

PCB funds to be kept for dam removal

Trustees to study effect of taking away structure before deciding

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CLEMSON — Some money from a \$9 million PCB settlement will be reserved for possible removal of a third Twelve Mile River dam that supporters, including Larry Dyck, a riv-

er restoration expert who lives on the river, say is the only proposal that could clean toxic contamination from the river and Lake Hartwell.

"We're delighted with the outcome," Dyck said after a meeting Thursday between settlement trus-

tees and sponsors of the project that would remove the final impoundment on the river.

Trustees will provide some settlement money for further study of the condition and quantity of sediment behind the dam before deciding whether to provide funding toward removal, said Ross Self, freshwater fisheries chief for the state Department of

Natural Resources, the lead trustee agency.

The amount of money to fund the feasibility study will be determined after trustees and sponsors agree on a work plan, he said. Sponsors recently asked for \$300,000 for a feasibility study.

Trustees will reserve about \$3 million — a rough ballpark figure at this time — toward dam removal

pending the outcome of the feasibility study, Self said. Following hearings on the matter last year, U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr. recommended that \$3 million of the settlement go toward removal of the third dam.

Trustees also will move forward to finalize approval of recreational fishing enhancements that would be funded with the remainder

of the settlement money paid by Schlumberger, Self said.

An engineering study project sponsors discussed with trustees Thursday showed PCB hotspots in sediment along the river upstream from the dam. Self said trustees want to know more about the extent of contamination and quantity of sediment before making a final decision.