

Colon Township Advisory Lake Board
Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order by T. Taylor at 9:00.

Present: J. Borgert, E. Bell, P. Camper, J. Costello, J. Crawford, D. Schneiter, T. Taylor, T. Tenney

Absent: S. Charles, R. Gentz,

1. **Approval of June 14, 2025 Minutes:** T. Tenney moved to accept the minutes. Second, E. Bell Motion carried.
2. **Special Guest:** Paul Hausler, Progressive Companies
3. **Presentation by P. Hausler, Progressive Companies:** P. Hausler reported on the Watershed Monitoring report on (Big) Swan Creek and Little Swan Creek, which took place between October 1, 2023 and September 30 2024.
 - a. Watershed: The watershed consists of 72,323 acres in the east section of St. Joseph county and the west section of Branch County. The overall watershed can be divided into three sub-sections; Little Swan Creek, (Big) Swan Creek and Corey Lake-Swan Creek.
 - b. Land Use: Agriculture 66%, Forest 5%, Wetlands 18% make up the vast majority of the watershed.
 - c. Soil: Soil was classified into seven categories based on runoff potential.
 - d. Water Quality: This consisted of concentrations of Phosphorus, Nitrogen, Total Suspended Solids, and E.coli.
 - e. Best Management Practices: Vegetated buffer strips and riparian zones; Encouraging farmers to implement BMP; Usage of Natural Resources Conservation Services and USDA that support BMP in rural areas.
 - f. Work with: St. Joseph & Branch County Drain Commissioners and St. Joseph & Branch County Conservations Districts.
 - g. Overall evaluation: Depending on the time of year levels of Phosphorus tended to be lower than Nitrogen. There was very little difference in suspended solids in both creeks, however Little Swan Creek has a higher level of erosion than (Big) Swan Creek. A variance of E.coli was present in both creeks. Overall P. Hausler gave both creeks a better grade than anticipated.
4. **Lake Conditions:**
 - a. Water Clarity/Secchi disc readings: T. Tenney reported that on 7/1/25 the LSC Inlet was at 4.5' (bottom) and Lake St. & Beach at 2.5'. In the deep sections of Palmer Lake the average was 2.75'. J. Borgert reported reading had gone down with latest reading on 7/9/25 at 4.6'.
 - b. Water Temperatures: T. Tenney reported that on 7/1/25 temperatures in Palmer Lake were in the low 80's.
 - c. Stump/log issues: Nothing reported
 - d. E.coli Readings and Report: T. Tenney reported and gave a copy of E.coli results to members present.

5. **CD.** T. Taylor reported the Township approved the CD for this year with Sturgis Bank & Trust at a rate of 4.02%.
6. **Motion to Adjourn:** T. Tenney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 Second, E. Bell Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Tom Tenney
Advisory Board Secretary