

Healthy Pine River
Membership Meeting Minutes
January 08, 2025
7:00 PM @ Alma Public Library

Call to Order: Dr. Ben Peterson

Approval of Minutes: Gary R. / Doug B.

Financial Report:

Beginning Balance as of 12/1/25	\$34,591.54
Deposits & Credits	\$ 90.00
Withdrawals & Debits	\$ 251.34
Ending Balance as of 12/31/25	\$34,430.20

Meeting Adjourned: Gary R. / Doug B.

State Street Dam Feasibility Study: A Dam Risk Reduction Grant was awarded to the City of Alma and HPR by Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). This grant will fund a State Street Dam Feasibility Study to examine potential options for rehabilitation of the State Street Dam. This is a two-year grant, and we are looking to have a completed study by next fall.

GEI Engineering Perspective:

The feasibility study is looking at a variety of options before moving forward with a design. The study is at a high level, but will give us enough information to see if an option is possible. It will look at the hydrology, affordability, and whether the option meets the goals of the city and its citizens. It makes sense to take this first step so we don't get too far into the design before realizing it is impossible due to environmental challenges, high costs, or other reasons.

City Perspectives: City of Alma City Manager Aeris Ripley speaks on the Dam Risk Reduction Grant. As a community, we can use the Dam Risk Reduction grant to come to conclusions on what the best options are for the State Street Dam. Maintaining a surface water backup source for city water supplies is one of the priorities. The city would like to see improved recreational opportunities, improved impoundment conditions, improved aesthetics, etc. The city wants this to be a community-based decision. The City sees this grant as an exciting first step toward improving the dam and impoundment.

Community Engagement: Knowing what the citizens want is essential to this process. A variety of surveys and focus groups will be conducted throughout the next two years to gather community input. When the final report is ready, we will have a large-scale community meeting where the findings from the feasibility study will be presented.

The meeting guests went into breakout groups to discuss three questions: What are your concerns with dam remediation? What are your hopes for the dam, Pine River, and Impoundment? What do you want it to look like, and what do you hope would come out of dam remediation? What kinds of questions do you have that you hope the study would answer for you? Results of this discussion will be included in the community surveying reports that are a part of the Dam Risk Reduction project.

Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shfKD7igfcw>.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Alma Public Library