

## The Lower Muskegon River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Hydrologic Reconnection Project Update – 1/13/2021

The project is being funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative with a grant through the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and the NOAA/Great Lakes Commission Regional Partnership.

### Implementation Timeline:

There has been substantial excavation completed this year (thanks to the good December weather). The contractors struggled with wet muck and rainy weather in November, making it difficult to use the heavy machinery efficiently. Nevertheless, things moved along well. The former farm dike/berms were repaired and strengthened with soil to reduce the chances of a berm failure over the winter. The contractor was able to complete most, but not all, of the excavation and also install woody structures for fish and wildlife habitat. Dewatering pumps have been sequentially shut down, and should be completely turned off by the end of January. You can expect to see water out there for a few months, over the winter. Pumping to draw the water back down will start up again in the spring of 2021. Final excavation/grading will re-commence, followed by native vegetative plantings and seeding.



Once the vegetation is well established, the berm will be breached in two places to reconnect the restored wetland with the Muskegon River. This is likely to occur in August or September of 2021.

**Project History and Partners:** The County of Muskegon is the property owner. The project has been designed by GEI Consultants. Jackson Merkey Contractors is implementing the project. GEI is performing construction oversight. WMSRDC and the Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership (MLWP) provide informative updates on the Facebook Page “Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership” and during monthly MLWP meetings. To receive email notices for MLWP meetings, please contact Kathy Evans at [kevans@wmsrdc.org](mailto:kevans@wmsrdc.org) and request that your email address be added to the MLWP meetings list.

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