

## **SHIPLEY'S CHOICE DAM REHABILITATION PROJECT PROJECT UPDATE**

In an effort to keep the community updated on the construction project to remove the Shipley's Choice Dam, this Project Update will be distributed to Homeowners Associations and other interested parties via email.

- 1. Official Project Name.** Shipley's Choice Dam Rehabilitation Project: The project will be referred to as the Shipley's Dam Project in this document.
- 2. Project Background.** Visit the County website for the Shipley's Dam Project for this information. The website address is:  
[https://www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/engineering/Capital\\_Projects/shipleys-choice-dam-rehabilitation](https://www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/engineering/Capital_Projects/shipleys-choice-dam-rehabilitation)
- 3. Recent Activities.** The following construction was accomplished by Paydirt (Prime Contractor) and their subcontractors during the past months. Refer to the construction photos at the end of this document.
  - a. Verizon completed relocation of their overhead line along West Benfield Road. All overhead lines have now been moved north of the road, out of the way of the new culvert to be installed.
  - b. Paydirt constructed the diversion channel and directed stream flow into this channel. Construction activities can now commence in the dry streambed.
  - c. Paydirt brought a Rain for Rent tank onsite (see photo 4 at the end of this document) to receive water pumped from the site. This blue tank on wheels stores the water and allows sediment to settle out. Clean water is pumped from the top of the tank, into a filter bag, and discharged from the site.
  - d. Paydirt's Utility Subcontractor, Ferguson Trenching, is installing bypass pipes (gas, water, and sanitary force main) in the area north of West Benfield Road. Once the bypass lines are installed, they will be tied into the lines running under the roadway. Sections of the utility lines in the road will then be removed to allow room for culvert construction.
  - e. Ferguson also began installation of the gravity sanitary sewer, which must be relocated around the new culvert.
- 4. Construction Schedule.** Paydirt recently updated their construction schedule. Anticipated dates for upcoming work are as follows:

Late May – June	Completion of utility bypass line installation & demolish ex. lines
July – early Aug	Road excavation & pile driving for new culvert
August – Sep	Installation of E&S Control at Dam & commence Dam Removal
- 5. Road Closure.** West Benfield Road will remain closed until the new culvert is installed, utility lines are reinstalled over the new culvert, and the road embankment and pavement is reconstructed.

A precise road opening date cannot be given at this time, with the amount of work remaining for utility and culvert installation and weather uncertainties. Paydirt's current construction schedule has West Benfield Road reopening in April 2020. Refer to the notes in the next section on the Community Meeting regarding efforts to expedite the road opening.

- 6. Community Meeting.** A community meeting was held on 3/27/19 at the Shipley's Choice Elementary School. Representatives from the County and Paydirt attended to discuss construction to date. The Bear Branch Stream Restoration project was also discussed. Key items discussed during the meeting are as follows:

Shipley's Dam Project

- The Contractor has occasional left pumps running overnight to dewater the site for work the next day. On several occasions, the pumps have been turned off during the night. **Residents are urged not to turn off the pumps.** The contractor loses a day of construction when this occurs.
- After coordination with the County School Bus Coordinator, the school bus is once again traveling to Pixie Drive to pick up students. The road barricade was moved to allow room for the bus to turn around.
- Pile driving for the culvert will occur this summer. It will take approximately 2 weeks to drive the 78 concrete piles that will support the new box culvert. The community will be alerted once the dates for pile driving are known.
- It was requested that the Shipley's Dam Rehab contract documents be made available to the public. The Project Manual (Specifications), Plan Set, and Contractor's Construction Schedule were posted to the Project website (see link listed on page 1).
- Delays in completing work on West Benfield Road and reopening the road were discussed. The construction contract does not list a specific date when Paydirt must reopen the road. The contract does specify a total construction duration of 440 calendar days to complete all work at West Benfield Road and the dam site. With an estimated completion date in April 2020, Paydirt is currently 4 months behind schedule. Paydirt will be granted a time extension due to delays caused by Verizon, unforeseen site conditions, and additional work they performed.
- Paydirt is working with their subcontractor Ferguson to expedite utility work. Ferguson added a work crew and has been asked to work Saturdays and longer days when possible.
- Regarding work at the dam site, the community will be notified before the work begins this summer. The contractor will be restricted on where he can park, and alerted to watch for children. Since most material excavated from the dam will remain onsite, there will not be a steady flow of trucks hauling from the site. Paydirt estimates that 300 truckloads will be removed from the site.
- Lesson learned from this project: Give a realistic (and not overly optimistic) schedule for the road closure up front, after fully coordinating with the Prime Contractor and subcontractors.

Bear Branch Stream Restoration

- This project will reduce the amount of sediment that flows down Bear Branch.
- The embankment just west of Rustling Oaks Drive and Fawn Haven Court will be removed. Access through this area will be maintained, which may require a pedestrian bridge over the step pools to be constructed.
- Need to determine who will maintain stream structures and the pedestrian bridge and trail.
- The project does not include clearing sediment at the mouth of Bear Branch where it empties into the Severn River.

- 7. North Fork Bear Branch Stream Restoration.** The County's Engineering Consultant, Brown and Caldwell, is designing the restoration of 3600 linear feet of stream and the retrofit/decommissioning of BMP 4449. The project area extends from Benfield Boulevard upstream to Red Birch Road.

Brown and Caldwell have completed the 30% design. They will finish the design and obtain permits and easements required for construction. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2021. A community meeting will be scheduled in the future to discuss the project design and solicit comments from the community.

If you have questions or comments regarding the Shipley's Dam Project or this Project Update, please contact the undersigned.

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**SHIPLEY'S DAM PROJECT – CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS**



Photo 1 – Utility line installation north of West Benfield Road



Photo 2 – Stream diversion channel north of West Benfield Road



Photo 3 – Water overflowing the diversion channel & flooding the work area



Photo 4 – Filter bag and Water Tank used to reduce turbidity