



November 10, 2020 Newsletter

We appreciate the support shown to The AGRED Foundation as we have continued to maintain and preserve Lake Erling, the wildlife, fishery and habitat for the benefit of the public. Specifically, we also appreciate those of you who have contacted us directly regarding Giant Salvinia (GS) with offers to help raise money to combat this invasive plant species.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide the public with a little history regarding The AGRED Foundation and the circumstances we currently face. Before The AGRED Foundation decided to assume ownership of Lake Erling, we elected to spend nine months conducting significant due diligence regarding what it would take to assume ownership responsibility of Lake Erling. Prior to the due diligence period, The AGRED Foundation and all employees were bound by a very solid legally binding Confidentiality Agreement signed with the previous owners of the lake. We determined that it was going to cost approximately \$150,000 per year to maintain the lake without making improvements. Given the major expenses we have incurred to just maintain the levy, change seals on gates at water control structure, repairs to emergency concrete spillway, change out siphon pipes that had rusted through, upgrade the boat ramp at AGRED Park, to list but a few, this number is significantly lower than actual maintenance costs incurred. However, over time and as we have done some major work since assuming ownership, we believe the \$150,000 per year will ultimately be in line with our original determination. Once it became public that The AGRED Foundation was the new owner of Lake Erling we then embarked upon an extensive survey of the structures built on AGRED property which is defined as that below the 225msl. Our objective was to get the public and local residents to help foot 75% of the estimated maintenance costs and the foundation would cover the balance hence the easement and permitting scheme all of which are consistent with state and federally owned lake properties. At the suggestion of a prominent person within the FOLEA organization (yes this was suggested to us by one of the founding members of FOLEA; the same person who has vowed to “bankrupt Eric Fletcher and The AGRED Foundation”) we also introduced a boat decal policy. Unfortunately, this policy was shut down by the

lawsuit filed against The AGRED Foundation by FOLEA. This case is now in appellate court in Little Rock as is the case with our lawsuit against landowners who build on AGRED property without a permit or easement. It must be known that where applicable the easement cost would not have exceeded \$50 per year and the average permit fee was only going to be \$156/year for structures built on AGRED property.

Bottom line - The AGRED Foundation has done what we considered to be fair so as to maintain and improve Lake Erling for the benefit of all. We have spent over \$178,110 in legal fees defending what we believe are our rights as the lawful landowner of Lake Erling. This is money that could have been well used for the lake. We are now faced with a landowner's rights issue and if necessary, we will defend it all the way to the highest court in the land. Our financial resources will be focused on defending our land rights as in our opinion this outweighs the importance of GS.

Having stated this GS remains a concern and we have decided, in consultation with AGFC biologists to lower the lake 8' to 10' in the hopes we will have a hard freeze this winter killing that which is left on the banks and God willing we have a really hard freeze that kills what is floating. At this time, we feel that this is the most cost-effective means of tackling GS. The gates will remain open until early spring when we plan to bring the lake level back to pool stage in time for the spawn.

We will be terminating The AGRED Foundation Face Book page at the end of November; all future posting will be on our website <https://agredfoundation.com/>  
Alternately, should you have any questions you can always contact the office (318)210-0451.