

Colon Township Lake Advisory Committee—Meeting Minutes (Draft)
7-9-2022

Call to Order: Chairman Tim Taylor called meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

Roll Call:

Lake Board Members Present: Jim Borgert, Tom Tenney, Jim Crawford, Ed Bell

Advisory Committee Members Present: Tim Taylor, Stan Charles, Phil Camper, Gerald Costello, Gib Leroque

Also present were two members of the Matteson Lake Association (Larry Lemke and Wilson Ray), and Lee Zimmerman from the St. Joseph County Health Department.

1. Approval of minutes:
Motion to approve June 11, 2022 minutes as presented. Borgert/Crawford/motion carried.
2. Fishing Report. Comment that walleye are being caught in vicinity of fishing cribs.
3. Lake Conditions.
 - A. Water clarity: Long Lake 3', Palmer 1.5', Lepley no report.
 - B. Reported surface water temperatures (degrees Fahrenheit): Approximately 79-81 degrees F. measured soon after an intense rainfall.
 - C. No stump/log issues reported.
 - D. Reserve policy
In response to a recent inquiry, Jim Crawford has composed a draft of a proposed Lake Board cash reserve policy to address this issue. Jim will email the draft proposal for comment.
 - E. E. Coli readings and report.
Coli test results from water samples taken July 6th were presented. It was noted that there is a poultry processing plant near West Comm Road, and that plant might be a potential source of the current E. Coli problem.
 - E.1 EGLE typically works with surface water issues. St. Joseph County Health Department typically does not work with surface water issues, but Lee Zimmerman wants to find out why we are getting high E. Coli readings.
 - E.2 Larry Lemke and Wilson Ray with the Matteson Lake Association (MLA).
 - a) MLA has been testing their water for 15 years at five sampling locations.
 - b) Their E. Coli readings are typically 100 or less.
 - c) It was noted that our Long/Palmer July 6th E. Coli test results have several readings that are identical. This is probably an indication that the test lab test machine has a hard upper limit that it can report even though the actual value exceeds the machine's upper limit.
 - d) Matteson lake water is considered stratified, and has a shallow top layer where mixing occurs within 24-48 hours after a half-inch rain event.
 - e) MLA has a web site, and is partnered with Progressive AE.
 - f) MLA is applying for a grant to study the Matteson lake watershed. They may consider inviting the Long/Palmer Lake Board to participate in the watershed study.
 - g) Water can be analyzed for trace amounts of caffeine, which if present, indicates that a discharge from a septic system is entering the watershed.
 - h) MLA uses Prien & Newhoff located in Grand Rapids, Michigan for their testing.
4. Treatments agenda item not discussed because of meeting time constraints.
5. Lake Advisory Committee 2022 meetings are planned to be held at the Colon Township Office on August 20, and September 10.
6. Motion was made at 9:57 AM to adjourn meeting. Tenney/Bell/motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:
Stan Charles, Secretary