

Curtis Pond Dam (CPD) Timeline

Date	Person/Group	Article/Activity/Report	Summary	Documents/Articles
2001-2015	Department of Environmental Conservation	Annual Inspection of Curtis Pond Dam	Annual Inspection of Curtis Pond Dam	
7/11/2001	Memo from Zalinger, Cameron & Lambeck, P.C. Montpelier, VT to Calais Select Board	Re: Curtis Pond Dam	Results of their review of the land records in the Town of Calais concerning the Curtis Pond Dam reveal that Donald and Beverly Heise own land and premises on both sides of CPD at shoreline. However land underlying the dam, and the dam itself, were never conveyed to the Heises or their predecessors in title.	
6/27/2002	FY03 Capital Bill id 6140990303	ANR H. 478, No. 249	H. 478, No. 149, FY03 Capital Bill, approved 6-27-02. Sec 8(a)(3): \$30,000 to enable engineering and design of repairs to the Curtis Pond dam in Calais. All spent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubois & King Inc. engineering study in 1/2004. Payments of \$10,000 (12-9-03), \$5,000 (12/31/03), and \$5,000 (3/10/03) * Root Engineering (Alternative Analysis) 10/22/04 \$1,500 • Root Engineering Inc (Stonewall-Earth Dam Reconstruction) study on or about 1/5/06. Payment \$3,000 • State Land Surveyor In March, 2003, ownership of Curtis Pond Dam seach. Total charges of \$7329.08 compiled in early 2010. \$5,500 paid 	Put in link to appropriations summary once on web
7/5/2003	TA by Patrick Joy	TA article: No good deed... Old Calais dam a white elephant for owners	Discusses discovery that after deed research by the state, Fothergills are owners of dam, their reaction, and some history of dams like this in Vermont.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/no-good-deed-old-calais-dam-a-white-elephant-for-owners/article_7035be5c-db2a-5e77-a02d-96ab91f28741.html
7/22/2003	Memo from Edward L. Leonard, P.E. Dam Safety Engineer, ANR State of Vermont	Inspection of the CPD on 7/14/2003	Overall condition of the dam is poor and permanent repairs should be made to the structure.	

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7/29/2003	TA by Patrick Joy	TA article: Calais dam group moves forward	Discusses further the efforts of some property owners to provide a solution including a potluck with Stanley Fitch and George Morse providing history. Three committees were formed to look into ownership, funding possibilities and short-term patching.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/calais-dam-group-moves-forward/article_8e859eb4-9726-5710-8dd6-38ce59d233de.html
8/29/2003	TA by Patrick Joy	TA article: Calais Dam Solution a Struggle	Concerned residents trying to come up with a solution. Bill Powell on the recently formed Curtis Pond Fire District Committee estimated that the annual costs would be \$30 to over \$300 depending on how financed.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/calais-dam-solution-a-struggle/article_db7043fb-89fa-53a7-9970-dd8b86368642.html
9/12/2003	TA Letter to Editor: Tony Redington Montpelier	TA Letter to Editor: Dam is town's responsibility	Long letter to editor providing opinion that the dam is the town responsibility as well as some other unrelated topics.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/september-12-2003/article_9378586c-67eb-5268-b4ed-a8edaa90f7e6.html
9/12/2003	Curtis Pond Dam Committee/Dubois & King	Draft engineering report, emergency action plan and engineering drawings	Contains a draft engineering report, emergency action plan and engineering drawings for the Curtis Pond Dam Project	
9/24/2003	Calais Conservation Commission/Select Board	Curtis Pond conservation issues	Report of the conservations issues at stake on Curtis Pond provided by the Calais Conservation Commission to the Calais Select Board	hardcopy
9/25/2003	Curtis Pond Reconstruction Project/Dufresne & Associates	Proposal for Curtis Pond Dam Reconstruction	Proposal provided by Dufresne & Associates to Robert Belilse of the Curtis Pond Reconstruction Project	hardcopy
9/26/2003	Curtis Pond Reconstruction Project/Dubois & King	Curtis Pond Dam Dam Reconstruction Project	Preliminary Engineering Evaluation provided by Dubois & King to Robert Belilse of the Curtis Pond Reconstruction Project	hardcopy
10/4/2003	TA by Patrick Joy	TA article: Calais dam a town issue	Reported that the Curtis Pond Fire District Committee was to recommend that to the town "that the town purchase the dam, rather than establishing a special fire district" and provides reasons for its recommendation.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/committee-calais-dam-a-town-issue/article_0356da58-f279-5beb-bb6f-1596f95bdb13.html+E7

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????/2003	Men of Maple Corner Calendar	Fund Raiser	The second year of the Men from Maple Corner calendar raised \$30,000 for the dam. This money is held by Maple Corner Community Center.
??????	Curtis Pond Representatives/ State of Vermont Legislative Committee	Presentation	Jeff Fothergill, Bob Belisle and Bev Heise present to a legislative committee asking for support to fix the dam. The legislature eventually gave about \$30,000 which was sent to the Calais Select Board. The money was spent on several engineering studies by Dubois and King.
Fall, 2003	Calais Lakes and Ponds and Vermont Agency of Natuaral Resources	Curtis Pond Watershed Survey	The Curtis Pond portion of a watershed survery done by Calais Lakes and Ponds with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Done in years 2001, 2002, 2003
10/7/2003	Committee to Repair Curtis Pond Dam	CPD Construction Repair Project Report	To provide information to the Calais Select Board to facilitate discussion of the problem and alternatives to repair the dam. Contains rough estimate (~300K), options for municipal ownership (town, special assessment district, fire district), insurance (VLCT:\$1000/year), and management structure (committee reports to Select Board). Appendix VIII contains projected property value/tax reduction based on dam removal (43K per year reduction) as of 2002 grand list and 2003 tax rate.

<https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2022/01/curtis-pond-watershed-survey-1.pdf>
<https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/10-7-2003-report-curtis-pond-dam-construction-repair-project.pdf>

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10/13/2003	CPD Construction Project/Calais Select Board	Calais Select Board Meeting: No more Sandbaggin'	The Curtis Pond Dam Construction Project made a presentation, 'No more Sandbaggin', to the Calais Select Board. Provided options for town ownership (town, special tax district, fire district), identified issues for risk assessment, costs financing options.	2003Oct13 Slides No More Sandbaggin
11/1/2003	Curtis Pond Dam Committee/Dubois & King TA article by Sky Barsch	Draft emergency action plan TA article: Town Hears Report on Dam Condition	Contains a draft emergency action plan and engineering drawings for the Curtis Pond Dam Project from Dubois & King Update from Dubois & King hired by Concerned Citizens for Repairing CPD to Calais Select Board. Recommending a new structure upstream from dam at a cost \$175,000. Final plan expected out in December along with an emergency action plan.	hardcopy https://www.timesargus.com/news/town-hears-report-on-dam-condition/article_4a169cac-ab4e-5731-86ab-71005109a957.html
11/25/2003				
11/2003 & 1/2004	Curtis Pond Dam Committee/Dubois & King	Conceptual Plans	1. Curtis Pond Dam Dam Break Flood Anaalysis Inundation Plan 2. New Concrete Wall Conceptional Site Plan	hardcopy see Dubois and King Engineering Study 1/2004
1/30/2004	Curtis Pond Dam Committee/Dubois & King	Engineering Report	The purpose of this study is to identify and evaluate existing deficiencies at the Curtis Pond Dam. This study also includes the preparation of an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and the evaluation of a new concrete wall, within the intended function of reinforcing the existing dam to retain the pond.	https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2022/01/curtis-pond-dubois-king-engineering-study-jan-2004.pdf
12/12/2003	Curtis Pond Dam Committee/Dubois & King	Draft engineering report, emergency action plan and engineering drawings	Contains a draft engineering report, emergency action plan and engineering drawings for the Curtis Pond Dam Project from Dubois & King	hardcopy
2/23/2004	Curtis Pond Dam Group/Calais Select Board	Calais Select Board Meeting: Beyond Sandbaggin'	The Curtis Pond Dam Group made a presentation, 'Beyond Sandbaggin', to the Calais Select Board. Recommended that town take title to CPD and issues a 20 year bond of not more than 200K (the price at the time to fix the dam) to pay for repair.	2004Feb23 Slides Beyond Sandbaggin

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2/1/2004	Dubois & King	Curtis Pond Dam Emergency Action Plan	Emergency Action Plan for the Curtis Pond Dam is to be used by the Dam Owner, state and local emergency response officials in the event of a potential or actual failure of the Curtis Pond Dam. Provides general procedures for notification and an induction map for two types of failure (sunny or storm day).	https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/curtis_pond_dam_emergency_action_plan1.pdf
3/3/2004	TA by Andrew Nemethy	TA article: Calais officials urged to repair Curtis pond dam	Reports that the CPD was discussed at Tuesday town meeting although not on agenda. Spurred by the release of a report by Dubois & King that points out the dire potential of the dam's failure. Some at meeting pointed out that if the dam fails, liability may fall to the town anyway, because it has deeper pockets and would lower property values.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/calais-officials-urged-to-repair-curtis-pond-dam/article_e4aa667c-7ba1-5d36-a587-629b5724a7c6.html
3/10/2004	TA by Sky Barsch	TA article: Dam codes in Calais	Reports on a 21-page action emergency evacuation plan in the case of the CPA failure. Toby Talbot discussed it with the Calais Select Board Monday. Noted that the town is creating a five member "Task Force on Calais Dams"	https://www.timesargus.com/news/dam-codes-in-calais/article_74ce9616-d419-5f6f-8924-ce471b53549c.html
4/1/2004	Curtis Pond Dam Group/Calais Task Force Calais Select Board	Task Force Ppreliminary Summary Calais Select Board Meeting	Chronology of Events: Summary of Policy Issues and Relevant Documents Creation of Calais Dams Study Task Force. Task force was charged with focusing on CPD but to examine town policy and evaluation criteria for privately owned dams in Calais. 7 citizen members with a liaison select board member. Barry Bernstein, John Brabant, Davis Cherington (chair), J.C. Myers, Gary Root, Warner Shedd, Denise Wheeler, Jack Russell (facilitator, non-voting), Paul Hannan (select board liaison, non-voting).	hardcopy looks like in editing
4/12/2004				
2/15/2005	Calais Dam Task Force	Calais Dam Task Force Final Report	Reviews current condition of the dam, ownership, repair or replacement options and funding options (town or special tax district made up of property owners and/or second tier for "village district"). The Task Force recommended an allocation of Shoreline owners pay 80% and 20% for town but not split less than 50-50.	https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/2-15-2005-dam-task-force-report.pdf

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2/16/2005	TA Letter to Editor: J.C. Myers of Calais	TA Letter to Editor: Calais needs to do the right thing on dam repair	J.C. Myers letter to editor as the only dissenting member of the Task Force on Calais Dams to the task force's recommendation that cost of repair be borne by the property owners rather than split amongst all the town taxpayers and his reasons for dissenting.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/calais-needs-to-do-the-right-thing-on-dam-repair/article_9d5e6caa-970e-587c-9401-4ba6218df520.html
2/21/2005	TA Letter to Editor: Bruce Watson on East Montpelier	TA Letter to Editor: Get real on Curtis Pond	Bruce Watson letter to editor as non-resident owner of property on Curtis Pond questions who will get to vote on reconstruction cost if shoreline property owners are assessed the costs as recommended by task force. Points out that Calais collects tax revenue without providing any services to the seasonal residents.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/get-real-on-curtis-pond/article_92869385-b270-5b6f-b8de-bd80a65c7557.html
3/1/2005	TA Letter to Editor: Steve Gallagher of Calais	TA Letter to Editor: Dam proposal a rotten idea	Steve Gallagher letter to editor that agrees with J.C. Myers letter to editor on 2/16/2005. Adds that the Town of Calais and State of Vermont with property on Curtis Pond are not taxed so would be exempt from contributing towards dam repair. Also, since the pond is open to public use, those who use the pond besides the property owners would also be exempt.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/dam-proposal-a-rotten-idea/article_3d0df5d2-c7b8-5045-999a-75c73dedd03c.html
3/30/2005	TA article by Joshua Larkin	TA article: Calais struggles with dam issues	Article about the select board meeting where the Calais Dam Task Force report was discussed including the Task Force's recommendation on the allocation of costs. Purpose was to provide clarification but not take immediate action on the report's recommendations.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/special-meeting-called-on-future-of-curtis-pond-dam/article_9a72ade4-c0e7-59ea-835a-5f0a98dc1818.html
10/1/2006	TA article by Daphne Larkin	TA article: Special Meeting called on future of Curtis Pond Dam	Article about the special meeting to be called by Calais Select Board on Monday, October 2 to add questions pertaining to CPD on November, 2006 Australian ballot. Proposed three questions to be added to look for authorization from the voters to learn what the voters want.	
10/13/2006	TA article by Daphne Larkin	TA article: Confusion in Calais dam debate	Article about how the questions to be added to the November, 2006 Australian ballot are affected by ownership issue brought up by town attorney, Paul Gilles. Another Special meeting was warned for Thursday, October 5 to factor in new ownership information. Article contains the approved questions to be placed on the ballot.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/confusion-in-calais-dam-debate/article_80d90cba-db9f-5120-9401-5835ffedc999.html

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11/14/2006	TA article by Daphne Larkin	TA article: Advisory questions add to Calais' confusion	Article about the results of four questions added to the November, 2006 Australian ballot concerning the CPD. The vote was 422-381 against taking ownership if a legal owner, but 520-314 if the owner is deceased. Goes into discussion of whether Fothergill/Beardsley own the dam. The vote by residents (476-377) was for the creation of a special tax district with more burden on the property owners than the town.	https://www.timesargus.com/news/advisory-questions-add-to-calais-confusion/article_b98224c0-672f-57df-a0cc-64a877e915a6.html
6/4/2010	FY11 Capital Bill id 6140990303	ANR H. 790, No.161	<p>Original appropriations amended from \$30,000 to \$50,091. Total appropriation remaining in 6140990303 as of 6-4-11: \$50091-\$30,000 = \$20,091 for Curtis Pond Dam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invoices from Dubois & King totaling \$16280 submitted for payment or paid since 1/17/12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o #112038 1/17/12 \$6068.00 o #112145 2/3/13 \$1036.00 o #412022 4/5/13 \$3552.00 o #1012069 10/9/12 \$2664.00 o #1112028 11/19/12 \$1480.00 o #1212034 12/12/12 \$1480.00 • Total unexpended appropriation remaining in 6140990303 as of 5/15/13: \$20091-\$16,280 = \$3,811 for Curtis Pond Dam. 	Put in link to appropriations summary once on web
5/22/2013	Town of Calais and DuBois and King	Curtis Pond Dam Rehabilitation Project Final Design and estimate	Final Design and estimate of the Curtis Pond Dam Rehabilitation Project done by DuBois and King for the Town of Calais Select Board on 05/22/2013. Estimate was \$314,00 prepared on 2/14/2012.	https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2021/07/cpd-final-design-dk-05222013.pdf https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2021/07/cpd-final-design-dk-05222013-estimate.pdf

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5/1/2013	Town of Calais and DuBois and King	Application for Permit to Vermont DEC for Rehabilitation of Curtis Pond Dam	248 page permit application to Vermont DEC for rehabilitation of Curtis Pond Dam. Prepared by Dubois and King.	https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2022/01/curtis-pond-dam-dam-safety-application-5-23-13.pdf
Summer/ 2017	Curtis Pond Association	First meeting of the Curtis Pond Association DAM HAZARD CLASS ASSESSMENT REPORT	Co-chairs Colleen Bloom and Heidi Thompson	https://curtispond.org/
7/12/2019	Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation	DAM HAZARD CLASS ASSESSMENT REPORT	This is a very detailed report done by Schnabel Engineering about 4 dams in Vermont (Carlton Reservoir Dam, Curtis Pond Dam, Kenny Pond Dam, and Southern Vermont Orchard Dam) for DEC	https://maplecornercommunitycenter.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/2019-vt-hazard-class-assessment-final-combined-072919.pdf
10/3/2019	Memo from Benjamin Green, P.E. Dam Safety Engineer, ANR State of Vermont	Inspection of the CPD on 7/19/2019	Overall condition of the dam is poor and permanent repairs should be made to the structure.	https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/10-3-19-visual-dam-safety-inspection-by-benjamin-green.pdf
11/5/2019	Presentation by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials in conjunction with the State of Vermont attended by Steve and Marge Sweeney	2019 Dam Safety Workshop for Owners & Operators	Workshop for those interested in dam safety. Topics include: -Introduction to dams -Your state's dam safety laws and regulations -Dam failure modes and case histories -Operation, maintenance and Safety Inspection of Dams -Emergency Action Plans -Public Safety, security and dam owner liability -Repair Projects: Hiring an engineer consultant, costs, and funding options	https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/10-3-19-visual-dam-safety-inspection-by-benjamin-green.pdf hardcopy and Damowner.org

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9/14/2020	CPD Exploratory Group	First meeting of the group	<p>Ad hoc group to try again to look into getting the dam fixed. All the same old topics investigated: ownership, insurance, who pays, but with bigger weather events and a more damaged dam, action is more critical than ever. This energetic group believes that together with the newly formed Curtis Pond Association, we can make it happen.</p> <p>We believe town cooperation and support is key. State is more willing to help than ever, but the State is not issuing new dam permits if CPD goes.</p>	
2/22/2021	CPD Exploratory Group/ Calais Select Board	Calais Select Board Meeting	Heidi Thompson and Marc Mihaly introduced the CPD Exploratory Group to the Board. See 9/14/2020 row, Summary column, for the topics presented.	
	CPD Exploratory Group/ Calais Select Board	Calais Select Board Meeting	Marc Mihaly and Marge Sweeney made 13 minute presentation to Select board (provided in two sections, presentation and select board response). Select board agreed to assign two members to act as liason, Denise Wheeler and John Brabant	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCVaX6bltq4
5/24/2021				https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXxgwFFQNV0 https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/curtis-pond-dam-slides.pptx.pdf
10/25/2021	Calais Select Board	Calais Select Board Meeting	Reviewed draft of MOU.	
11/8/2021	Calais Select Board	Calais Select Board Meeting	Reviewed revised MOU and approved signing of MOU after editing agreed to in meeting was completed.	
11/1/2021	Town of Calais and the Curtis Pond Association	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	A memorandum of understanding (MOU) documenting a path forward to the potential renovation of the Curtis Pond Dam between the Town of Calais and the Curtis Pond Association a Vermont incorporated non-profit association	https://curtispond.files.wordpress.com/2021/12/curtis-pond-mou-unsigned.pdf