

Colon Township Lake Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2025
Colon Township Hall, Colon, MI

1. Call to Order: Chairman J. Borgert called meeting to order at 10:10 AM
Motion by T. Conklin & second by J. Wenzel to approve the agenda. All yes, Motion Carried.
2. Roll Call Board Members Present: J. Borgert, T. Conklin, J. Crawford, T. Tenney, J. Wenzel. Absent: E. Bell.
3. Roll Call Advisory Committee Members Present: J. Borgert, S. Charles, G. Costello, J. Crawford, P. Camper, R. Gentz, T. Taylor, T. Tenney. Absent: E. Bell, D. Schneider.
4. Motion by J. Wenzel & second T. Tenney to approve minutes of August 9, 2025 meeting. All yes, Motion carried.
5. J. Borgert read account balances as of 8/31/25. Checking has a balance of \$4,308.79. CD has a balance of \$330,628.85. Money market has a balance of \$5,724.96. Motion by T. Tenney & second by J. Wenzel to accept the financial report ledger as presented. All yes, Motion carried.

CHECKING

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
08/01/2025	Beginning Balance			\$ 4,287.29
08/11/2025	transfer to cover bills		\$ 46,885.00	\$ 51,172.29
08/15/2025	#1246 to PLM	\$ 46,390.00		\$ 4,782.29
08/19/2025	#1245 City of Three Rivers	\$ 495.00		\$ 4,287.29
08/31/2025	Interest		\$ 21.50	\$ 4,308.79
08/31/2025	Ending Balance			\$ 4,308.79

BILLS SUBMITTED TO BE PAID

09/15/2025	P.O. Box			\$ 60.00
09/15/2025	E.coli samples to City of Three Rivers			\$ 540.00
09/15/2025	PLM for Phycomycin treatment			\$ 29,825.00
09/15/2025	Laggis Fish Farm credit from last year (check voided)			\$ (4,112.50)
09/15/2025	Lggis Fish Farm for Walleye stocking			\$ 6,587.50
BILLS TO BE PAID:				\$ 32,900.00

CD

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
08/01/2025	Beginning Balance			\$ 330,628.85

		\$ 330,628.85
		\$ 330,628.85
		\$ 330,628.85
		\$ 330,628.85
08/31/2025	Ending Balance	\$ 330,628.85

MONEY MARKET				
Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
08/01/2025	Beginning Balance			\$ 52,566.56
08/11/2025	Transfer to cover bills	\$ 46,885.00		\$ 5,681.56
				\$ 5,681.56
08/31/2025	Interest		\$ 43.40	\$ 5,724.96
08/31/2025	Ending Balance			\$ 5,724.96

6. Old Business

- a) Andy T. from PLM reviewed the phycomycin treatments done on Long Lake. There was frequent monitoring done starting at the end of May until the algal counts reached 20,000 ppm which happened around July 25th. Andy T. had to work with EGLE to get the permit adjusted because the type of algae present was not limnithrix as anticipated. The first phycomycin treatment was done 7/29 with frequent water samples taken before and after the treatment. A second treatment was done 8/5 again with water samples taken before and after. There was significant algae reduction from the treatments, but the water clarity did not reach the desired levels. Dr. Bishop from SePRO believes the small size of plantolyngbya algae that is present in the water used up the phycomycin at a faster rate than the anticipated limnithrix algae would have. Andy T. said the recommendation from Dr. Bishop was to treat the algae with a copper sulfate, however, Andy T. does not think EGLE will approve the use of copper sulfate on a large scale. J. Borgert asked about potentially trying to treat the South end of Palmer Lake. Andy T. said he would try to discuss that option with EGLE but he was not very confident that he could get approval because the treatment was not successful on Long Lake. There was some discussion about trying to reduce/remove the gizzard shad from the lakes. Paul H. from Progressive companies thought the only option for that would be trapping and removing them which would be very expensive. J. Borgert asked Andy T. to keep researching possible treatment options. Andy T. said he did not believe the algae present in the lakes creates any danger to humans or animals. Andy T. informed the board that PLM intends to be on the water on 9/17 to do water quality surveys, treat the lilly pads for boating access in the channel, and take another algal sample.
- b) T. Tenney read Sechi disk readings from Palmer Lake done 9/8. There was 3 feet of clarity at the beach and similar values at other locations as well.
- c) Andy T. from PLM did not have any treatment suggestions or changes for next year. Andy T. said he would continue to consult with Progressive Companies and SePRO on potential treatment options.

7. New Business

- a) PLM will be on the lakes on 9/17 to treat the lilly pads for the access channels on the Palmer Lake Channel.
- b) T. Tenney reviewed the latest E.coli test results. The lakes continue to be in the safe to swim range. Little Swan Creek continues to have elevated E.coli levels. The lab in Three Rivers did not have enough slides to test all the sample so 3 sites were not tested.
Motion by J. Crawford & Second by J. Wenzel to do one more round of E.coli testing in early October. All yes, Motion carried.
- c) J. Crawford reviewed the presentation made by Larry and Wilson from the Matteson Lake Association regarding their application for a planning grant on Little Swan Creek with hopes of getting a watershed management plan in the future. Lary said the Branch County Conservation District is heading up the application process. The grant application is for a \$180,000.00 budget and \$25,000.00 in monitoring costs. The Matteson Lake Association is including \$28,000.00 in volunteer time and \$25,000.00. The Matteson Lake Association is looking for the lake board to write a letter of support for their application, allow Progressive Companies to share our study data with them, pledge \$25,000.00 in matching funds, and provide volunteers to help with the collection of samples. Paul H. from progressive companies said he supports the application and thought the lake board should provide the requested support. J. Wenzel thought the grant application is a good idea but also cautioned that there is not a lot of money available for implementation grants. J. Borgert said there is a chance to spend a lot of money without any guaranty. J. Crawford asked if supporting the grant application would help with water quality in the long term and be a better way to spend money than treating the algal bloom in the lake.
Motion by J. Crawford & second by T. Conklin to support the Matteson Lake Association's grant application by allowing them to have access to our study data, write a letter of support for the grant application, offer time/labor for the study, and contribute \$25,000.00. All yes, motion carried.
- d) Paul H. from Progressive Companies reviewed the Little Swan Creek watershed project and plant density/type on both lakes at the advisory committee meeting. Paul said the growing season had a slow start because of the cold spring. Overall treatment areas on both lakes was low this year. During the July survey Progressive Companies found more diverse plant growth by species in both lakes this year. The increase was significant but still lower than desired. Many of the species found were native plants. Paul H. felt Little Swan Creek contributes more water quality issues than Big Swan Creek. Both Creeks were in better condition than expected. P. Camper asked if the Army Corp. of Engineers would be able to assist with improving the watershed. Paul H. believed there is significant effort in place, but the results have not come from that effort.
- e) Paul H. reviewed his proposed budget for discussion. Paul H. is proposing a \$148,500.00 annual budget which would be about \$190.00 per property in the district. The budget includes \$60,000.00 for aquatic plant control, \$60,000.00 for an algal reduction program, and \$48,500.00 for consulting, monitoring, administration, and contingency funds. Further discussion will be had over the winter and Andy T. and Paul H. will assist the board at the April meeting to set up the required public hearing for the assessment. The board intends to have the assessment hearing at the June 2026 meeting.
- f) No public comments.
Motion by J. Crawford & second by T. Conklin to allow J. Borgert to pay bills over the winter up to \$25,000.00. All yes, motion carried.
- g) 2026 lake board meetings are scheduled for April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, and September 12. All meetings are scheduled to be held at the Colon Township Hall at 10:00 a.m. Public welcome.
- h) Motion by T. Tenney & second by T. Conklin, to adjourn at 11:43. All yes, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Crawford
Colon Lake Board Secretary