

## What happened to Sweet Pond? (updated May 2, 2016)

In March, 2011, The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Dam Safety Section determined that the water behind the Sweet Pond Dam needed to be drained due to concerns about structural issues with the dam, and the potential for loss of life and property downstream should the dam fail. The drawdown was completed in April, 2011 after review by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and DEC.

The drawdown was conducted in a manner to minimize impacts to fish, reptiles, amphibians and birds that use the pond. The drawdown was carefully monitored to ensure that sediment transport was minimized downstream in Keets Brook and another pond. Some sediment movement has occurred as the stream cut through the old pond bed to recreate its original channel. Sediment control measures were installed under VT DEC Watershed Management supervision.

The water level behind the dam will fluctuate some, especially after heavy storm events or prolonged periods of precipitation. An instance of this happened during Tropical Storm Irene on August 28, 2011, when the pond re-filled to capacity, and again in February, 2016 when it partially filled. The dam and impoundment continue to be monitored by the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation and DEC.

### The future of the Sweet Pond Dam

FPR, after analysis and recommendation from the public, has chosen to repair the dam to restore the pond to its historic level. Dubois and King Engineering of Randolph, Vermont was selected via competitive bid to design the repair project. In addition, some recreational enhancements will be made if permitting allows. Design and permitting is expected to be complete in October, 2016 when construction will be put out to bid. Construction is expected to be completed in 2017.

### How do I find out more information?

Information on the dam is available on the FPR's website at

[http://fpr.vermont.gov/state\\_lands/management\\_planning/documents/district\\_pages/district\\_1/sweet\\_pond](http://fpr.vermont.gov/state_lands/management_planning/documents/district_pages/district_1/sweet_pond)

There is also a Friends of Sweet Pond Facebook group organized by local citizens.

Town of Guilford Town Office: **Town Office** (802) 254-6857



Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Springfield Regional Office

100 Mineral St, Suite 304

Springfield, VT 05156

Ethan Phelps: (802) 777-0388 or [ethan.phelps@vermont.gov](mailto:ethan.phelps@vermont.gov)