

## State Budget Includes \$20 Million for Improvements at Conklingville Dam

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Earlier this year, the Governor had announced that his proposed budget included \$20 million for repairs at Conklingville Dam, providing a path forward for work that the Regulating District's normal budget could not support. This is great news not only for the downstream communities which rely on the Great Sacandaga Lake as the only flood control device protecting the residents and businesses in those communities, but for the countless number of people who live and recreate on the Great Sacandaga Lake year-round.

"We are thrilled that this critically important funding was included in the State's enacted budget," Mark Finkle, Chair of the HRBRRD Board, said. "The State's investment in this vitally important piece of infrastructure will help ensure that the 90-year-old Conklingville Dam – and all the inherent economic, recreational, ecological, and public safety benefits it provides – will be around for at least the *next 90 years*."

Though the proposed work is still in the scoping and design stage, the project would likely not begin until late 2023 at the earliest, allowing for an extensive opportunity to conduct public outreach, as well as identify and mitigate, to the extent possible, any temporary impacts related to the project. The work would be split into three basic categories:

- Foundation & Concrete Repair

This phase entails concrete and rock drilling to cut a series of holes through the dam spillway into the rock foundation to facilitate pumping of a cement-based epoxy grout to seal cracks and void space in the rock base to minimize and eliminate leakage through the rock base and at the rock-concrete interface, and the removal and replacement of deteriorated concrete on all concrete surfaces.

- Abutments, Outlet & Tailrace Repair

This phase entails replacement and repair of spalling and damaged concrete along wing walls, outlet channel, and tailrace concrete structures.

- Dow Valve Replacement

This phase entails replacement of original bypass "Dow valves" at Conklingville Dam low level outlets with modern outlet valves that can be remotely operated. Existing Dow valve structures could be abandoned in place or maintained as emergency back-ups.