

Letters: Dredging news not so recent

by The Saginaw News

Wednesday May 07, 2008, 11:16 AM

Editor, The News:

The "recent" news of the disagreements between the Department of Environmental Quality and the Corps of Engineers has been around for years. The slurry wall issue was presented by County Public Works Commissioner James Koski years ago. And now it seems he and The Saginaw News are surprised.

Koski drew diagrams on a chalk board at a meeting at the Frankenlust Township Hall.

In attendance were officials from the DEQ, Corps, Zilwaukee and Frankenlust townships and others. The cost was an additional \$2.2 million. I know; I was there.

Bear in mind that the alternate site was not considered because it would cost \$700,000 more than the Zilwaukee site to put it there. I tried to save the taxpayers □\$1.5 million, but I guess I made too much sense for the government. The alternate site never flooded, nobody lives there, and it does not border a wildlife refuge. The Corps said the Zilwaukee site never flooded. Fact is that it was under 51 inches of floodwater in 1986. I know; I measured it.

The Saginaw News was presented our proof of the lies, deceit and deception years ago at your office. I know; I was there. The information never saw the light of day.

And your editorial implies that it is news to you. You knew this years ago.

The DEQ refused to discuss Dow Chemical's involvement at two public hearings. I had the documentation in hand, but they refused to hear it. Again, years ago. Why bother with a public hearing if they refuse to listen?

The DEQ admits that the flood actually occurred, but displacing 1.7 million cubic yards of floodwater won't matter. It did matter. Floodwaters receded as soon as the railroad grade gave way, draining the homes of water.

Given the relatively flat topography of the Saginaw Valley, the equivalent of 14 Pontiac Silverdome-sized swimming pools 4-foot-3-inches deep has to find someplace to go: Your house. Don't worry, the Federal Emergency Management Agency will take care of us. The FEMA permit

required was never approved. My most recent status report from the Department of Homeland Security (yes, I had to go over FEMA to learn this) was "pending, inactive." The required permit from DEQ was never posted either, as required by law. When the government breaks the laws, who enforces it? Nobody.

We the people are merely an annoyance to those in power.

Donn Rajaniemi

Zilwaukee Township