



SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
July 20, 2021 4:00 pm Watervliet Township Hall/Zoom



AGENDA / *Minutes*

Attendees:

Online: John Dzimitowicz, Rick Hoffmann, Carl Spessard, Andy Tomaszewski, Bill Fahey, Ryan Holem, Stu Kogge, Emily Short

In Person: Joe Pater, James Fulton, Tom O'Donnell, Norma Somers, Bryan Duffield, Mary Spessard, Bob Wallace, Charlie 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 *Minutes were approved, finalized June minute will be posted ASAP.*

Reports

Financial Year to date expenditures *Expenditures and work completed were reviewed. No questions asked regarding financials.*

Communications

- *SAD Committee representative was at both the Association and Foundation meetings. There was an agreement that all three groups are on the same page in the mission of preserving and protecting the lake.*
- *The Paw Paw Lake Association is working on a lighted buoy to prevent boats from running aground on various navigational hazards in the lake.*
 - o *One area that has been reviewed as a navigational hazard includes a potential Native American stone wall that is submerged. Discussion about its location in the lake followed.*
- *The Paw Paw Lake Foundation – working on the storm drain project around the lake. Storm drains are being cleaned out around the lake. With the cleaning of the drains comes the removal of sediments, nutrients, etc. that would otherwise flow into Paw Paw Lake.*
- *Partner with the Foundation and Association? There is interest in sharing information amongst groups so that no effort is duplicated.*
- *Consider a breakout group(s) to discuss various topics and project ideas for a deeper dive into the material. It is a challenge to cover every topic in detail at public meetings due to time and a need to cover a broad range of topics.*

Old Business

Educational program -update from Michelle Moffett, Griggzal Media

Educational brochure *Educational brochure was approved. To start, 100 forms will be prepared and placed in inns, rentals, Airbnb's, etc.*

PLM – status of milfoil treatment

- *Treatments are complete for the year*
- *Under the evaluation protocol, the lake currently has better concentrations of treatment material than expected given the time that has passed since the last treatment.*
- *PLM was on the lake on Monday, June 19 for the collection of 60-day samples. The results from these samples will be in by the end of the week. While on the lake, no large patches of living milfoil were observed, however, dead stems of milfoil were observed.*
- *Due to observations on the lake, no other treatments are needed, and the treatment project will come in significantly under budget.*
- *NOTE – While fishing, a property owner noted that milfoil was recently observed in the north bay that did not look like it was dying/dead. The patch was near a small island on the north bay.*

Availability of grants

- *New grants released by the State of Michigan for watershed projects, some of which Paw Paw Lake could meet their criteria.*
- *The State said they will award 10 – 12 grants*
- *Will review which makes the most sense to go after and which projects they will support.*

New Business

Spicer—Drain project timeline

- *In need of property owner signature to move forward with construction. Have reached out but its' been difficult to reach him.*
- *There's a possibility to move forward with bid in tandem with getting written approval from the property owner.*
- *If bids are put out now for construction to take place in the next couple of months, bids could come back high due to the volume of construction projects contractors are working on currently. In order to have lower bid prices come back, it is advised to be flexible on construction start date (i.e. construct between now and mid-May of 2022).*

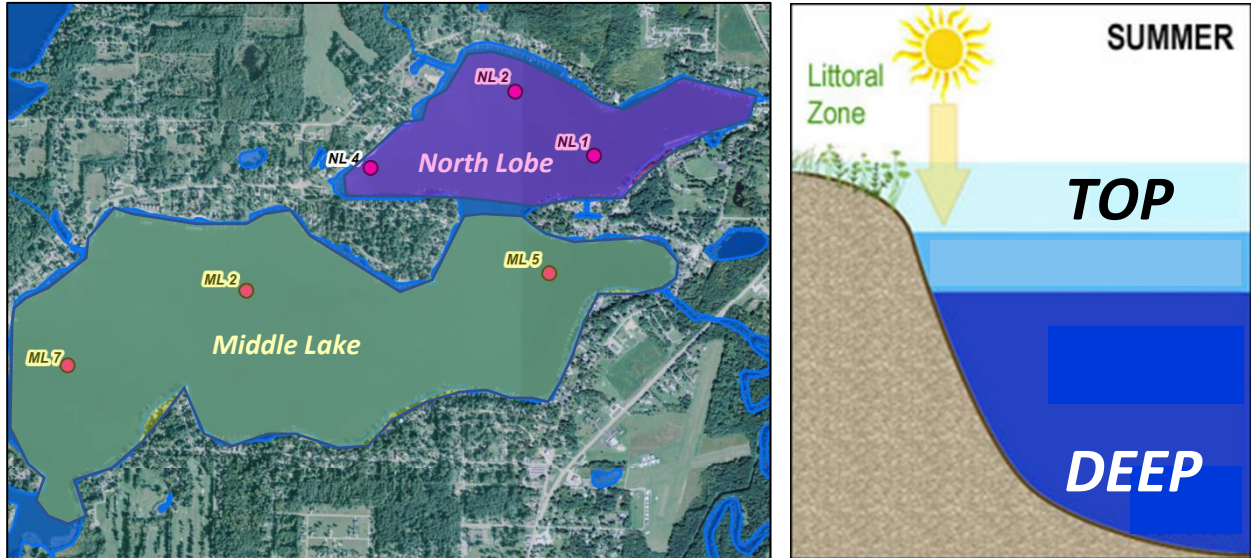
Flow Meter Proposal—Emily

- *Quotes were obtained from multiple water quality monitoring companies for a flowmeter that is appropriate for monitoring on the Branch & Derby Intercounty Drain.*
- *At least 5 quotes were obtained to compare:*
 - o *Cost,*

- Capabilities of equipment,
 - Ease of use,
 - Efficiency,
 - And practicability
- The two best would be:
- Hach Portable Flow Logger – This is the most convenient option of flowmeters, but also the most pricey. Does not need to be installed in the water, it is installed above the surface, and therefore can be installed year round, as it will not be impacted by ice. Data is sent to the web, so frequent field visits for data downloads are not necessary. Very similar model to USGS river gauges installed around the state.
 - Teledyne ISCO 750 AV Flow Module – Second most convenient option of flowmeters. The equipment is compatible with existing software and equipment installed in the field, is easy to set up and install. Additionally, the price is much more reasonable for the project. Data needs to be field-downloaded. This model is recommended for the scale of the project.

5/21 Phosphorous report information-Emily and Ryan

- Samples are collected at six sites within Paw Paw Lake. Three sample sites are in the “North Lobe” and three are in the “Middle Lake” areas. At each sample location, a sample is collected at the surface of the water and approximately 1 foot off the bottom of the lake, called “top” and “deep” samples, respectively.



- Total phosphorus concentrations measured in the month of May from previous years were compared to May 2021 results at these locations:
 - North lobe – Top
 - North lobe – Deep
 - Middle lake – Top
 - Middle lake – Deep
- Total phosphorus was higher at all locations in 2021 compared to 2019.

- *Total phosphorus in 2021 was lower in concentration at most sites compared to 2016 and 2017, with the exception of Middle lake – Deep.*
- *Concentrations of total phosphorus within the lake in May of 2021 were not out of the range of total phosphorus concentrations normally observed on Paw Paw Lake in the month of May.*
- *Meaning, an increase in total phosphorus is likely not the only culprit leading to the observed algal bloom in May. There are many other variables to consider, including seasonal lake turnover and surface water temperature, which was significantly warmer in May 2021 compared to previous years.*

Proposed Recommendations

Flow Meter purchase *Proposed to recommend the purchase of the Teledyne ISCO 750 AV Flow Module.*

Educational Brochure purchase *Proposed to recommend the purchase of the educational brochure.*

Public comments-- please limit to three minutes per person

- *John Dzimitowicz:*
 - *Talking about seasonal transitions observed in the lake is a waste of time and money, expressed feelings that Emily is not needed on the project.*
 - *Want to see results from SONAR water sample testing showing concentrations of remaining product in the water.*
 - *Why can't Prosilicor (sp?) be used on the lake instead of SONAR? Or 2,4-D? SONAR has gone down in price because people don't want it anymore.*
- *Rick Hoffmann:*
 - *Is looking for a metrics driven report, was pleased to see some metrics shown at the meeting today. Looking for recommendations to follow up on those and other results.*
 - *Two comments on lake improvement website:*
 - *Provide recommendations on the final reports presented on the website and would like to see a trendline over time after each sample event.*
 - *Suggest looking at an organic solution for Paw Paw Lake's sediments.*
- *Tom O'Donnell:*
 - *Asked PLM if they previously worked on Pine Lake in Indiana? They have not.*
 - *Suggested to hire a professional grant writer.*
 - *Asked if the concentration of total phosphorus in the middle part of Paw Paw Lake in May of 2021 was 100x higher than last year. Consultant answered that the concentration of total phosphorus in this specific location has significantly increased since the last time it was measured in May (2019). Actual percent increase could not be accurately calculated at that time, and the consultant will have that answer for the next meeting. EDITORS NOTE – Total phosphorus concentrations increase 184% from May 2019 to May 2021 in the deep (collected*

~1 foot from the bottom of the lake) samples collected in the “middle” part of the lake (the part of the lake that does not include the northern bay).

- *Suggests hiring a limnologist*

- *Charlie Pater:*
 - *Regarding the Branch & Derby Drain project: Wants to know the flow during major rain events, what’s going into lake and what is not once the project is complete. How much of the drain’s water will be siphoned off into the treatment area during rain events?*

- *Name? :*
 - *What are the goals of the lake project? Looking for more specifics than what is in the lake management plan.*
 - *Black muck near property has reduced since the last meeting, however, it is still present. What is it, and what can be done about it?*
 - *Sample will be collected by Norma and given to consultants for identification and recommendations for what can be done about it.*

- *General comments by crowd:*
 - *Wake boats are causing major issues – drive too close to shore in shallow areas, which stirs up bottom sediments, algae, weeds, etc. Lake is cloudy after a busy day weekend.*

Next meeting date August 17, 4:00 Watervliet Township Hall/Zoom

Adjournment