



Speedwell Forge Lake and other High-Hazard Dams

John Arway, Executive Director

Mission: To protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities



PFBC's Mission: To Protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities



High-Hazard Dams in PA

- **Pennsylvania has 3,254 dams**
 - 775 are classified as high-hazard by federal National Dam Safety Program, which is administered by state DEP
- **Commission manages 56 of the dams**
 - 38 are classified as high-hazard
 - 16 are further considered unsafe – including Speedwell Forge
- **The funding level needed to repair the Commission's high-hazard dams is estimated to be \$125.5 million**



High-Hazard Dams in PA

- **The Commission takes our dam safety program very seriously and public safety is – and must be – our top priority**
- **Just this year the Commission drew down two of our lakes because of safety concerns:**
 - **Butler County's Glade Run Lake and**
 - **Lancaster County's Speedwell Forge Lake - 80 homes/200 individuals lie within immediate path**



Timeline for Speedwell Drawdown

- **Sept. – PFBC law enforcement/maintenance increase site visits to watch over spillway**
- **Oct. 17-18 – PFBC engineers inspect facility, find spillway had heaved and cracked from increased pressure**
 - **Damage caused by recent storms – Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee**
 - **Spillway's structural integrity compromised; believe future storm events would further degrade its integrity**
- **Oct. 19 - Drawdown begins**
- **Oct. 24 - Nov. 4 – Fish salvage undertaken**





Fish Salvage – Oct. 24 - Nov. 4

- **Final estimate - 6.7 tons, or about 74,000 fish**
 - LM bass, black crappie, bluegill, catfish, carp
- **Susquehanna River received 11,300 lbs**
 - Above Berwick (Columbia County, south of Wilkes-Barre), and Fort Hunter, Royalton and Highspire in Harrisburg region
 - Goldsboro pool, Falmouth/York Haven Dam tailrace, Long Level pool created by Safe Harbor Dam (Dauphin, York counties)
- **1,900 lbs went to Hammer Creek**
- **270 lbs to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Lake (Lancaster County). Most bass stocked here.**





What Now?

- **To sustain these popular facilities and the benefits they provide, residents, stakeholders and government leaders at all levels must rally and create organized efforts to secure funding for repairs.**
 - The PFBC cannot do this alone and appreciates your attendance at tonight's public meeting.
- **This is not an easy task. It will take years and millions of dollars to rebuild dams to current standards.**
- **Estimate that \$34.3 million in construction funding needed to fix remaining unsafe dams, including \$6.3 million for Speedwell Forge.**



Find New Funding Sources

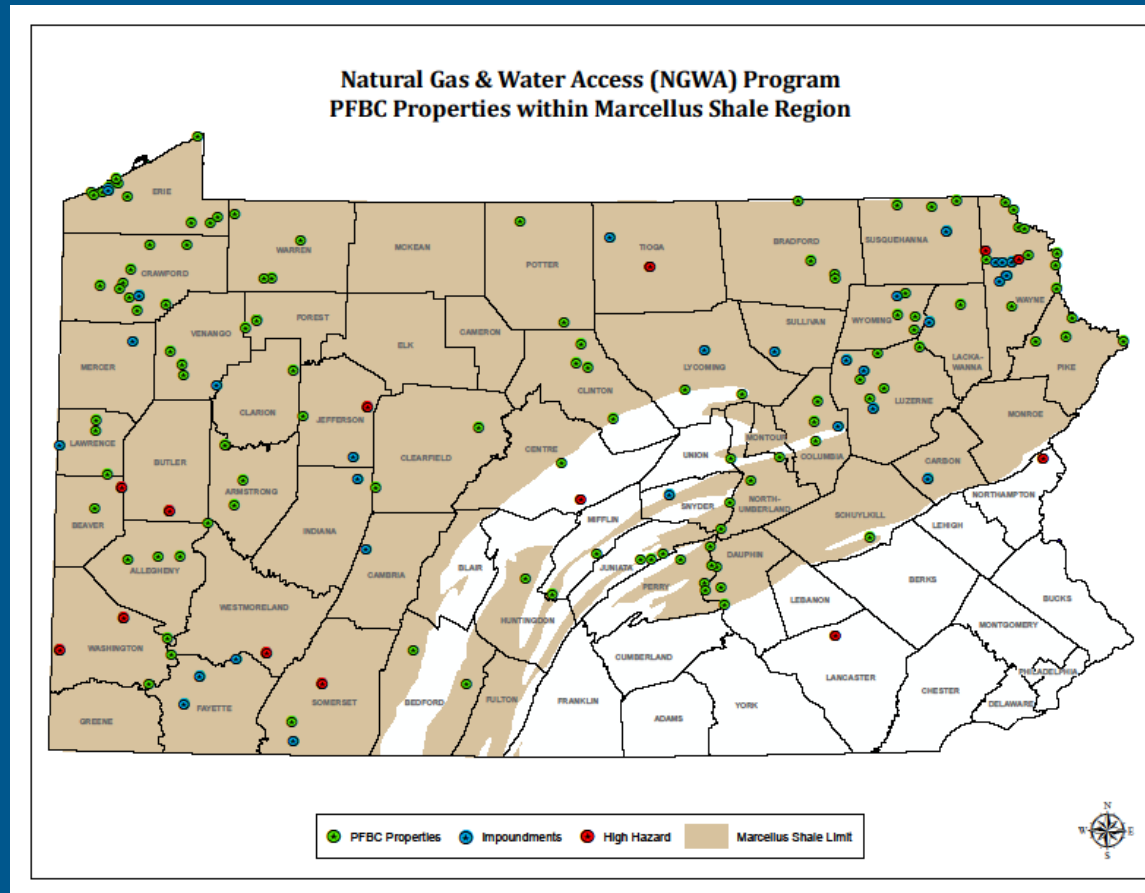
- **With annual budget of \$60 million to fund all our programs that support our Resource First mission, we cannot repair the dams without additional help.**
- **Historically, capital projects like dam repairs have been funded through statewide programs like the H2O PA Act and Growing Greener 2.**
- **Programs provided valuable funding and we all appreciate the commitment of the state legislature.**
- **But the programs have not been renewed, leaving us and our stakeholders looking for new funding sources.**



Marcellus Shale

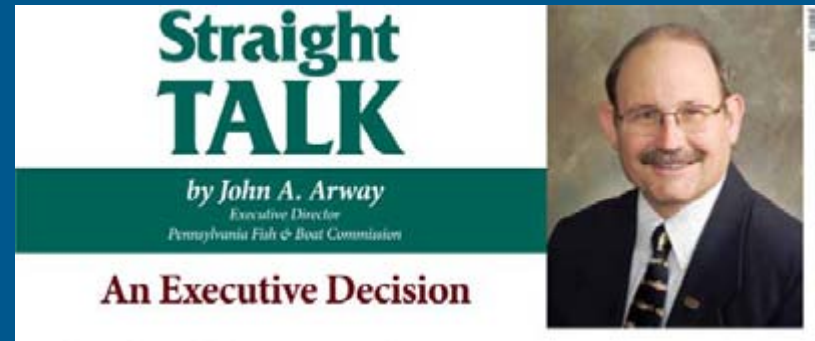
PFBC-Controlled Land & Water

- ~14,000 acres within Marcellus region (~43,000 statewide)
- 40 impoundments within Marcellus region

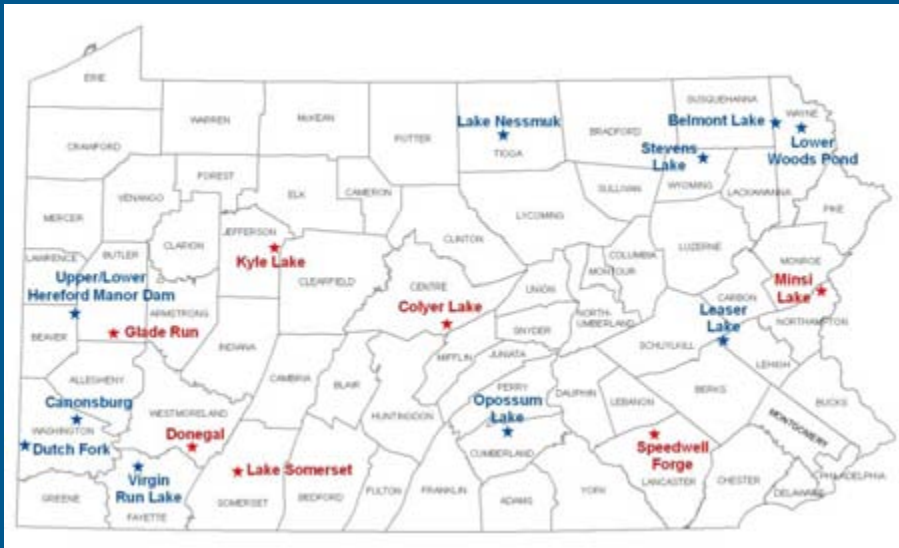


Marcellus Shale Natural Gas

- Adjoining properties are under lease
- It is irresponsible to allow one molecule of your natural gas to be taken without compensation
- No drilling on PFBC properties
- Model agreement - www.fish.state.pa.us/ngwa.htm



How Will the PFBC Use the Money?



- 18 high-hazard, unsafe dams
- 2 removed from list
- Repairs underway on 6
- Repairs planned for 3
- 7 remain unfunded

• Criteria

- People impacted
- Cost/Funding
- Urgency
- Local support
- Economic impact
- Fishing and boating



What Can You Do?

- **Concerned residents are taking the right steps**
- **You have formed organizations, created websites and tapped into popular social media like Facebook to generate support and raise money**
 - www.facebook.com/savespeedwell
- **Work with local legislators, business leaders**
- **It can work – we have shown success at:**
 - **Opossum Lake in Cumberland County**
 - **Leaser Lake in Lehigh County**
 - **Dutch Fork Lake in Washington County**



Dutch Fork work to begin this year

1/19/

When
the la

It will
expe

Opossum Lake dam reconstruction to begin

Popular Cumberland County

and could be undermined.

expected to be completed by

water could offer fishing oppo

The exposed lake bed was

fall and the lake will be al

Allentown Morning Call – 4/26/11

Cooperation key to Leaser repair;

Lehigh County, state and activists joined forces to fund \$3.3 million restoration of dam

Immediate Safety Concerns

- **Gate will be placed at lower parking lot to close the area to vehicles**
- **Immediate area around dam and spillway will be posted as no trespassing**
- **Rest of area around lake, including lake bed, will remain open**





Questions?

Submit questions via email at:
RA-speedwellforge@pa.gov

www.fishandboat.com

