DAMS 10/03/16 A. SAUERWEIN

The Friends of the Kinni’s “Put the Falls Back in River Falls” campaign is starting to pick up speed. Here with the story is Ace Sauerwein.

MP3 RUNS 1:32 O/C: STD.

ACE SAUERWEIN: FRIENDS OF THE KINNI HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET RIVER FALLS TO REMOVE TWO DAMS LOCATED ON THE KINNICKINNIC RIVER SINCE 2013. THE CITY HAS AGREED TO A SHORTER FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION ON THE DAMS. FRIENDS OF THE KINNI SPOKESPERSON MICHAEL PAIGE SAYS THEY'RE ON TO THE NEXT STEP NOW.

MICHAEL PAIGE: THE CITY, WITH THAT EXTENSION, HAS STARTED THE KINNICKINNIC RIVER CORRIDOR PLANNING PROCESS. AND IT’S A BIG, HUGE, LONG TITLE FOR, BASICALLY, THE CITY HIRING A COMPANY. THEY’VE HIRED S-E-H, SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON, OUT OF ST. PAUL TO COME IN AND THEY’LL BE CONDUCTING THIS PLANNING PROCESS OVER THE NEXT TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

ACE SAUERWEIN: SPECIFICALLY, PAIGE WILL BE KEEPING HIS EYE ON ONE MAIN OBJECTIVE.

MICHAEL PAIGE: AS A PART OF THAT CORRIDOR PLANNING PROCESS, THERE IS A DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO MAINTAIN THE HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY. THEREFORE, WHETHER OR NOT TO REMOVE THE DAMS.

ACE SAUERWEIN: THE DECISION IS SET FOR FALL OF 2017. S-E-H WILL BE THE OVERSIGHT FOR THE ENTIRE PROJECT, BUT THERE IS ANOTHER OUTSIDE FIRM BEING BROUGHT IN.

MICHAEL PAIGE: FRIENDS OF THE KINNI HAS HIRED INTER-FLUVE TO CONDUCT A DAM REMOVAL FEASIBILITY STUDY. AND THAT WILL BE A STUDY THAT’LL BE CONCLUDED BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR THAT WILL LAY OUT WHAT DAM REMOVAL LOOKS LIKE AND HOW MUCH IT COSTS.

ACE SAUERWEIN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF RIVER FALLS BUDDY LUCERO SAYS THERE COULD BE ONE KEY NEGATIVE STANDING IN THE WAY.

BUDDY LUCERO: IT’S A COST ISSUE. ANYTIME THERE’S A, EVEN IN THE DEMOLITION OF A BUILDING THERE’S A COST ISSUE. YOU MAY NOT LIKE THE WAY A BUILDING IS FALLING APART, BUT THERE’S A COST OF TAKING THAT BUILDING DOWN.

ACE SAUERWEIN: THE QUESTION MARKS SURROUNDING THE PROCESS WILL BE SOLVED OVER THE NEXT YEAR, BUT UNTIL THEN IT’S A WAITING GAME. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M ACE SAUERWEIN.

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