



SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 17, 2021, 4:00 pm Watervliet Township Hall/Zoom



**AGENDA / *Minutes***

**Attendees:**

*Online: Emily Short, Larry Protasiewicz, Kyle O'Meara, William Fahey, Carl Spessard, Stan, Andy Tomaszewski*

*In Person:*

**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 *Approved.***

**Reports**

Financial Year to date expenditures *Is there a way to see what effort billed is part of contract and what is not? So far, all effort billed has been per the contract. However, when incurred, a separate invoice for additional effort beyond the contract (billed on an hourly basis) will be sent.*

**Communications**

- *Letter from Rick Hoffman – on behalf of Paw Paw Lake Association (PPLA). Would like more frequent reporting of water quality data, aquatic vegetation management, etc. Metrics need to be clearer than they currently are. Recommendation that questions asked during public comment time during previous meeting should be followed up on at the next meeting.*
- *Letter from Charlie Pater – Mary and Norma spent most of one day looking at drains within the Paw Paw Lake watershed with Charlie. Charlie wrote proposal for drain improvement effort and study.*
  - *There was an inquiry on whether the basin next to M-140 was cleaned out per Spicer recommendation. Answer: Yes, this was carried out through the Foundation.*
  - *Purchase farmland (near intersection of Hagar Shore Road and Paw Paw Lake Road) to control what is coming off the land – plant deep rooted plants, etc.*
  - *Detention pond at end of drain by the condos. Is it a good idea or a bad idea? If you can do this, will it reduce the amount of solids coming into the lake by a significant amount at this location? Is it worth it based off of data or is it not?*
  - *No effort has been made to see how effective the reconnection project would be.*
    - *It's a low-cost effort to improve water quality, with pre-data available and post-data that can be collected.*

- *Consider calculating how much sediment and nutrients will drop out of drain's water with the floodplain reconnection project.*
      - *How much removal is "good enough"?*
      - *Can be expensive to calculate and model out sediment and nutrient removal efficacy of a project before it's built. Is there a willingness to spend money on calculations/model that will provide an estimate?*
- *General Comments:*
  - *It seems like each lake improvement organization is doing their own thing, nobody's sure who's responsibility is who's. It seems like each group is tripping over one another and effort is potentially being duplicated.*
- *Statement from Township Supervisors: Ken Parrigin and Joe Stepich, supervisors of Coloma and Watervliet Townships, respectively, made a statement regarding recent Facebook posts, allegations of corrupt projects, and other recent statements made by members of the public. Both supervisors expressed support of the Paw Paw Lake Special Assessment District Committee's efforts and thanked the committee members for their volunteered time and effort and stated that it's wrong to make unsupported allegations.*

## **Old Business**

Educational program -update from Michelle Moffett, Griggzal Media *Michelle was not available during meeting today, no update.*

Educational brochure – printed and delivered. Also on website. Thank you to Joe Pater *Realtors and rentals are among the first to send out pamphlets.*

PLM – status of milfoil treatment *Was out last week. Saw 2 milfoil plants in whole lake during inspection. Many of the native species observed are doing well.*

- *The patch of milfoil by the Branch & Derby Drain mentioned in the last meeting is no longer there, it may have been coontail.*
- *Are in a monitoring and maintenance phase of treatment.*
- *Using newer prosilicor (sp?) and diquat dual treatment is being looked into. This could be 20% less expensive than current treatment methods.*

Flowmeter proposal – considered by township boards *Watervliet approved, Coloma approved recently as well.*

Response to public comment from July Meeting

- *PLM Contract added to website – all others were posted. Contracts were on website with the exception of Griggzal Media contract, but this contract is now posted too.*
- *Comment regarding muck – Significant muck remains near the bay. Upon review, the muck is composed primarily of the algae cladophora and/or lyngnilla, native aquatic weed coontail, and decomposing deciduous leaves.*

- *A closer look at the algae is being carried out by PLM*
- *Bioaugmentation was discussed – It was used on another lake project for sediment reduction – not for water quality improvement. Samples of muck need to be collected and inspected, as not all muck types are conducive to bioaugmentation. The example lake project also used aeration in tandem with bioaugmentation, as the bacteria need sufficient oxygen to survive. The example lake also has a mean depth of 4.9 feet.*

## **New Business**

### **Spicer—Drain project timeline**

- *Need signed agreement and still cannot get ahold of the landowner.*
- *An October bid time would be ideal. Do target mailing to local contractors.*
- *How much effort would it take to model effectiveness of drain project's sediment and nutrient removal? Is it worth it to write a proposal of how much it is going to cost to do this work? The committee could also do the calculations.*

## **Proposed Recommendations** *None.*

### **Public comments--** please limit to three minutes per person

- *Ruth – It seems like there's three lake improvement organizations with no coordination amongst the groups. If one project was already attempted and failed (pilot aeration program), perhaps there is not enough information for the new project (drain floodplain reconnection project) prior to it being carried out. Is it worth it? How much of yearly assessment is used in that year, and is there some kind of savings account? What do you do with excess if there is any? Thought the purpose of the project is to get rid of weeds. Is this program and are these projects worth it? Biggest bang for smallest buck? Is in agreeance with Charlie Pater's letter to the editor and agrees that township boards need to re-evaluate how SAD was formed.*
- *Rick – PPLA Board, worked on simple explanation of all three boards:*
  - *On website for PPLA and PPLF*
  - *Purpose is to reinforced measuring on an annual basis.*
  - *Sponsored event in fall with Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) and Blue Lakes, what their capabilities are and how they might complement what effort is already taking place on the lakes.*
  - *Interested in hearing what new technologies are available for aeration*
  - *Need smaller group sessions for three Paw Paw Lake improvement groups*
- *Charlie Pater – Gave proposal to board. Suggests to eliminate program or defer program for drain floodplain reconnection project. What can the drain project do? What about in times with heavy rain events? How much runoff, nutrients, sediments, etc. will be captured during these events?*

**Next meeting date: September 21, 4:00 Watervliet Township Hall/Zoom**

**Adjournment**