

Appendix B:

Public questions, comments and concerns.

Public Meetings: February 10, 2011 and May 12, 2011 Fontana Park, Hazelton, IA		
Priorities for ranking by attendees at meeting	Other concerns for dam removal/modification	Other comments
Good fishing and access for anglers	Lowering water level above dam	Changing water levels will change environment-fish will go downstream
Public safety/reduce drowning	Depleting water level upstream	Repair dam as needed
Boating downstream or upstream	Fishing	Build steps over dam
Preserving History	Erosion	Fish will not be concentrated
Flood Reduction upstream homes	Fish travel	Not deep enough water for boating
Preserving history	Concerns about fish and wildlife	Another cable across river as additional warning
Aquifer/well depth	Effects on shallow wells	Not all deaths on the Wapsie occur at dams
Motorized boating up from dam	Depth of water downstream	
Improve river for fish and mussels		
Stabilized structure/low maintenance		
Improving/preserving scenery		
Leave the dam in place		
Results: priorities varied with good fishing, public safety, leaving the dam in place, boating, improvements for fish and mussels were among the top five. Not in specific order		

Comments/questions	
Sediment issues	Depth and sediment-probe study was completed for the Littleton Dam impoundment by Interfluve and Iowa DNR. Little sediment has built up behind the dam. Because of a negligible amount it could not be quantified. If any is behind the dam it will be released with deconstruction of the dam.
Reduction in fishing/fish movement	Dam blocks movement of fish upstream resulting in congregation downstream of the dam. The pool riffle sequence of the structure will attract fish to the site. The rock may provide spawning habitat for walleye or other species.
Impact on shallow water wells	Construction of the structure at a 4% slope will maintain the upstream pool elevation. Shallow water wells are expected to remain unaffected. Low water conditions will have the same impact on shallow water wells as previous low water events.
Maintenance	The dam will require future maintenance by owner to stay up to dam safety code. The rock rapids structure will require little to no maintenance and will be the responsibility of the Iowa DNR.
Public safety/reduce drowning	Removal of the dam eliminates the hydraulic undertow created by lowhead dams
Fish and wildlife impacts	Rapids structure will pass a wide range of species and sizes of fish. Existing dam may serve as a velocity barrier unless completely submerged during high flows.

UAA Meeting 11/28/2012 Falcon Civic Center Independence, Iowa

Concerns about Littleton Dam

Note: Alternative selection at this time was going to be the ½ height riffle (Alternative D) with ~3 ft. drop in surface elevation. This was not the final alternative selected.

1) What is the benefit of the removal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminates fatalities• Fish passage improving overall river health and fishing, with a careful balance for preserving angling right at the dam area.• Improved angler access and aesthetics at the dam site.• Upstream, a river channel will return to portions of the channel that have become extremely shallow, creating a narrower channel but one with deeper flows.• Wetland habitats will included oxbows that are sometimes connected to the main channel, sometimes not. These can make some remarkable fish nurseries and waterfowl habitats.
2) Why isn't there more communication on this subject?	Large project like this take time. Undergoes scrutiny from DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Two meetings held in 2010 and 2011 at Fontana Park to get input from interested public. Alternatives narrowed to ½ riffle alternative and presented at May 1, 2011 meeting.
3) Has the impact on Littleton's fire protection (water source) been considered?	No. Please provide more information on that. Need to identify dry hydrants and make sure it is not affected or adjust the plans in some way to make sure there are no issues.
4) Has the environmental impact of removing the dam been considered (i.e., silt moving downstream, impacts to migratory waterfowl, impacts on wetlands)?	Yes. Given the extensive physical survey and analysis we have done, we do not expect significant volumes of silt to move downstream. Yes, impacts to migratory fowl, wetlands, and impoundment are being considered in the permit review process. T&E species are considered in review process, also. DNR staff recently relocated several hundred mussels from the vicinity of the dam. Example of the level of detail needed when doing a project on a river as special as the Wapsipinicon.
5) What is status of project?	Covered this in #1, #2, and #3 above
6) Seven different alternatives to dam removal are listed on the DNR website. Which have been considered? Why aren't they viable?	To answer question see Section 3 of the Environmental Assessment. Replacing the dam with the half height riffle is the project we selected (at that time in 2011-not final design selection). So far, selection appears viable. Building a rock-arch rapids/riffle without removing the dam was not workable or cost effective due to how wide the river spreads out just downstream of the dam. Removing the dam gives a way to keep the excellent fishing hole below the existing dam.
7) What will this do to the wells/water levels in the area?	Lowest flow pool is at elevation 913.5'. New pool elevation would be at 910'. Aware there are a number of wells in the area. Shallow wells are not necessarily lawfully permitted and we don't have the responsibility to maintain them. Some may go dry and it is expected that some landowners would pound in a new one. Deepwater wells won't be affected.

8) Has the economic impact to businesses/residences that rely on the dam been considered?	Project goal does not cater to specific businesses, but project objectives include leaving the area as a popular recreation spot.
---	---

Public Meeting August 29, 2017 Fontana Park Interpretive Nature Center Hazelton, IA	
Note: Final selection of full height rock rapids (Alternative E) (in-progress)	
Who will maintain the rock rapids structure? Can it hold up to flooding and logs moving down river?	DNR will have responsibility of maintaining the structure. Nature-like fishways are able to withstand floods. Little maintenance is needed for these structures, if constructed correctly.
Can ice fishing above the dam in winter still occur?	Ice fishing pocket will move from above the former dam upstream to fishing above the 1 st weir.
Will fishing hole below dam be maintained? Dissatisfaction with fishing at Quasqueton rapids expressed by several attendees.	Structure will be constructed upstream with last weir ending at former dam position. River current should keep sand and silt from accumulating in fishing pocket.
Comment of thanks to DNR for holding multiple public input meetings.	
Will a creel survey be conducted to see if fishing has improved once project is complete?	
Expression of displeasure against canoers/kayakers. Comment that these types of projects are catering to them.	Negative comments towards Canoers/ kayakers is not warranted. They bring in notable business to local communities.
How will kayakers get out at the end of the rapids?	Trail to be incorporated into proposed streambank work.
Comments made in relation to drownings at the dam. Impaired judgement from intoxication contributed to several deaths at the dam.	Littleton Dam is the 3 rd deadliest dam in the state of Iowa- DNR dam safety program has responsibility for addressing public safety at lowhead dams.
Will proposed full height rock rapids impact shallow wells in the area?	No. With the selected full height rock rapids, surface water elevations will be similar to existing conditions. That is the main reason why the decision to switch from the ½ height to the full height rapids was made so that wells would not be impacted.