

Estabrook Dam Repair Estimates and Bid History

The Estabrook Dam controversy has been going on for many years. Below are the estimates for repair of the dam provided to the county over the last 10 years:

- In **2006** STS Consultants (now part of AECOM) prepared a repair estimate of \$617,820 plus engineering of \$138,000. **Total \$755,820.**
- In **2014** AECOM prepared a repair estimate of \$1,369,771 and fish passage of \$751,992 plus engineering of \$395,050. **Total 2,526,313.**
- In **2015** AECOM prepared a repair estimate of \$1,931,000 and fish passage of \$703,728 plus engineering of \$412,272. **Total 3,047,000.**

Note: If this had been taken care of in a timely fashion we would not have an issue with what was, at one point, a fairly small project. Deferred maintenance did not help. Unreasonable last minute demands by county personnel also inflated the cost.

- In **June 2016** the construction bid came in at **\$3,419,681** for both repair and addition of a fish passage.

These are some of the reasons why the bid estimate came in over budget:

- County Parks delayed the bid request until less than 6 months remained to complete a substantial portion of work. Also, the ideal low flow season to do the work would have passed. This time crunch created extra expenses for companies interested in bidding.
- Bidding requirements were very restrictive by requiring the contractor to have done at least 3 similar fish passage projects.
- AECOM budgeted \$20,000 for an aeration system to keep ice from forming on the dam gates. Shortly before the bid date, a boiler system with pipes being cut into the concrete was added to the requirements by county personnel, leaving the contractors on the hook to design and comply with the whims of the county. Hence instead of a \$20,000 aeration system, the boiler system came in at \$245,000, adding another \$225,000 over the budget. Please note that the aeration system would have been more than adequate.
- The extremely short time schedule and the restrictive bid requirements resulted in only one Wisconsin contractor and one out of state contractor bidding the project.
- Mobilization and general costs caused bids to come in more than \$475,000 over budget to cover the costs the time crunch created.
- The DNR has granted an extension for another year so the project can be completed in a proper time frame. If this gets rebid so the project can be done during the ideal season, using more reasonable ice protection and less restrictive qualification requirements for the companies who can bid, this will come in under budget.

It seems as though costs were intentionally increased so that the dam could not be repaired within budget.