

Colon Township Lake Board Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2026

Colon Township Hall, Colon, MI

1. Call to Order: Chairman J. Borgert called meeting to order at 10:04 AM  
Motion by J. Crawford & second by J. Wenzel to approve the agenda. All yes, Motion Carried.
2. Roll Call Board Members Present: E. Bell, J. Borgert, J. Crawford, T. Tenney, J. Wenzel. Absent: T. Conklin
3. Roll Call Advisory Committee Members Present: E. Bell, J. Borgert, J. Crawford, T. Tenney, D. Schneider. Absent: G. Costello, P. Camper, R. Gentz, S. Charles, T. Taylor.
4. Motion by J. Wenzel & second E. Bell to approve minutes of September 13, 2025 meeting. All yes, Motion carried.
5. There was no discussion about the Long Lake representative appointment to the Lake Board.
6. J. Borgert read account balances as of 3/31/26. Checking has a balance of \$5,452.22. CD has a balance of \$289,668.26. Money market has a balance of \$73,072.45. Motion by E. Bell & second by T. Tenney to accept the financial report ledger as presented. All yes, Motion carried.

CHECKING

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
09/01/2025	Beginning Balance			\$ 4,308.79
09/16/2025	transfer to cover bills		\$ 32,900.00	\$ 37,208.79
09/22/2025	#1248 to PLM for Phycomycin	\$ 29,825.00		\$ 7,383.79
09/24/2025	#1250 to City of Three Rivers	\$ 540.00		\$ 6,843.79
09/30/2025	Interest		\$ 24.60	\$ 6,868.39
09/30/2025	#1247 for P.O. Box	\$ 60.00		\$ 6,808.39
10/21/2025	transfer to cover bills		\$ 9,292.50	\$ 16,100.89
10/27/2025	#1254 to PLM	\$ 5,347.50		\$ 10,753.39
10/29/2025	#1252 to City of Three Rivers	\$ 945.00		\$ 9,808.39
10/31/2025	Interest		\$ 19.23	\$ 9,827.62
10/31/2025	#1255 to Progressive Companies	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 6,827.62
11/18/2025	#1251 Laggis Fish Farm	\$ 6,587.50		\$ 240.12
11/28/2025	Interest		\$ 8.13	\$ 248.25
12/24/2025	Deposit		\$ 8,657.81	\$ 8,906.06
12/24/2025	#1256 City of Three Rivers	\$ 495.00		\$ 8,411.06
12/31/2025	Interest		\$ 5.03	\$ 8,416.09
01/14/2026	#1257 to Progressive Companies	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 5,416.09

01/30/2026	Interest	\$	13.80	\$	5,429.89
02/27/2026	Interest	\$	10.41	\$	5,440.30
03/31/2026	Interest	\$	11.92	\$	5,452.22
				\$	5,452.22
03/31/2026	<b>Ending Balance</b>			\$	<b>5,452.22</b>

**BILLS SUBMITTED TO BE PAID**

04/13/2026	Long Lake Permit paid in March but not cleared	\$	1,850.00		
04/13/2026	Palmer Lake Permit paid in March but not cleared	\$	1,000.00		
04/13/2026	Lepley Lake Permit paid in March but not cleared	\$	225.00		
04/13/2026	Progressive Compainies quartler fee	\$	3,000.00		
				<b>BILLS TO BE PAID:</b>	<b>\$ 6,075.00</b>

CD

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
08/01/2025	Beginning Balance			\$ 330,628.85
09/14/2025	Interest		\$ 3,350.13	\$ 333,978.98
09/15/2025	Withdrawal	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 283,978.98
12/14/2025	Interest		\$ 2,846.17	\$ 286,825.15
03/14/2026	Interest		\$ 2,843.11	\$ 289,668.26
03/31/2026	<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$ 289,668.26</b>

MONEY MARKET

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
09/01/2025	Beginning Balance			\$ 5,724.96
09/15/2025	Transfer from CD		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 55,724.96
09/16/2025	Transfer to pay bills	\$ 32,900.00		\$ 22,824.96
09/30/2025	Interest		\$ 33.54	\$ 22,858.50
10/21/2025	Transfer to pay bills	\$ 9,292.50		\$ 13,566.00
10/31/2025	Interest		\$ 41.53	\$ 13,607.53
11/28/2025	Interest		\$ 26.10	\$ 13,633.63
12/31/2025	Interest		\$ 30.82	\$ 13,664.45

01/13/2026	Assessment deposit	\$ 9,850.00	\$ 23,514.45
01/30/2026	Interest	\$ 40.22	\$ 23,554.67
02/12/2026	Assessment deposit	\$ 16,352.28	\$ 39,906.95
02/24/2026	Assessment deposit	\$ 14,100.00	\$ 54,006.95
02/27/2026	Interest	\$ 66.96	\$ 54,073.91
03/30/2026	Assessment deposit	\$ 6,775.00	\$ 60,848.91
03/30/2026	Assessment deposit	\$ 12,089.91	\$ 72,938.82
03/31/2026	Interest	\$ 133.63	\$ 73,072.45
03/31/2026	<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 73,072.45</b>

## 7. Old Business

- a) P. Hausler from Progressive Companies reported that the watershed management grant applied for by the Matteson Lake Association has not been decisioned yet. P. Hausler believes the decision will happen soon. J. Borgert reminded the board that we approved supporting the Matteson Lake Association with \$25,000.00 if the grant is approved.
- b) E. coli results from fall 2025 were emailed to all board members and were not read today.
- c) The DNR stocked about 1,800 6"-9" Walley in Palmer Lake. The lake board supplemented that stocking with 450 6"-9" Walley in Palmer Lake and 675 6"-9' Walley in Long Lake. T. Tenney witnessed the stocking last fall.
- d) The 2025 plant inventory showed 16 plant species in Palmer Lake and 17 plant species in Long Lake. 9.2% of the littoral zone in Palmer Lake and 14.7% of the littoral zone in Long Lake have plant growth. This is an improvement from the 2024 inventory which showed 0.4% coverage in Palmer Lake and 3.4% coverage in Long Lake. This is an improvement, but the biomass of the plants is still extremely low. There were 3 exotic plant species found in the lakes, but they were not the most prevalent plant species.

## 8. New Business

- a) A. Tomaszewski from PLM presented a proposal to treat Long and Palmer Lakes with EutroSORB WC. EutroSORB WC is a rare earth element that binds with phosphorous and strips the phosphorous from the water column and allows it to settle on the bottom of the lake to help reduce internal phosphorous loading. This is not a herbicide or plant treatment. The goal of this treatment would be to improve water clarity so rooted plants could grow and compete with the algae for the remaining available phosphorous. A. Tomaszewski suggested doing the first treatment in late June 2026 and then a follow up treatment, if needed in mid to late July 2026. Treatments would take place in the water column with at least a 10 foot depth. There are no water use restrictions with the use of this product. A. Tomaszewski and P. Hausler both felt this type of treatment has promise, but as with all treatments, there are no guarantees. The cost for two treatments on Palmer Lake is \$85,700.00 and \$46,650.00 on Long Lake.
- b) P. Hausler presented two budget proposals for the 2027-2031 new assessment years. The current budget is \$76,100.00. Proposal 1 includes fully funding the EutroSORB WC project starting in 2026 and continuing with those treatments each year and reducing the exotic plant control program to reflect an average cost of the exotic plant control program from the last 5 years. This option leaves the reserve funds in place for larger projects in the watershed that could be far more expensive. This budget is \$201,500.00 and would increase assessments to \$264.00 per year for waterfront properties, \$132.00 per year for back lots, \$330.00 per year for commercial and industrial properties, and \$3,000.00 for the Village of

Colon, Township of Colon, and St. Joseph Counties. Option 2 includes fully funding the EutroSORB WC project in 2026 and using reserve funds to continue with treatments for the rest of the 5 year assessment on a reduced basis by either treating lakes on a rotating basis or using less product in each lake annually. This option would leave funds in reserve for larger projects in the watershed that could be far more expensive. The budget for this proposal is \$133,500.00 and would increase assessments to \$172.00 per year for waterfront properties, \$86.00 per year for back lots, \$215.00 per year for commercial and industrial properties, and \$2,500.00 for the Village of Colon, Township of Colon, and St. Joseph County. J. Borgert asked if there were other options available if the EutroSORB WC treatment does not work and P. Hausler said possibly, but they are larger scale projects involving the watershed and would be significantly more expensive. P. Hausler and J. Wenzel reminded the board that the new assessment amount is a maximum that can be assessed, but the board would be able to adjust the assessment lower annually based on needs. There was some discussion about including properties on the creeks in the assessment district. J. Wenzel said that is possible but would require public hearings and may result in lawsuits challenging the new assessment district. J. Wenzel said recent judgments have not been favorable for inclusion of those types of properties. P. Hausler said the lowest lake board assessment his office sees is about \$150.00 per year for waterfront properties. T. Tenney thought a large increase in the assessment would be a hard sell for community members because the lake board has not shown good results in recent years. J. Wenzel asked if SeaPRO would be willing to give us a guarantee that the product would work and provide a refund for the cost of the product if it does not work. P. Hausler said he would approach SeaPRO to ask about a guarantee. J. Borgert said there is enough money in our reserve funds to treat both lakes this year under our current budget structure but said all reserve funds would be used up in year 4 if reduced treatments were done each year as in proposal #2 from P. Hausler. J. Borgert said the assessment roles are being prepared and should be available soon. P. Hausler said he will publish the hearing date and time in the Sentinel Paper at least 20 days prior to the hearing and will send first class letters to everyone in the proposed district at least 10 days prior to the hearing. J. Wenzel suggested posting the notice on our website, the newspaper, and mailing. J. Wenzel said it is also very important that any notices returned to the board should be saved to prove an attempt was made to notify. A discussion was had regarding the amount of the new assessment. All board members agreed that option one that increased the assessment amount to \$264.00 per waterfront was not possible. T. Tenney said the economy is not great and people in struggling in the community with the increased cost of living but would support \$172.00 per waterfront if the EutroSORB WC treatment is successful. E. Bell said he supports an increase but cautioned that the amount needs to be results driven and should not overly tax residents. J. Wenzel said he can support leaving the assessment at \$100.00 per waterfront or increasing the assessment to \$172.00 with a reduction to the at large assessments for the Village of Colon, Township of Colon, and St. Joseph County. J. Borgert said the lakes and the Walleye stocking program bring in a lot of people and feels that is a direct benefit to the Village, Township, and County and thought the increased at large assessment was warranted. J. Borgert also said he supported leaving the waterfront assessments at \$100.00 per year.

Motion by J. Crawford and second by T. Tenney to approve the EutroSORB WC treatment on both lakes. Continued discussion was had about a warranty from SeaPRO. J. Wenzel said he could not support the treatment without asking about a warranty. A roll call vote was held. J. Borgert-NO, J. Wenzel-NO, E. Bell-NO, J. Crawford-YES, T. Tenney-YES. Motion Failed.

Motion by J. Borgert and second by T. Tenney to ask P. Hausler to approach SeaPRO about a guaranty for the use of EutroSORB WC. All yes. Motion carried. Further discussion was had about the assessment amount for 2027 – 2031. J. Crawford suggested \$150.00 per

waterfront, \$75.00 for back lots, \$175.00 for commercial/industrial properties and \$2,500.00 for the village, township and county.

Motion by J. Wenzel and second by J. Crawford to assess waterfront property at \$150.00, back lots at \$75.00, commercial/industrial properties at \$175.00 and the village, township and county at \$2,000.00 starting in 2027. The motion also includes adjusting the assessment amount annually after evaluating the reserve funds held and cost of future projects. Roll call vote E. Bell-YES, T. Tenney-YES, J. Wenzel-YES, J. Borgert-YES, J. Crawford-YES. Motion Carried.

- c) The assessment roll is being updated by the township and should be available in the coming weeks.
- d) Topics for the newsletter include calendar of events, updated mission statement, E-coli testing, fish stocking, finances, wake boat legislation, EutroSORB WC for phosphorous treatment, assessment district hearing 6/13 9:30 at the Colon Township Fire Barn, water level control done by village, DNR fish survey to be presented at the July meeting. J. Crawford & T. Taylor to create newsletter for approval in April so PLM can incorporate their treatment notice with the newsletter.
- e) The budget for next year will continue to be discussed and adjusted as the board decides on the new assessment amount.
- f) E. coli sampling will start in April. T. Tenney, J. Borgert, and E. Bell will collect samples for testing each month through October unless high E. coli levels are detected in either lake.
- g) M. Diana from the DNR will be at the July lake board meeting to present results of the last fish study.
- h) J. Whiting voiced concerns about the lake levels over the last several years. He said his dock has been underwater several times over the last two months. J. Crawford also said his dock and seawall had been under water in the last two months. J. Wenzel said the village is responsible for the dam control. J. Wenzel also said he will continue to monitor the dam and try to assist the village. J. Borgert said the legal lake level is 850.3 in the winter and 850.7 in the summer.
- i) Motion by J. Crawford & second by J. Wenzel, to adjourn at 12:28. All yes, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Crawford  
Colon Lake Board Secretary