



**August 6, 2025**

**City of White Cloud – Community Update**

***Special City Council Meeting – Tues., Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6pm***

**Dear Community Members,**

Following last night's Council meeting, I sent a follow-up message to the engineers and presenters who participated, requesting detailed responses to a set of specific questions that will help guide our next steps. I anticipate that their responses will form the basis of the City Council agenda for next Tuesday's meeting.

The questions submitted to the engineering firms include the following:

**Timeline for Phase One Presentation**

- When would your team be available to present Phase One options to City Council?  
(*Our regular meetings are the first Tuesday of each month—September 2 and October 7 are the next available dates.*)

**Scope of Phase One Options**

- What options would your Phase One proposal include?  
(*Examples: dam removal, rehabilitation, decommissioning, wetland conversion, funding strategies, etc.*)

**Duration of Phase One Process**

- How long does the Phase One process typically take from initial approval to completion?

**Insurance & Liability Clarification**

- From your professional standpoint, would decommissioning the dam and removing it from regulatory oversight reduce or eliminate risk from a liability insurance perspective in the same way as full removal?
- Can you provide examples or documentation from other municipalities where decommissioning mitigated insurance concerns?

**Firm Selection Confidence**

- Is there any additional information you would suggest I provide to City Council to support their confidence in selecting your firm for this work?



**Cost for Phase One Proposal & Presentation**

- What is the estimated cost for your firm to collaborate with the mayor and I to develop a complete Phase One proposal—including all options, recommendations, and cost estimates—and then present that full proposal to City Council?

Rather than advising the Council to proceed with a permanent decision at this time, I have expressed my intent to take the following phased approach:

- Request a formal Phase One proposal from qualified engineering firms, outlining all options, recommendations, and associated costs;
- Seek Council approval to allow the Mayor and I to meet with the selected firm to discuss Phase One scope, costs, and next steps;
- Coordinate a formal presentation of the Phase One proposal at an upcoming Council meeting, based on firm availability and timelines.

All three firms have agreed to provide responses to these questions prior to Tuesday's meeting.

Should the City Council wish to move forward with a permanent decision instead of this exploratory, phased approach, that option remains available by motion at the time a firm is selected. However, my professional recommendation is to proceed cautiously and ensure we are fully informed—particularly regarding our liability exposure, long-term costs, regulatory compliance, and opportunities for public input. I believe that the council will support my recommendation of doing this in a phased approach with all the information provided to them ahead of any long-term permanent decisions.

Thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to the future of our community.

Respectfully,

*April Storms*