



SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

May 18, 2021 4:00 pm Coloma Township Hall



Agenda/*Minutes*

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.

1. Roll call
2. Approve minutes of last meeting *Minutes approved.*
3. Reports
Financial Year to date expenditures *No Spicer invoices yet.*
4. Old Business
 - Educational program -update from Michelle Moffett, Griggzal Media *Currently the video is 11 minutes long and has much information about aquatic invasive and nuisance species*
 - PLM – timetable update from Andy. *Sonar treatment took place on 5/18/2021. Less product was utilized than anticipated. It will take a while for the vegetation to fall. The vegetation will likely not be remediated by Memorial Day but should be good by the Fourth of July.*
 - Volunteer Program for testing—Emily *Volunteers are needed for the autosampling program on the Branch & Derby Intercounty Drain. So far no volunteers have stepped forward. Volunteers responsibilities include checking in on installed autosamplers for:*
 - *Dead or functioning batteries*
 - *Evidence of animals*
 - *Chewed bubbler or suction lines (squirrels, chipmunks and other rodents)*
 - *Ants*
 - *Snakes*
 - *Spiders*
 - *Mice*
 - *Connection of bubbler and sampler lines*
 - *Sagging lines*
 - *Clean or dirty strainer*
 - *Desiccant saturation*
 - *Sampling program complete or incomplete**The plan is to have a two-part training day, where the first part is a PowerPoint shown indoors, and the second part is time in the field looking at the autosamplers/having hands-on experience.*

- Facebook---change administrator from Joe Stepich to Mary Spessard

5. New Business

- Spicer—Drain project, including update on meeting with Drain Commissioners
 - *Intercounty Drain Board meeting was held in early May.*
 - *The Intercounty Drain Board, made up of the Van Buren County Drain Commissioner, Berrien County Drain Commissioner, and Deputy to the Director of MDARD (Michigan Agriculture and Rural Development), reviewed the proposed drain project and approved the project unanimously.*
 - *The project will be carried out via Intercounty Drain rules and regulations, but will ultimately be funded by the townships, recommended by the Special Assessment Committee.*
 - *The Berrien County Drain Commissioner commended Paw Paw Lake and its residents for being active on lake improvement projects.*
 - *Next step is to meet with the landowner. Larry from Spicer is available to meeting late next week (Wednesday – Friday)*
- Flow Meter Proposal—Emily *The current cost estimate is \$2649 for the unit itself, shipping, etc. \$60 for mounting equipment for the streambed. The quote is for a Teledyne 700 series instrument that is cohesive with the software and equipment that is already in use. Two other quotes will be obtained and provided to the townships for review. The plan is to put the recommendation of the purchase of the flowmeter on hold until more quotes are available.*
- Website redesign – *Approved by both townships.*
- Stream live meetings via Zoom? *Agreed that this would be useful for both lake community members and consultants so that way travel and in-person attendance is not necessary, and perhaps more people can attend. Considered setting up a Zoom call station in either one of the Township Halls so it is always set up and ready to go for a meeting.*
- PPLF – Catch basin and Storm Sewer Cleanout *Storm Sewers have been identified and documented with photographs.*
 - *There has been approval to start a pilot project for cleaning within each of the jurisdictions: Berrien County Drains, Watervliet Township Drains, and Coloma Township Drains.*
 - *A question was brought up about funding and regulation of catch basin cleaning.*
 - *Within urbanized areas (an area determined by the census), catch basin cleaning is regulated by the Good Housekeeping component of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) framework.*
 - *Paw Paw Lake is not within an urbanized area. Regulatory framework and funding for the work will be looked into further.*

6. Proposed Recommendations

Flow Meter purchase *Put on hold for now.*

7. Public comments-- please limit to three minutes per person

- *Questions about weed treatment near Beechwood Circle:*
 - *There has not been a milfoil problem but rather excessive growth of a long, stringy, grass like weed (likely wild celery, Andy from PLM to confirm).*
 - *Also had algal blooms consistently last year, especially in the canal areas*
 - *Is there a way to treat the observed weed? If it is native, then likely no. There were some recommendations made about weed harvesting that can be done by local contractors, however wild celery can be very difficult to remove with a harvester due to its roots and the plant's structure.*

- *Request was made for more lake residents' contact information. It has been difficult for the Paw Paw Lake Property Owner's Association to reach people as their email list is short for the number of people who live, visit or have property on the lake. Any email addresses would be better than none. What's a good way to contact people with lake updates? E. Short to coordinate with B. Beddow.*

- *Recommendation that water samples could be run by the local Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). Contact Lonny Bennett.*

- *Questions regarding performance bonds, grants, etc. The committee will respond to these questions at a later date. Grants have been looked into for funding improvement work.*

8. Next meeting date June 15, 4:00 Watervliet Township Hall

9. Adjournment