

Work Expected to Begin On PL Project This Fall

Erosion Dam Work Is Now Underway

The Ross Construction Co. of Wellsburg began work here Tuesday on erection of a dam across a large ravine that enters the middle portion of Upper Pine Lake from the west.

This is the first step in what is expected to eventually amount to a \$15,000-\$20,000 improvement project in the watershed area.

This initial dam, expected to cost about \$3,000, is a project of the Pine Lake Wildlife Club. It is expected to consist of some 5,535 cubic yards of earth fill. If weather conditions remain favorable, the dam is expected to be completed next week.

The dam is being built for the purpose of eliminating the infiltration of silt into the Upper Lake. This silt problem has existed at the Upper Lake for some time, but has become even more prevalent the past couple of years.

The ravine being dammed extends from the Eldora-Steamboat Rock road east to Upper Pine, a distance of about one-half mile. The ravine is located southwest of the Pine Lake Wildlife clubhouse.

Financial assistance in construction of the dam, being erected about 500 feet east of the Eldora-Steamboat road, is being received from the State Conservation Commission and the Agricultural Conservation Program. The dam will be 26 feet high from the bottom of the gully, which is close to 40 feet wide.

Plans are also being made for construction of four more dams

on branches of the same ravine in the watershed area. Two of the dams will be erected on the John Janssen farm, one will be built on the Chris Schaa farm which is located where the old airport originally stood, and the other on the Rosa Riley farm, which is operated by Schaa.

These latter four dams, which will be built by the individual farmers themselves, are to be for gully control as well as silt containment. State Conservation Commission and ACP financial assistance will also be obtained for construction of these four dams.

It is likely that other erosion control dams will be constructed in the watershed area during the next four years, reports Cal Moore of the Hardin County Soil Conservation Service.

These conservation improvements tie in with the Upper Pine Lake improvement project, which will consist of raising the existing Upper Pine dam to increase the size of the lake. It is hoped that the local projects will speed along the release of state appropriations for the latter improvement, which is scheduled to get underway this fall.

Members of the Wildlife Club who are heading up the erosion control committee are Gene Farmer, Gene Setchell and Moore.

Everett Pierce of the State Conservation Commission assisted with the surveying operations and other preliminary work on the project. The actual plans were drawn up by the local Soil Conservation Service.

Although no exact date can be given at this time, actual construction work on the Pine Lake Improvement project is expected to commence sometime this fall.

This was the report the Eldora Newspapers received Tuesday afternoon from Wm. Randolph, Iowa Conservation Commission engineer for the PL project.

The project is not expected to be completed until next year.

The model and hydraulic study, which was conducted at Ames, is now complete with final plans now in the process of being drawn up.

Randolph reported Tuesday that actual construction work can not begin until "many loose ends are tied together." He went on to state that trees which would be covered upon raising of the lake will have to be cut down and removed and it will be necessary for the state commission to locate a type of soil substance that can be used for dam fill.

It is likely the above two items will be handled prior to advertising for bids on the project.

In addition, Randolph stated that there are a couple of other steps still to be completed following approval of the final plans. They are as follows:

- 1) A full set of final drawings will have to be presented to the Natural Resources Council which must okay the project. It is hoped the final drawings can be completed and thus presented to the Resources Council at that group's next meeting, which will be held the latter part of this month. Randolph stated the Conservation Commission expects no trouble from the Natural Resources Council.

- 2) The final plans will be presented to a structural engineer consultant prior to actual construction work in order to provide a double check on the project.

It is believed that three or

four months will be needed to complete the project. The entire shore line of the newly constructed area will need to be rip-rapped to prevent waves from washing away surrounding soil.

The lake study, which was conducted in the hydraulics laboratory at Ames, revealed that a change in the contour of the shoreline at the lower end of Upper Pine Lake will be necessary so water may enter the dam and spillway with a minimum of turbulence.

Model studies indicate that the profile of the dam will have to be changed considerably. It will be necessary to elevate the dam six feet and extend the upward side of the dam toward the lake quite a distance. This will cause the "seep line" to be below the surface of the lower edge of the dam when it is completed.

Preliminary estimates indicate some 65,000 cubic yards of earth fill will be used in the dam structure. In the wings and spillway, probably more than 500 cubic yards of concrete will be used.

The water level of Upper Pine Lake will be slowly lowered during the month prior to the start of construction. It is important that the water from the lake is removed slowly to avoid unnecessary stress on valves and other equipment.

The present sluiceway will be excavated and repaired as needed. It will be lengthened to accommodate the new width of the dam.

Prior to the removal of water from Upper Pine Lake, Lower Pine is expected to be drained so as to destroy rough fish.

The purpose of the Pine Lake project was to raise the dam at the lower end of Upper Pine Lake so that the surface of the lake would exceed 100 acres. This would permit the use of motor boats in compliance with Iowa law.

The last legislature approved the program and appropriated \$93,000 for the work, providing local stipulations were met. The latter included the raising of \$10,000 locally. All of these requirements