

**PAW PAW LAKE
SPECIAL LAKE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING
AGENDA**

In attendance: *Emily Short, Jim Fulton, Joe Stepich, Norma Somers, Bob Wallace, Bryan Duffield, Mary Spessard, John Dzimitowicz, Larry Protasiewicz, Mary's iPad, Lorraine's iPad, Bill Fahey, Andy Tomaszewski, Tom O'Donnell, Matt G., Ryan Holem, Brandon Williams*

1. PLM 2021 Work Plan/Contract

- *SONAR treatment in 2021 is recommended*
 - *A year end AVS survey is needed to provide guidance*
 - *The AVS survey on Paw Paw Lake was completed mid-September.*
 - *A SONAR treatment is only recommended if there is a 15% coverage of milfoil at a minimum.*
 - *Paw Paw Lake was at 20% coverage of milfoil*
 - *6 ppb is the target dose rate of the product used for a SONAR treatment*
 - *Cost per gallon has been reduced for 2021*
 - *Last SONAR treatment was 2017, since that time, spot treatments have been applied*
 - *Question was asked if a cycle could be developed for a 5-year plan. Meaning, that a SONAR treatment would take place every 5 years. Typically, SONAR treatments are on a 3-year cycle.*
- *This proposal will be taken to the township board for review*
- *Permits for SONAR need to be submitted to EGLE by January 1.*

2. Fishing

- *Update from Bryan: Conversations with Brian Gunderman and Matt Diana have been taking place. Discussions have been on the topic of improving Paw Paw Lake's fishery.*
- *Stocking discussion:*
 - *Walleye is choice of DNR – recommended number of fingerlings to stock per acre is 3,700 fish stocked on a bi-annual basis, which would be a \$10 – 12,000 investment during the year that the fish are stocked.*

- *Discussion of spawning habitat in lake. They like rocky substrates. There may be some areas to improve upon – solid bottom areas. (See previous meeting minutes that outline areas that may be good candidates for this work.)*
- *Consult with DNR or do a fish survey would be needed to discover how many fingerlings would survive.*
- *Considered hybrid bluegill.*
- *Amongst the group in this meeting, there was support for stocking fish; however, consideration would also like to be given to the native fish populations and how those could be improved upon as well.*
- *Bryan to organize fishing club coordination.*
- *Discussion on holding 1,850 Walleye fingerlings for Paw Paw Lake for the next stocking season*
 - *Most walleye fingerlings are already spoken for next year, so a decision needs to be made quick as to if there is agreement on accepting these fish or holding off until another year.*
 - *Need to take this to Township boards for review and approval.*

3. Branch & Derby Drain

- *Reach 5 and 6 of Branch & Derby Drain photos were shown*
 - *Work has been done in coordination with Paw Paw Lake Improvement Foundation (PPLF) and Intercounty Drain Board (IC Drain Board)*
- *Have not been able to install rip rap on Reach 5 of project yet*
- *Reach 5 financial assistance proposal*
 - *IC drain board can do \$30,000 per year for maintenance on the Branch & Derby Intercounty Drain.*
 - *IC drain board would like to do Reach 7 next year and use \$30,000 for maintenance work.*
 - *Possibility of \$7,000 from Townships (SAD) to finish the project on reach 5*
 - *Photos needed from Spicer to present to Township for reaches.*

- *Need a short contract that shows what SAD is agreeing to pay for as well as the outline of the work*
- *Would like to get the remainder of Reach 5 work completed this year.*
- *Can be on Coloma's township meeting agenda tomorrow.*
- *Paw Paw Lake Road Update*

4. Year End Reports

- *Water quality reports are anticipated to be ready the first week of December*
- *Lake has shown consistent levels of nutrients, dissolved oxygen, temperature.*
- *Clarity decreased slightly according to results*
- *Last lake sample event was October 22, 2020*
- *Lake remains mesotrophic – eutrophic*
- *Algal sample planned to be taken next summer at an area in the lake that tends to have algal buildup more frequently than other areas on the lake. Algae will be identified and management strategies may be developed from there. Contact information was exchanged – Andy to take the sample and ID.*

5. Cost Summary

- *Updated sheet given to committee*
- *Slightly higher than last year at this time*
 - *Due to additional improvement work*
 - *Hearing preparation.*

6. Dredging of Condo Area

- *Approximately 800 cu yds removed, at the cost of over \$40,000, owner asked if board would cover half of the cost of this.*
 - *This is a one-time only deal.*
 - *Dredging needs to take place every year*
- *Discussion of whether we should we pay for dredging this year or next year after the drain work is complete*

7. Drain work for Branch & Derby:

- *IC drain board will be in control of this – Makes more sense with permitting*
- *Set a set amount for dredging assistance*
- *Will discuss options*

8. Educational and Marketing Materials Update

- *Educational sheet on the lake is being produced*
 - *Michelle Moffit helps to put project together (printing, video, website, etc.)*
- *Drone video of lake*
- *Want marketing products ready to go in March*
- *Placement of educational materials in rentals, AirBNBs, Vrbo, etc.*

9. Other Topics

- *Concern regarding spring spawning of natural fish*
 - *Suggestion to post spawning/treatment overlay map from DNR on website*
 - *Application of treatment map, DNR shows areas where copper sulfate should not be applied*
 - *NOTE – Paw Paw Lake does not use copper sulfate in aquatic vegetation and algal management*
 - *Map shows possible areas of spawning...will be a part of educational piece – John to send Norma map for educational pamphlets*
- *Pointed questions for PLM, Spicer, GEI regarding profit margins, contract stipulations, legal items*