

## Colon Township Lake Board Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2023

Colon Township Hall, Colon, MI

1. Call to Order: Chairman Borgert called meeting to order at 9:55 AM  
Approval of agenda adding scope of work by Ecosystems after 7C in new business by Crawford/Tenney, all yes
2. Roll Call Board Members Present: Borgert, Bell, Conklin, Crawford, Tenney. Absent: Wenzel
3. Roll Call Advisory Committee Members Present: Bell, Borgert, Camper, Charles, Costello, Crawford, Gentz, Taylor, Tenney. Absent: Newman, Schneider.
4. Motion to approve minutes of June 10, 2023 meeting by Tenney/Bell, all yes
5. Financial Report.

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
5/31/2023	Beginning Balance			\$ 351,438.26
6/1/2023	Assessment Credit		\$5,919.50	\$ 357,357.76
6/2/2023	Jim Crawford Newsletter	\$ 358.54		\$ 356,999.22
6/23/2023	City of Three Rivers	\$ 350.00		\$ 356,649.22
6/30/2023	Interest		\$ 103.00	\$ 356,752.22
6/30/2023	Ending Balance*			\$356,752.22
	*\$300,000 in CD @ 5%, \$50,000 in Money Market @ 2%			
	<b><u>BILLS SUBMITTED TO BE PAID</u></b>			
7/8/2023	City of Three Rivers E.Coli sample testing (10 samples)	\$	350.00	
7/8/2023	PLM weed treatment Long Lake 6/7	\$	577.50	
7/8/2023	PLM weed treatment Palmer Lake 6/7	\$	165.00	
7/8/2023	PLM weed treatment Palmer Lake 6/20	\$	82.50	
<b>BILLS TO BE PAID:</b>				<b>\$ 1,175.00</b>

Borgert noted that interest earned on the new CD and money market accounts was not available as the accounts had only been open 15 days. Information about the interest in those accounts is expected to be available at the next board meeting.

Motion to approve the 6/30/23 financials. Crawford/Conklin, all yes

### 6. Old Business

- a) Taylor reviewed the actions taken by Crawford and Taylor with Sturgis Bank. \$300,000.00 was placed in a 12-month CD with an interest rate of 5.00% and \$50,000.00 was placed in a money market at 2.00%. The lake board will authorize the Colon Township Treasurer to transfer funds monthly from the money market to the checking account to pay approved bills.
- b) Borgert asked Crawford about the status of the barely floating buoy, just North of the irrigation barrels, in the channel. Crawford said he had not had time to remove the buoy. Camper offered

to remove the buoy in the coming week. Taylor said he would confer with Camper to make sure the buoy is removed this month. A conversation was had about the number of buoys in place in the channel and the need to replace the buoy to be removed. Taylor stated there were 10 total buoys and it was decided that no additional action was needed by the board. Taylor said many of the buoys in the channel have missing or peeling stickers. A conversation was had about the difficulty in removing and replacing stickers. Borgert said there is no reason to replace stickers/buoys as the buoys are not required and only serve as a no wake reminder to boaters.

- c) Borgert noted that the Lilly pad treatment around the dock in the channel North of the Decker Road bridge was not effective last year. Borgert spoke to Andy at PLM and he agreed to re-treat the area in the fall, at no cost, when Lilly pad treatment is allowed by EGLE. Treatment is expected in September.

## 7. New Business

- a) E. coli results from the 6/19 sampling were given by Tenney. The levels in the lake were in the safe to swim range, but almost every level in Little Swan Creek was in the unsafe to swim range except the M-86 sampling sight which was in the questionable to swim range. The next sampling is expected to be done on 7/10. Borgert noted that the lake board does testing as a public service and cannot take any action on the results. The board has authorized increased testing to twice per month because the levels have reached the unsafe to swim level.
- b) Andy, from PLM, will attend the 8/12 meeting to discuss the results and recommendations of the SeScript sampling done on Palmer Lake. The lake board had requested water samples be taken in both Palmer and Long Lakes; however, Long Lake was not done. Borgert will contact Andy, at PLM, to make sure Long Lake is sampled and request that those results be available at the August meeting. Also, Borgert expects the test results from Long Lake will be similar to the results from Palmer Lake. The Palmer Lake results show more than 99% of the algae present is *Limnithrix* sp.

General discussion was had about water clarity. The water clarity has remained about the same over the last several years but has moved from a plant dominated system to an algae dominated system. Long Lake changed to an algae dominated system in 2002 and Palmer Lake changed to an algae dominated system after the drawdown in 2010. The zebra mussel in Palmer Lake mostly eradicated all algae types except *Limnithrix* sp. prior to the drawdown.

There was a public question about doing another drawdown. After some discussion Borgert said that was probably not in the plans because the results from the previous drawdown were not what was anticipated.

Another question was asked about the weeds that used to be just off Palmer Point and if weeds were sprayed when the lakes were drawn down. It was stated that no weeds were sprayed during the drawdown. The weeds off Palmer Point were largely the invasive species Curly Leaf Pondweed and were targeted in previous weed treatments. The board is working to restore the native weed population to a healthy level to compete with the algae for the available nutrients.

- c) The SeScript results will be discussed at the August meeting when PLM is in attendance.
- d) Ecosystems Proposal

The scope of work from Ecosystems was presented by Borgert. The work described is similar to the current testing done by the lake board, however far more rigorous. Data gathering stations would be setup at the inlet of Big Swan Creek, Little Swan Creek and at the outlets of Long Lake and Palmer Lake. Data would be gathered daily April through June and weekly the rest of the year. The report suggested the use of Eutrosorb to control Phosphorous, which is similar to the recommendations in the SeScript report. Ecosystems has testing regiments set up on several lakes in Indiana. Much discussion was had about the volunteers needed to implement the proposed plan and the potential benefits of a study that largely duplicates the

work already done by the lake board. Borgert noted that a study of this magnitude, along with the data already available, might help get a watershed management plan in place. It was also noted that any watershed plan requires voluntary participation on the part of riparian's within the watershed and as such is not truly enforceable. Crawford suggested getting input from Progressive A/E and PLM before asking Ecosystem to come back and discuss their proposal. Taylor said he will post the proposal on the lake board website.

Motion to provide scope of work document from Ecosystems to Progressive A/E and PLM, without cost information, for their review by Crawford/Bell, all approve

- e) No public comments
- f) Andy from PLM will attend August meeting.
- g) 2023 lake board meetings scheduled for 8/12, 9/9. All meetings are scheduled to be held at the Colon Township Hall at 10:00 a.m. Public welcome.
- h) Motion to adjourn at 11:00 by Tenney/Bell, all yes

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Crawford  
Colon Lake Board Secretary