

## **Township Supervisor Dam Report Submitted by Paul Erickson**

**This report pertains to the Electrical Power Plant Turbine at the Wellman Pond (Boardman Pond) under Boardman Road in Boardman Township, Michigan. This is part of the Boardman River watershed.**

Monday: 04/13/2026

Monday evening the Clerk of Boardman Township, Tonya Hart, informed me that the water levels at the power plant turbine were elevated and overflowing the discharge chute and turbine. This turbine is under the surface of Boardman Road just east of US-131 and holds back water of the Boardman River to create Wellman Pond upstream of the dam on the south side of Boardman Road. I immediately visited the location to document the situation as well as at the train culvert at the other end of Wellman Pond and the Young's Dam on East Main Street further upstream.

Tuesday : 04/14/2026

I was informed by Douglas Pratt, Emergency Coordinator of Kalkaska County, Pat Whiteford, administrator of Kalkaska County, and John Rodgers, Kalkaska County Road Commission Manager, to check the electric power plant turbine at Wellman Pond on Boardman Road. I have been in contact with all three gentlemen this week. I met Pat Whiteford and Kalkaska County Commissioner, David Comai, at the site to check the power plant turbine. We observed that the water was flowing over the water chute and both sides of the power plant. From the previous day the water had risen about 12" in Wellman Pond and there was only 8" clearance from the top of the power plant to the water below it. There was also only approximately 12" clearance from the top of the train culvert opening on Main Street to the pond's water level. This culvert is upstream of the Power Plant Turbine and marks the start of Wellman Pond.

In addition, at Young's Dam at the Upper Pond, further upstream from the train culvert, the water level was roughly 6" above the spillway. The dam discharge was slightly higher than normal but this dam was performing well. With the coming rain that evening, I was advised to watch the water levels a few times per day. Pat Whiteford contacted Michael Size of EGLE Dam Safety about the issue. Michael sent out Joy Stone of EGLE Dam Safety who contacted and met me Wednesday.

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Wednesday 04/15/2026

John Rodgers called to ask me to meet a contractor he had worked with on other projects. He suggested Matt's Underground look at the situation and suggest a solution. I met with Matt and Joy Stone Wednesday morning to assess the situation. When we arrived at the power plant turbine on Boardman Road the water levels had receded about 12" in Wellman Pond. However, water was still flowing over the chute and on either side of it. Joy and Matt Bennett of Matt's Underground assessed the issue and proposed to stabilize the sides with fabric and 20 tons of stone. The fabric and rock is a temporary repair and not a long-term solution. Therefore, we also discussed the implementation of a culvert under the road since the turbine no longer produces power and the earth around it is deteriorating. This culvert would be inserted into the chute of the turbine and allow water to flow more freely.

We also set up an emergency plan in case the water continued to rise too quickly by employing a high powered pump to divert water directly from Wellman Pond and into the Boardman River downstream of the turbine.

Once planning was completed there, Joy and I checked the train culvert and Young's Dam so she could assess the water levels at those locations. At the train culvert Joy and I found debris in the culvert. She advised me to have it cleared as soon as possible. I contacted John Rodgers to inform him of the problem and he sent out a crew who removed the debris within the hour. Joy advised me to check water levels two to three times a day. I have kept in contact with her and have kept her updated on the water levels on all three locations.

After meeting with Joy, I contacted Michael Size to inform him of the findings and ask him about permitting of the emergency pump project. He informed me that permitting would only slow the process and that I should document the process with pictures and paperwork for later, after the fact, permitting.

Thursday: 04/16/2026

At the power plant turbine on Boardman Road the water was at nearly normal levels, with only a small amount of water running over the chute. The train culvert water level was down to about 24" from the top of the culvert, which is within normal ranges. Young's Dam on Young's Pond was only about 1" or to above the spillway, well within normal level. The

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emergency measures described from the day before have not yet been implemented and further evaluations will determine if they are necessary at this point.

Later in the day I met with Douglas Pratt, Kalkaska Emergency Coordinator, and Michigan State Police Sgt. Neadeu to go over the plan and assess any damage on Boardman Road and Young's Dam on Young's Pond. We reviewed what was proposed by Matt's Underground and how to apply for state aide funding for the project. I also spoke with John Rodgers, Road Commission, about working with his engineer and contractor Matt's Underground to implement the culvert option that we discussed with Joy and Mike the previous day. John Rodgers approved us working with his engineer, Rebecca Rivard.