



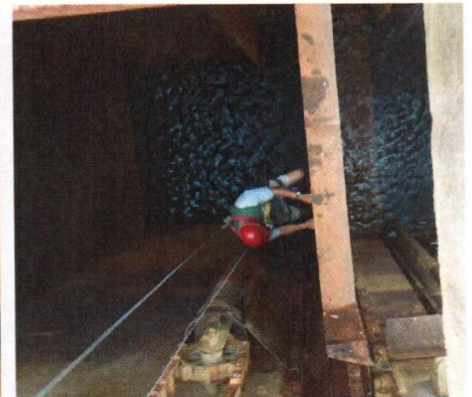
Press Release – July 10, 2014

The AGRED Foundation was formed to raise and use funds for scientific research and other activities in the field of conservation biology, for the purpose of securing the extension of habitat for all wildlife. Since taking ownership of the asset Lake Erling from International Paper (IP), the focus of The AGRED Foundation has been to raise funds for the maintenance of Lake Erling, which is estimated to be \$145,000 per year, including the pro-rating of major inspections (every five years), and replacement of gates located in the water control structure (estimated to be in 7 years). It must be understood that any asset such as Lake Erling requires maintenance, in addition to the fields of conservation and research that The AGRED Foundation was formed to preserve. IP took responsibility for this for many years, but found it to be increasingly costly and adverse to their goals.

The AGRED Foundation has asked its consultant, Ernest Cook, to gather local contractors and obtain estimates on what the replacement cost on the gates will be in 7 years. This is a large-cost item that we cannot put off. In 2013, the inspector made a judgment call, and estimated the gates would last 8-10 more years. We would like to have a completed estimate no later than August 1, 2014. Any contractor interested in preparing an estimate should feel free to e-mail The AGRED Foundation at theagredfoundation.tech@gmail.com.



Left: Backside of gate that needs to be replaced



Right: Ernest Cook inside the water control structure

Lake Erling is a significant wildlife habitat resource, and maintaining Lake Erling is well within the registered mandate of The AGRED Foundation. The AGRED Foundation is working very closely with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) to ensure that wildlife habitat is preserved for generations to come. In consultation with AGFC, The AGRED Foundation hopes to plant approved fodder crops while dam levels are low, in the hopes that wildlife will benefit from Lake Erling as a sustainable resource for all. During this time of lowered water level, The AGRED Foundation hopes to successfully plant, by plane, several beneficial food crops for the wildlife. This will not be funded through the Lake Erling Maintenance account. Funds will be exclusively donated by the directors of The AGRED Foundation. The AGRED Foundation intends lowering the lake by approximately 3 feet from current levels, for the purpose of concluding spillway inspection of the expansion joints on the upstream side that unfortunately could not be concluded during last year's major inspection due to a rapid rise in water levels..

The AGRED Foundation is attempting to raise funds through what the directors and advisors deem to be “the fairest means possible,” from landowners adjacent to the lake (who benefit most from the lake). These proposed lake easements and permits are not intended to be a financial burden on anyone, and certainly will remain within a reasonable escalation in the future. This will be linked to, and will not exceed, a nationally recognized rate of inflation for the previous year. Funds raised for the purpose of maintaining Lake Erling cannot exceed the costs budgeted by The AGRED Foundation, as this would jeopardize the immunity granted to The AGRED Foundation under the Arkansas Recreational Use Statute. The Directors of the AGRED Foundation are not drawing salaries (as is being alleged in social media communications) from the funds generated and deposited into the Lake Erling Maintenance account. All three directors continue to work pro-bono for the benefit of Lake Erling, the community, and preservation of all wildlife habitats.

We trust this article will allay the fears of Lake Erling residents, and give them a better understanding of what the goals of The AGRED Foundation really are. The Directors of The AGRED Foundation continue to personally fund maintenance operations of Lake Erling. It is not anticipated that revenue generated from the easement and permit fees will cover all annual costs associated with the maintenance of Lake Erling and the Directors of The AGRED Foundation will continue to fund this shortfall.