1/23/2020 Riparian Owners Meeting Recap

I wanted to thank everyone for attending the meeting last night. Below is a list of comments and concerns that I wrote down. Please let me know if I missed anything and I will relay them to the project steering committee. Like I said last night, the steering committee meetings are open to the public and they invite comments from the public. The meetings are on the third Monday of every month at 8:00 am and are in the Hall of Fame room in the old City Hall building.

- How does restoration and maintenance work? Short-term and long-term
- Restoration should be easily maintained.
- Improve the shoreline at Veterans Park
- How does the water flow under the bridge work? Is the underpass viable?
- Will the water flow change?
- Ecological impacts on current species in the millpond.
- Vegetative buffer for Uniroyal. Preferably something that is year-round and tall such as evergreen trees.
- What is the impact on property values?

The Michigan DNR has a good document on dam removal, river restoration, and ecological impacts. On page 3 of the document it covers the ecological impacts on the transformation from a reservoir to river system. It uses the Fulton Dam removal on the Yahara River as an example.

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/ecodamrmvl_513770_7.pdf

There were a few questions about economic impact, property values, and new development. The Grand Rapids, MI economic impact report is more encompassing than the one we had done. The economic impact report that we had done only provides information on visitor spending for kayak paddlers. The Grand Rapids report provides information on economic benefits from new development, attraction and retention of businesses, etc. There was a question of these projects being in smaller towns. A good comparable would be the Siloam Springs, AR project. Siloam Springs population is 16,842 and is located in Northwest Arkansas metro which is a little over 500,000 for population. Siloam is targeting the outdoor recreation market with a large mountain bike park. The parks in Iowa are in much smaller communities than Stoughton.

Grand Rapids, MI Report -
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5617ffade4b0f733b489eab8/t/5e2a138c49c51041ac88a580/1579815831751/Grand+Rapids%2C+MI.pdf

Siloam, AR Report -
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5617ffade4b0f733b489eab8/t/5e2a13fb3e08b951a49b196f/1579815932877/Siloam%2C+AR.pdf