

Colon Township Lake Board Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2023

Colon Township Hall, Colon, MI

1. Call to Order: Chairman Borgert called meeting to order at 10:10 AM
Approval of agenda by Tenney/Bell, all yes
2. Roll Call Board Members Present: Borgert, Bell, Conklin, Crawford, Tenney, Wenzel. Absent: None
3. Roll Call Advisory Committee Members Present: Bell, Borgert, Camper, Charles, Crawford, Tenney. Absent: Costello, Gentz, M. Justin, R. Justin, Newman, Schneider, Taylor.
4. Raye & Lemke from Matteson Lake Association provided an update on their watershed management plan application. They met with EGLE on 4/19 to discuss their application that was rejected looking for strengths/weaknesses. Only one grant was given out. EGLE told Raye/Lemke there would be no funds available for this year. EGLE recommends applying for a watershed ~~counsel~~ council support grant. EGLE also recommended that they narrow the scope of the application for this grant to the watershed upstream of Matteson Lake. Raye and Lemke are partnering with Progressive A/E to provide required testing if the grant is approved. The grant application will be sent in by 5/24/23. Lemke believes they are at least 2 years away from applying for a grant regarding the full watershed management plan. The watershed management plan is required before any implementation plan can be put in place. Raye/Lemke also said they would be looking for assistance from the Colon Township Lake Board to test and sample Little Swan Creek between Matteson Lake and Palmer Lake if the watershed counsel support grant is approved. Each study/sampling will cost between \$6,000.00 and \$12,000.00 to complete.
Kyle Boone from Ecosystems Connections gave a presentation at the advisory committee meeting. His company is currently working on about 5 lakes in Indiana studying the lakes for phosphorus and nitrogen levels. Boone explained the testing procedures his company employs and reports they ~~would~~ will generate for us if we decide to move forward with a contract. Boone stated the testing his company does is repeatable and defensible, and the reports/data can be used to support watershed grant applications. Boone also said his company ~~is able to~~ can identify grants available and help write watershed grant applications. Typically, Ecosystems Connections tests incoming and outgoing water flows every 4 hours April Through June and then weekly July through March. This totals about 500 samples per year. They also test the water monthly in the lake at the surface, middle, and bottom of the water column in the deep part of the lake. Samples of the sediment are also taken and incorporated into the report. Boone stated they prefer to have at least a three year study if possible. Boone offered to create a scope of work for the board to review. Borgert told Boone he would be in touch if the board decides to move forward with a scope of work request.
5. Motion to approve minutes of April 15, 2023 meeting. Wenzel/Bell, all yes
6. Financial Report.

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
03/31/2023	Beginning Balance			\$ 356,669.12
04/28/2023	PLM Permit Fee Long Lake	\$ 875.00		\$ 355,794.12
04/28/2023	PLM Permit Fee Palmer Lake	\$ 1,600.00		\$ 354,194.12

04/28/2023	PLM Permit Fee Lepley Lake	\$ 200.00	\$ 353,994.12
04/28/2023	Interest	\$ 204.77	\$ 354,198.89
04/31/2023	Ending Balance		\$ 354,198.89

BILLS SUBMITTED TO BE PAID

04/20/2023	Jim Crawford Newsletter Printing/Mailing	\$ 358.54
05/01/2023	Progressive A/E	\$ 3,000.00
BILLS TO BE PAID:		\$ 3,358.54

Motion to approve the 4/30/23 financials. Bell/Tenney, all yes

7. Old Business

- a) There has not been a lot of growth to assess the fall lily pad treatment. It is expected that the treatment was effective.
- b) Newsletter was mailed. Approximately 15 were returned as not deliverable.
- c) St. Joseph County did water sampling on Palmer Lake in 2022. The testing was for secchi disk readings only. Their results showed an average secchi disk reading of 2 to 3 feet. Very consistent with the values we record regularly. Wenzel asked about the presence of zebra mussels. Multiple responses that there are no zebra mussels since the last lake draw down in 2010.

8. New Business

- a) Discussion was had about the Matteson Lake Associations presentation. Crawford suggested waiting to hear what happens with their grant application and continuing to support their efforts for the greater watershed plan as needed.
- b) Discussion was had about the Ecosystems Connections Institute presentation by Boone. Borgert asked about getting a scope of work from them.
Motion to ask Boone to create a scope of work for review by Conkel/Conklin/Tenney, all yes. Wenzel asked about any floating green algae in our lakes. No one had seen any prior to the meeting.
- c) Tenney read the results of the last e-coli testing from 5/1/23. All levels were safe for swimming except at Hagelgans Road. Most levels were higher than previous months. It is expected that the levels will continue to increase as the water temps go up over the summer. Bell asked about responsibility for reporting results. Crawford reminded everyone that we test as a courtesy because no other entity does any testing. We report the results on our website for public information. The lake board is not required to test or report results.
- d) While the Matteson Lake Association continues to work on a watershed management plan the lake board intends to support their efforts. Some conversation was had about the support and the role Progressive A/E might play in the development of a plan.
- e) A contract from PLM was presented to the board for SeScript sampling of the algae in the lake system. Progressive A/E and PLM both feel this study will provide additional information regarding the potential Nitrogen limiting enrichment factor in the lakes and potential effect on algae.
Motion made to accept the PLM contract for the SeScript sampling on both lakes at a cost of \$1,250.00 by Crawford/Bell, all yes.

- f) Crawford presented information about the Michigan Open Meeting requirements. The board follows most requirements, but it was noted that unapproved minutes must be posted within 8 days of the meeting and approved minutes must be posted within 5 days of approval. Some discussion took place about posting the minutes as required. Crawford stated the unapproved and approved minutes would be posted on our website. A motion was made by Crawford to support posting the minutes as required. In the discussion that followed it was determined that a motion is not needed to follow the law. Crawford withdrew the motion and notified the board that minutes will be posted as required.
- g) Crawford made a request to get board approval for Crawford and Taylor to bring back an investment plan for the boards reserve funds. Frank, Burr Oak Road, stated current rates on money markets and CD's are approaching 4.5% to 5%. Borgert stated Sturgis Bank is currently offering rates around 1%. Crawford said the township treasurer would allow us to invest the reserve funds and continue to maintain the account for us. Much discussion was had about the request. Conklin stated it was good stewardship to invest the money as allowed to achieve market returns.
Motion to allow Crawford & Taylor to bring back an investment proposal for the reserve funds was made by Conklin/Crawford, all yes.
- h) Public Comments. A request was made for any public speakers to provide their name and address. Crawford reminded the board that Michigan Open Meeting rules do not require any speakers to identify themselves. The board can ask for that information, but the speaker does not have to comply. Bell and Conklin reminded the board that time limits can be imposed on speakers. Anyone that wants to speak ~~has to~~ must be allowed to speak within the given time limits. Frank, Burr Oak Road, thanked the board for their efforts. Frank does not believe the public knows the extent of effort and time board members put into lake preservation. Conklin agreed with Frank and said public boards in general need to communicate with the public better. Frank suggested the board might add duties/responsibilities of the board to the website.
- i) 2023 lake board meetings scheduled for 6/10, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9. All meetings are scheduled to be held at the Colon Township Hall at 10:00 a.m. Public welcome.
- j) Motion to adjourn at 11:15 by Crawford/Wenzel, all yes

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Crawford
Colon Lake Board Secretary