

Estral Beach gets \$200,000 from state for dike repairs

BY DEAN COUSINO

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Flood protection in the Village of Estral Beach got a shot in the arm with word that \$200,000 in state money is headed to the lakeshore community this fall to aid in combating flooding.

The funds from the 2019 state budget will be used to restore a 400-foot section of deteriorating dikes on the south side of the village off Lakeshore Dr. The section protects the lower end of the village, President Danny Swindle said.

Word of the funding came just as the village was taking another pounding from Lake Erie's high water Friday. Strong winds from the northeast helped raise lake levels again and push waves over the breakwalls Friday.

"I just got home from work and with the way the winds are blowing, I'm sure they're getting water in there," Swindle said Friday.

"It's the south end where the breakwalls are compromised."

Both he and state Rep. Joe Bellino, R-Monroe, agreed that \$200,000 won't go very far in addressing all of the village's flooding concerns, but it's a start.

"It's not a rich community with a levy like the Frenchtown Resort Authority," Bellino said Friday. "They have a lot of shoreline and the dikes are not in good shape. Some are 35 to 40 years old and starting to fail. They reached out to me and we got lucky. It's amazing we got it."

The money is from the same state spending plan that is targeting money to fix about 10 miles of S. Stony Creek Rd. in Ash, Exeter, Frenchtown and London townships. Like the Estral Beach grant, the road funds won't be available until after Oct. 1, the start of the state's new fiscal year, he said.



— Courtesy photo

A waterway in Estral Beach is shown.

time."

He said it's possible money will be spent to install sheet piling walls where the dikes are crumbling.

"Everybody has ideas where to spend it," he said. "We'll prioritize with the residents."

Bellino credited Monroe County Commissioner Dawn Asper with helping him write the request for the lakeshore grant.

The village council is slated to meet July 3, but that meeting could be moved to July 10 because of the Fourth of July holiday.

Swindle said the village council will get stakeholders together to discuss what to do with the \$200,000. He said a recent bid from a contractor pegged the cost of restoring the dikes at \$212,000.

"But that doesn't leave anything for other homeowners" who have to repair their dikes, the president said. "We'll sit down and discuss what our priorities are and come up with a plan. The south end got flooded out twice. We could do the whole 400 feet or a couple hundred feet at a