MICHIKAN’S DAM REMOVAL MOVEMENT
A 20-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE
ASFPM
JUNE 22, 2016
TODAY’S TALK

1. Big Rapids
2. Story time
3. Show and tell
4. The hit list
5. Lessons learned
6. What’s next
BIG RAPIDS

- Accidental birth 1994
- Making friends at MDEQ, MDNR
- Public reaction
- Dam out in 2001
BIG RAPIDS

- Safety
- Public: sediment
- MDNR: fish
- USGS: margin of error
- City Manager, Engineer: career-ending possibilities
STORY TIME: HERSEY

- Existing spillway
- Historic Channel
- Dam location
STORY TIME: HERSEY

Downstream Prep

Upstream Prep

Pull the Goalie!
STORY TIME: HERSEY

Before

After
STORY TIME: MANTON

One piece at a time!

New channel, flood bench

Mature channel
STORY TIME: MANTON

Before

After

Before
SHOW AND TELL: CHESANING
SHOW AND TELL:
DIMONDALE
SHOW AND TELL:

NASHVILLE
OTHER REMOVED DAMS SINCE 2001

- Marshall Rice Creek
- Mt. Pleasant Millpond
- Plainwell Dam
- Dexter Dam
- Brown Bridge Dam
OTHER REMOVED DAMS SINCE 2001

• Grayling Dam
• Charlotte Dam
• Watervliet Dam
• Ceresco Dam
• 57 Total Removed
HIT LIST: LYONS
HIT LIST: HUBBARDSTON
ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK

- Boardman and Sabin Dams
- Shiawassee Dam
- Pucker Street Dam, Niles
- Frankenmuth Dam (GONE!)

Image: A scenic view of a river with a dam and surrounding landscape.
LESSONS LEARNED

• Devise a controlled drawdown
• Differential water pressures
• Don’t start anything you can’t stop
LESSONS LEARNED

• Deer love tree shoots
• Get before, during, after aerials
• River is cheap labor
• Synch removal with low flow
• Sediment management: back up the Brinks truck
LESSONS LEARNED

• Check for contaminated sediment
• eBay: history treasure trove
• Wetlands vs. no dam: no contest
• On-site inspection: read plans
LESSONS LEARNED

• Feasibility study and cost estimate before grant applications

• Rice Creek, MDNR, Non-Profit: get owner buy-in

• Rocks are expensive!

• Save some budget for year 2, 3

• Funding: be careful what you ask for

• Expect some opposition
WHAT’S NEXT: GRAND RAPIDS
WEB RESOURCES

Source:

Source: http://freshwaterfuture.org/