

Airport board approves moving forward with dam repair

One overflow in the area was noted to be deteriorating

BY JOSH JONES

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MT. VERNON — During Tuesday's meeting, the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board Of Commissioners approved moving forward with repairing an overflow for a dam at the airport.

"Our lake has three overflows, so essentially when we have a major rain event and the lake gets too full we have an overflow," stated Chris Collins, Mt. Vernon Outland Airport director.

According to Collins, one of the overflows was badly eroded and is in need of maintenance.

"I have had some excavating companies come out and look at it," Collins said, "and essentially I am asking for the opportunity to seek bids to repair this and put it back the way it should be."

Collins pointed to the damaged area on a map as he mentioned one of his biggest concerns if the problem is not resolved.

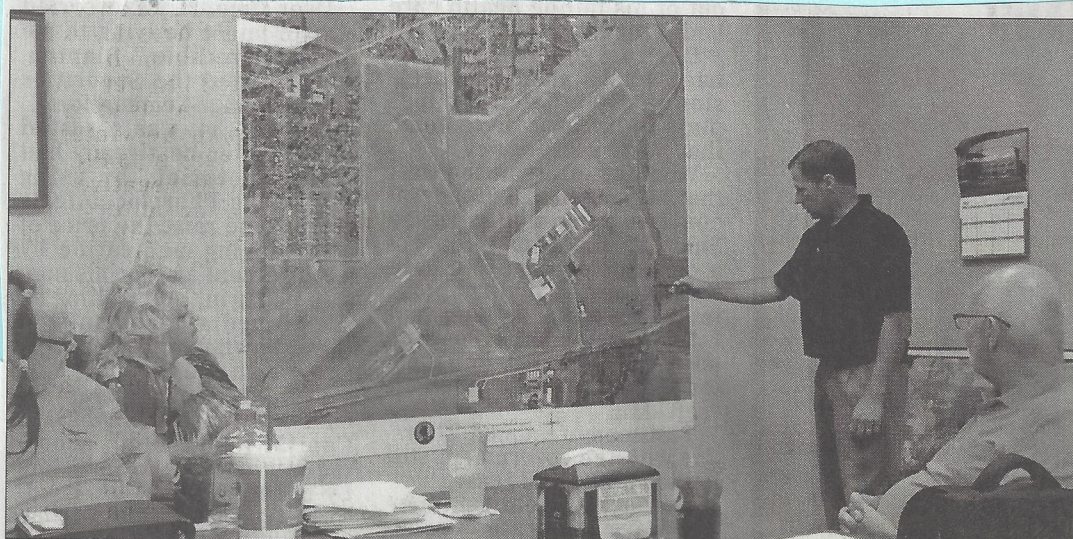
"There is a secondary area that is opening up a little farther on top of the dam, where people and residents walk and exercise," Collins said. "We would hate for someone to trip and fall in."

The issue has not been overlooked, though, as Collins noted that his maintenance staff over the years has tried to work on the issue.

"What we have done hasn't worked, is what I am trying to say, and we need to hire the professionals that know what they are doing to fix this," Collins said. "So I am simply asking to generate a bid spec and go out for bids and bring that number before you."

He continued.

"I don't have a budget. All I know is it needs to be repaired and we have waited long enough," Collins



Sentinel Photo/JOSH JONES

DAMAGED DAM — Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Director Chris Collins, STANDING, points to the damaged area of an overlay for a dam at the lake. During the meeting the board of commissioners gave approval to seek bids for repairs.

Airport:

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said.

When asked about a timeframe, Collins explained that this project needed to be done in the summer months when water levels were low.

"I think we can probably

do this in as little as two or three weeks," Collins said. "This needs to be August, no later than September — summertime."

Chairman Mike Ancona agreed with Collins, as he gave his impression of the state of the affected area.

"I don't know if any of you have been out there and seen this, but it has really pro-

gressed. I didn't have a clue it was like that," Ancona said. "We don't need to wait another spring season, because this a big hole."

It was also noted by the board that another big rain could cause damage to the area and deteriorate the dam, as the board gave their approval to repair. 7-16-17

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