MICHIGAN’S DAM REMOVAL MOVEMENT

A 20-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

MWEA

DECEMBER 2, 2015
TODAY’S TALK

1. Big Rapids, where it all began
2. Story time
3. Show and tell
4. The hit list
5. Lessons learned
6. What’s next
BIG RAPIDS

Accidental birth 1994

Making friends at MDEQ, MDNR

Public reaction

Dam out in 2001
BIG RAPIDS

City: Safety

Public: Sediment

MDNR: Fish

USGS: Margin of error

City Manager, Engineer: areer-ending possibilities
STORY TIME: HERSEY

- Existing spillway
- Historic Channel
- Dam location
STORY TIME: HERSEY

Downstream Prep

Upstream Prep

Pull the Goalie!
STORY TIME: HERSEY
STORY TIME: MANTON

One piece at a time!

New channel, flood bench

Mature channel
STORY TIME: MANTON
SHOW AND TELL: CHESANING
SHOW AND TELL: DIMONDALE
SHOW AND TELL:

Nashville
OTHER DAMS REMOVED SINCE 2001

Marshall Rice Creek
Mt. Pleasant Millpond
Plainwell Dam
Dexter Dam
Brown Bridge Dam
OTHER DAMS REMOVED SINCE 2001

Grayling Dam
Charlotte Dam
Watervliet Dam
Ceresco Dam

57 Total Removed
HIT LIST: LYONS
HIT LIST: HUBBARDSTON
ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK

Boardman and Sabin Dams

Shiawassee Dam

Frankenmuth Dam

Pucker Street Dam, Niles
LESSONS LEARNED

Devise a controlled drawdown

Differential water pressures

Don’t start anything you can’t stop
LESSONS LEARNED

Deer love tree shoots

Get before, during, after aerials

River is cheap labor

Synch removal with low flow

Sediment management: back up the Brinks truck
LESSONS LEARNED

Check for contaminated sediment

eBay: history treasure trove

Wetlands vs. no dam: no contest

On-site inspection: read plans
LESSONS LEARNED

Feasibility study and cost estimate before grant applications

Rice Creek, MDNR, Non-Profit: get owner buy-in

Rocks are expensive!

Save some budget for year 2, 3

Funding: be careful what you ask for

Expect some opposition
WHAT’S NEXT: GRAND RAPIDS
WEB RESOURCES


QUESTIONS?

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