>87 38:7</p> <p>8:53 90:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <hr/> <p>9 7:9</p> <p>90 80:5</p> <p>9429 23:5</p> <p>9481 49:18</p> <p>95 31:22</p> <p>96 37:12</p> <p>9:15 7:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <hr/> <p>A-d-a-m-s 30:18</p> <p>Aaron 56:1</p> <p>abide 5:13</p> <p>ability 11:14</p> <p>abused 86:18 88:15</p> <p>accept 34:23 69:2 88:11 89:12</p> <p>acceptable 48:24</p> <p>account 27:2</p> <p>accountable 27:1</p> <p>accuracy 88:2</p> <p>acknowledge 70:14</p>
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Public Meeting regarding Buckeye Lake Dam

March 17, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

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Public Meeting regarding Buckeye Lake Dam

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Public Meeting regarding Buckeye Lake Dam

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Public Meeting regarding Buckeye Lake Dam

March 17, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

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Public Meeting regarding Buckeye Lake Dam

March 17, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Print Name	Address ^{Newark 43056}	Email Address
Vickie Mann	273 Roberts Dr	VickMann@roadrunner.com
Jeff Craiglow	4403 Laverne Newlg	jeff.craiglow@yahoo.com
JEFF CHERRY	64 HAMBURG RD	J_CHERRY@LANCASTER.K12.OH.US
Arlt Hertlein	0190 Cranberry Ln Bl	
Dorothy Hertlein	190 Cranberry Ln Bl	dorothyh5@redrunner.com
Kelly Roberts	52nd EFIN CT. Thornville, Oh.	
Robin Thompson	3295 Shakeside	Millersport Oh.
Paul Adkins	3134 S. Bank	Millersport Oh
Rebecca Bell	15415 Tup 496	10rebbel@gmail.com
Patricia Cornwell	447 Lakeshore Dr. W.	pscornwell@yahoo.com
Anthony Dye	718 Blacklick Eastern millersport RD	
Shelia Fryer	Thornville OH 43076 13546 Shell Beach Rd Lot 36	shelia-m-fryer@yahoo.com
DAVID R KESSLER	3255 MILLERSPORT SHADYBARK AVE	
THOMAS J. CANILL	THORNVILLE, OH 11973 TUP RD 400	TOMNPRATY400@YAHOO.COM
Scott Bell	1157 N. High St	Issac Bell, OH 43132

Sign in sheet

Public Meeting regarding Buckeye Lake Dam

March 17, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Print Name	Address	Email Address
Leisa Foraker	13412 West Bank Dr	leisabl@excite.com
Jane Bosworth	8539 Winding Creek Way	jbosworth@insight.net
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Leis Holler	3983 North Bank	lholler29@gmail.com
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Tom Heisey	201 Lakeview DR.	Buckeye Lake, OH 43008
Robert Lamb	7520 Hazeltine CT Pickerington 43147	
Stacie Wortman	2771 Boring Rd Lancaster, OH 43130	swortman71@gmail.com
Dennis Mingus	1400 Pincrest Drive Lancaster Ohio 43130	dmingus@buckeyepower.com
Jane & Tim Robinson	15210 Shoreline DrW Thornville Ohio	jprcol@aol.com

Public Meeting regarding Buckeye Lake Dam

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Public Meeting regarding Buckeye Lake Dam

[illegible]

BLD MCGOWN
330-864-1644

AARON SMITH
Army Corps of
Engineers-Huntington
Office
304-399-5353

Aaron Smith - 304-399-5353

[\[PDF\] Zoar Levee and Diversion Dam, Dam Safety Modification ...](#)

www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Portals/38/docs/zoar/August%2016%202012%20Meeting%20Notes.pdf

Aaron Smith explained that he would be receiving a draft of the full report the week of August 20, 2012 and it was estimated to be approximately 900 ...

[\[PDF\] Zoar Levee & Diversion Dam CAC Notes 25 October 2012 Notes](#)

www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Portals/38/docs/zoar/Oct%2025%202012%20Meeting%20Notes.pdf

Zoar Levee & Diversion Dam CAC Notes 25 October 2012 Notes Page 2 of 5 **Aaron Smith** further stated that the Baseline Habitat Study found no ...

[\[PDF\] Community Advisory Committee Meeting February 9, 2012 at ...](#)

www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Portals/38/docs/projects/Final%20Zoar%20CAC%20Meeting%20Notes%20February%209%202012.pdf

5) **Aaron Smith** indicated that the District was beginning to discuss various nonstructural measures including removal of the levee and /or diversion ...

[\[PDF\] Zoar Levee and Diversion Dam, Dam Safety Modification ...](#)

www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Portals/38/docs/projects/CAC%20March%208th%202012%20Notes.pdf

Aaron Smith said that the ability to find a suitable relocation site would have to be part of the analysis of the feasibility of such a mitigation ...

[\[PDF\] Zoar Levee and Diversion Dam, Dam Safety Modification ...](#)

www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Portals/38/docs/zoar/May%2017%202012%20Meeting%20Notes.pdf

Aaron Smith noted that if approached for entry on to your land, our consultants or employees will have copies of the signed rights of entry with them ...

[\[PDF\] Zoar Levee & Diversion Dam CAC Notes 20 September 2012 Notes](#)

www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Portals/38/docs/zoar/Sept%2020%202012%20Meeting%20Notes.pdf

Aaron Smith added that the time it took to complete reviews once the Draft Report was ready in March is a result of process and successive vertical ...

[\[PDF\] Final 28 July 2011 Meetin Minutes](#)

www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Portals/38/docs/projects/FINAL%2028%20July%202011%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf

FINAL Zoar Levee & Diversion Dam, Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 28 July 2011 **Aaron Smith** (USACE): Mr. **Smith** welcomed the attendee's ...

[Huntington District > Home > Best Project Delivery Team](#)

www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Home/BestProjectDeliveryTeam.aspx

... P.E.: Resident Engineer, Jeff Rakes: Instrumentation Technician, **Aaron Smith**, RPA: Archeologist, Andrew Johnson: Wildlife Biologist, Dan Stark, ...