

# Airport approves lake dam project bid

*Years of erosion  
had deteriorated one  
of three overflows*

**BY JOSH JONES**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners recently approved bids relating to the Northeast Lake Dam Overflow Project.

During a previous meeting, Airport Director Chris Collins discussed that one of the three overflows had been eroded away through the years, and he gave an update on the bidding process.

"The low bid was Schierbaum Excavating and it was \$12,500," Collins said. "Again, this is just for digging out the bad pipe and putting down the pipe that we specced down in and doing all the compaction and returning it back to the way it looks now."

It was noted by the board that there was a big difference in price with the other two companies that bid on the project.

"Guinzy Construction was \$25,201.52, Shores Builders was \$35,400," Collins said. "I don't have any reasoning why there was such a disparity. ... It was amazing it was that much of a difference. I know {span} Schierbaum has visited the site several times and did a lot measuring. I am not sure how many visits the other two made. And [there were] two additional ones that took bid specs and didn't bid."

Board Commissioner Gary Chesney commented on past experiences when it came to bids.

"The truth is this is a small project for subcontractors and if they have work, they don't want it. If they are going to get it, they get it," Chesney said. "I have seen it come in that way. They put a number in that they know they can make good money off of it."

Moving on, Collins mentioned that

another component to the multifaceted project was the piping.

"I have been researching the types of piping and different applications, and I think it is better that we go back with the aluminized steel four feet in diameter, 150 feet long, wWhich is nearly identical with what is out there," Collins said. "The cheapest I could find the pipe was Contech Engineering, and I think they are out of Springfield. That pipe is \$47.05 a foot with anti seep collars, and they recommended two of them. Those are \$520 each, so we are at \$8,097.50 for 150 feet."

The board previously noted that a major concern is a secondary area that residents walk on and the possibility of someone tripping and falling in. The entire project's completion is targeted for near the end of summer while the water levels are still low.

After the discussion, the board approved the low bid for the removal and installation of the piping.

*jones@morningsentinel.com*

8.12.17