



SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
June 15, 2021, 4:00 pm Watervliet Township Hall/Zoom



AGENDA

Attendees:

Online: Bryan Duffield, Bill Fahey, Emily Short, Howard, Carl, Stan, Norma (Connection to in person meeting), Meredith Freeby, Andy Tomaszewski, Renee

In Person:

- *Coloma: Michelle Moffett, Marcia Armes, Bob Orsi and Charlie Pater.*
- *Watervliet: Bob Kempazynsh (sp?), Rick Hoffmann, Karen Hirsch, Mary Grabowski, Jim Grabowski, Tom O'Donnell, and Carla Thiede.*
- *SAD Committee: Norma Somers, Bob Wallace, Mary Spessard, James Fulton, Joe Pater*

Roll call, Introduce

Public comment time will be at the end of the meeting, please limit to 3 minutes, time is non-transferable., Response from the committee may be today or at a later date. Guests may record the meeting. Guests will be on mute during the meeting
Masks are optional for those who are fully vaccinated.

Approve minutes of last meeting *In the "Old Business" section, the educational program video is 11 minutes. Currently the minutes do not specify how long the video is. Motion to approve minutes with the change? Yes.*

Reports

Financial Year to date expenditures *Any questions about the financial expenditures to date?*

- *PLM bill was for treatment and follow up testing.*
- *Genesis web design was for redesign of website.*
- *No questions were asked relating to financials.*

Old Business

Educational program -update from Michelle Moffett, Griggzal Media

- *Next videos are going well. This include the autosampler training video and interview with Emily from Spicer Group.*
- *Finished a finalized draft of brochure (to be utilized at VRBOs, AirBNBs, and other rentals). The draft was passed around and overall, it was positively received.*
- *Cody Krieger is going to be the local point person for autosamplers on the Branch & Derby Drain. Cody was trained last week on the job site with Spicer Group. Training included where the samplers are located, components of the samplers, how the samplers work, and what to check for on the samplers when out in the field. The field checklist was reviewed line by line. This is the training that was documented and posted.*

- *Concern was raised about YouTube links that are on the website – Next recommended YouTube video will play after Paw Paw Lake content.*
 - *Question was asked if all the same recommended videos are shown for everyone after Paw Paw Lake videos and if there are always recommended videos shown after Paw Paw Lake videos?*
 - *The answer is that yes if you are watching on YouTube there are going to be recommended videos after the video that you want to watch.*
 - *The recommended videos are specific to the user who is watching the videos.*
 - *This is a YouTube setting, and will have to be changed by each individual user on their personal settings for YouTube.*

Educational brochure *The brochure is finished, was passed around to the board, and is in need of approval. The educational brochure is to be utilized at VRBOs, AirBNBs, and other rentals, so that when visitors come to the lake, they learn about the lake, its water quality, management, etc.*

PLM – timetable update from Andy. Sonar bump.

Update on SONAR.

- *Treatment was scheduled for May 4.*
- *Had to wait for the lake to stratify thermally so application time was pushed back to May 18. Thermocline set up at 13 feet.*
- *Was out twice post-treatment to check on treatment concentrations:*
 - *5.3 ppb after 14 days. At this concentration, there was no need for the bump treatment at 14 days.*
 - *30-day post-treatment samples will be collected soon. If needed, a bump treatment can be applied after 30 days. This will be determined in the field this week.*
- *Observations on the lake post-treatment?*
 - *Norma has sent a couple of photos to Andy. There have been many photos lately of the aquatic weed and algae problems and comments of the odor associated with the die off of algae and vegetation.*
 - *Milfoil on south side of the lake is still standing. The south side needs attention, especially the canals.*
 - *Sonar bump only in the southern area by the canals or something else for the weeds?*
 - *Per EGLE (Michigan Department of Great Lakes, Environment, and Energy), if you do SONAR in a given year, you can't use other treatment chemicals.*
 - *Will there be another 30-day water use restriction if a bump treatment is implemented? Yes, the usual posting of water restrictions (watering lawns, swimming, etc.) would have to be posted.*
 - *Since the concentration of chemical used is low on Paw Paw Lake, irrigation system use may not be interrupted by SONAR treatment.*
 - *Do concentrations of SONAR vary at different parts of the lake?*
 - *SONAR is similar to chlorination of a pool – it is not a spot treatment product. There was not a major variance in SONAR concentration lake-*

wide when last tested. At 7 sample sites, the concentration was around +/- 5 ppb.

- *Sherwood Bay has exhibited algal and aquatic vegetation issues before, similar to what is being reported now. Is there a current that pushes all the lake's algae to this area? An Eddy? Something that leads to relatively consistent algae and aquatic vegetation problems?*
 - *It was noted that some areas have stronger aquatic vegetation root energy than others. In other areas, root energy gets tapped and then they die.*

Volunteer Program changed to Water Quality Monitoring Technician, Cody Krieger Approval from WWTP for water quality testing for the drain project was granted. An agreement is being drafted.

Website update is completed.

New Business

Spicer—Drain project, including update on Drain Walk,

- *Drain walk with landowner was successful.*
- *Property owner had a few concerns about how the project would impact their parcel and the use of their parcel. The concerns were addressed, and the landowner was/is ultimately supportive of the project.*
- *Paperwork for drain project needs to be finalized. Paperwork will be sent over from Spicer Group to Bill for finalization.*

Flow Meter Proposal—Emily,

- *Multiple flowmeter options are being looked into including products from:*
 - *Teledyne*
 - *Hobo Onset*
 - *Hach*
- *Waiting on quotes from companies to come back. Outlined information about the pros, cons, monitoring capabilities and price for each flowmeter unit will be sent to the committee once price information is received from the monitoring equipment companies.*

Approve minutes via e-mail?

- *Feedback from public: By the time the minutes are put on the website they are about 6 weeks old due to meeting frequency being monthly, and the need for minutes to be approved at these meetings.*
 - *Perhaps the finalized minutes could be approved by the committee online for a quicker turn-around time? Any opposition to this idea? No.*
 - *Another option is to post draft minutes soon after the meeting, and then post finalized minutes after approval at the next committee meeting. This choice was approved by the committee and will be the protocol moving forward.*

More grants becoming available due to Covid infrastructure relief bill.

Proposed Recommendations

Flow Meter purchase *See notes in previous section.*

Public comments-- please limit to three minutes per person

- *Mary Grabowski: Attended a meeting in the fall last year. Mentioned that a green scum is frequently observed during warm weather periods. Last year Andy agreed to come check out the scum when it is occurring. It is occurring right now, however, Andy's phone number was lost, can the number please be given again? Yes, his office phone number is on PLM's website. Giving a personal phone number in a public meeting can lead to privacy concerns for the individual whose phone number is being shared.*
- *Rick Hoffmann: 16 years on lake*
 - *What are the metrics being used to define success?*
 - *What are specific targets we are trying to achieve?*
 - *What are the actions we are taking to achieve actual results?*
 - *What actions are we considering to address the bottomland sediment across the lake?*
 - *How do you measure the effect the weed treatments?*
 - *The above questions will be answered at a later date by the committee.*
 - *What is the impact of cutting weeds now, three-four weeks into the weed treatment? Is it better to cut them or rake them? Should the weeds be removed from the lake completely if they are raked or cut?*
 - *Do not cut and leave the weeds in the water. Sometimes algae is clinging on to the weeds. If you have weeds and are raking them, take them out.*
 - *When raking or cutting, milfoil breaks into fragments. Typically, these fragments become new milfoil plants, thus exacerbating the milfoil growth problem. However, since the lake has been treated with SONAR the fragments are not very viable and it is unlikely that they will grow to be new plants. The milfoil is treated by SONAR treatment like a shot – the treatment affects the plant's entire system.*
- *Carla Thiede: House has been in the family for 125 years*
 - *Has never seen lake as bad as it is now. Has observed heavy muck (some floating). Occasionally a pink slime has been observed with the muck. Photos were shown of these observations to the committee.*
 - *Additionally, what if a resident cannot physically rake the leaves, weeds or muck away from their shoreline? Can there be a voucher for someone to do it for them? Especially since maintenance like this is a constant, especially lately.*
- *? Carla's Neighbor: Have observed muck and weeds out 100+ feet from shoreline this year. Useful time for lake is 90 days, but due to 30-day water restrictions from treatments, use of lake is held back – 2/3 of the warm summer months are restricted due to treatment restrictions. Boats are cutting up and spreading the weeds.*
 - *Comment from Committee: Do not feel treatment is holding up usable lake time in the summer because there is only a 2 – 3-day period after treatment when you cannot use the lake for irrigation.*

Drought conditions can also have a lot to do with the lake's water quality and algal conditions. Algae treatments for the year are up 40% across the state. This is not the first time the lake has been like this. Back in 1960, the lake was more shallow, there was significant muck, weeds, etc. Weather can have a lot to do with it.

- Tom O'Donnell:
 - o *Reading material for everyone on the committee was handed out...Court documents, including the Open Meeting Act, among others.*

Inquired about performance bonds, questions and answers for the township clerk regarding projects over \$50,000.

Letter from his attorney to attorney Fahey outlining concerns about performance bonds and grants. Projected time on letter response from Fahey? The response time is influenced by the committee's approval for communication. Response likely by end of next week.

- o *Question for PLM on negotiation of contract price, when did this take place? PLM: Do not remember, as it a long time ago.*
- o *Last year at Watervliet Twp meeting, it was mentioned that there is a "relationship with PLM." Did this refer to a second agreement between Watervliet Township Board and PLM? PLM: There is not a second agreement with the township.*
- Marcia Armes: *Shared information about pilot algae treatment program on Lake Okechobee in Florida. It seems to be working well and may be useful on Paw Paw Lake too.*
- **Unknown:** *Is there a map that can be made that shows weed treatment sections in the lake relative to where people's homes are? Yes this would be helpful and we can work on it.*
- **Bob Kempazynsh (sp?):** *Has been on the lake since 1963, lives near Sherwood Bay. Saw the weed treatment boat go by. They appeared to be going 15 mph, treating 150 ft away from weeds. Spent 6.5 hours cleaning the mess at the shoreline. The weed observed on and around the shoreline is different – it's slimy and about 8 inches below the water's surface. Odor from decaying aquatic vegetation and algae is very strong and smells like septic waste.*
- Charlie Pater: *Is there another alternative for killing weeds in the lake or weed management? Also suggests finding a solution for the muck.*
- **General Comments (names were not clear):**

- *Does Paw Paw Lake Golf Course still irrigate by pulling water from the lake? If so, how much are they drawing from the lake, and how much has it impacted the water levels? In particular this year with how much drought there has been early on.*
- *Two companies in Michigan that do bioaugmentation, perhaps this should be looked into for the muck. Emily from Spicer has worked on projects with this type of treatment. If more information on bioaugmentation and the impact it has on the lake, is desired, Emily is willing to discuss.*

Next meeting date July 20, 4:00 Watervliet Township Hall/Zoom

Adjournment