

# Colon Township Lake Board Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2023

Colon Township Hall, Colon, MI

1. Call to Order: Chairman Borgert called meeting to order at 10:02 AM  
Approval of agenda adding review of historical engineering study on the lakes & watershed in new business by Wenzel/Tenney, all yes
2. Roll Call Board Members Present: Borgert, Bell, Crawford, Tenney, Wenzel. Absent: Conklin
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 July 8, 2023 meeting by Crawford/Tenney, all yes
5. Financial Report.

## CHECKING

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
06/30/2023	Beginning Balance			\$ 6,752.22
07/18/2023	City of Three Rivers	\$ 350.00		\$ 6,402.22
07/14/2023	PLM weed treatment 6/7	\$ 577.50		\$ 5,824.72
07/14/2023	PLM weed treatment 6/7	\$ 165.00		\$ 5,659.72
07/14/2023	PLM weed treatment 6/20	\$ 82.50		\$ 5,577.22
07/31/2023	Interest		\$ 0.52	\$ 5,577.74
07/31/2023	Ending Balance			\$ 5,577.74

## BILLS SUBMITTED TO BE PAID

08/12/2023	City of Three Rivers E.Coli sample testing (21 samples)	\$ 735.00
08/12/2023	PLM weed treatment Long Lake 7/31	\$ 2,970.00
08/12/2023	PLM weed treatment Palmer Lake 7/31/23	\$ 1,890.00
08/12/2023	Progressive A/E	\$ 3,000.00
BILLS TO BE PAID:		\$ 8,595.00

## CD

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
06/15/2023	Beginning Balance			\$ 300,000.00
				\$ 300,000.00
07/31/2023	Ending Balance			\$300,000.00

Anticipated interest to be paid 9/14 \$3,712.77

MONEY  
MARKET

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
06/15/2023	Beginning Balance			\$ 50,000.00
06/30/2023	Interest		\$ 43.84	\$ 50,043.84
07/31/2023	Interest		\$ 85.01	\$ 50,128.85
07/31/2023	Ending Balance			\$ 50,128.85

Crawford noted the CD interest of \$1,890.41 is accrued through 7/31/23 but not paid. Interest accrues daily but is only paid quarterly. Interest will be paid next on 9/14/23.

Motion to approve the 7/31/23 financials. Bell/Wenzel, all yes

Motion to have Colon Township Treasurer transfer \$3,100.00 from the money market account to the checking account to cover the bills approved for payment by Crawford/Bell, all yes

#### 6. Old Business

- a) Borgert asked Andy from PLM if he had reviewed the Scope of Work from Ecosystems. Andy stated he had not reviewed the proposal. Borgert asked Andy to review the proposal and respond with recommendations. Borgert also asked him if PLM could do a similar study and submit a proposal to the lake board. Borgert said Paul, from Progressive AE, did review the proposal and thought the study would provide valuable information that would be beneficial in an application for a watershed management plan.
- b) Borgert said PLM treated, with Procellacor, about 4 acres on the far South end of Long Lake and 2 acres in the Palmer Lake channel for E. Milfoil on 7/31. Andy from PLM said treatment was recommended by Progressive AE. PLM will come back to the lake to verify the treatment was successful.

#### 7. New Business

- a) Borgert asked Andy from PLM to review the results of the SeScript testing. Borgert asked why there were two samples taken on Long Lake. Andy did not know and said he would find out the reason. Andy stated the Phosphorous levels in both lakes is elevated but not extreme. The Nitrogen levels were low and not concerning. The predominant algae in both lakes is Limnithrix, a potentially toxic blue-green algae. Andy said he has only seen Limnithrix as the dominant algae in one other lake. It was noted that a previous treatment in 2022 with a copper based algicide was not effective. Andy discussed the study results with SePRO to get a recommendation for a treatment plan. The recommendation from SePro included treating Long Lake with Phycomycin. Phycomycin is often used in drinking water reservoirs to control blue-green algae and smell. Half of the lake would be treated at a time with two treatments a week apart, which would cover the entire lake. Borgert asked if Andy had spoken to EGLE about permitting this type of treatment. Andy said his conversations with EGLE were not immediately rejected. Andy said he is not aware of any treatments like this done on other Michigan Lakes. EGLE will require an application for an evaluation permit and will require data from our previous studies, and SePRO, to complete their review. Andy noted that he has no experience using Phycomycin. Andy said he is not sure what results should be expected and said he is relying on the information provided by SePRO. Borgert asked why Long Lake was chosen for the recommendation. Andy said PLM chose Long Lake because of

its size. He said he doesn't know what to expect from the treatment and was trying to limit the expense, so he chose the smaller lake. Discussion was had about the amount of product needed to treat Long Lake and if the amount would be adjusted based on conditions present prior to treatment. Andy said he would contact SePRO to get an answer. Costello asked if there would be a follow up treatment plan required. Andy said he would need to get that answer from SePRO as well. Crawford asked how confident Andy was about this type of treatment. Andy said he has no experience and did not want to sway the board's opinion. Borgert asked Andy to do more research about Phycomycin, get answers from SePRO, and discuss permitting requirements from EGLE. Andy agreed to come back to the September meeting, his schedule permitting. Wenzel stated that EGLE often follows recommendations from Minnesota DNR and asked if this type of treatment has been done there. Andy was not sure but said he would do more research. He also noted the Lily Pad treatment around the long dock just North of the Decker Road bridge was not effective last fall. PLM intends to retreat the area this fall at no cost.

- b) Borgert waved reading of the E-coli results as they were presented during the advisory board meeting. Results are available on our website.
- c) Borgert addressed the increased cost for E-coli testing per sample and frequency of sampling. Borgert stated that the City of Three Rivers increased the cost per sample from \$35 to \$45 as of the first of July. He stated that what we have adopted as our protocol was to increase our sampling from once per month to every other week if there was an increase of over 300 CFU/100ml at sample sites. Borgert asked if the board should use the lakes proper for sampling or continue with both lakes and creeks. Bell proposed that we need to continue to monitor the creeks as it is the main source of E-coli in our lakes and that the data we derive from it is important. Tenney reported that Little Swan Creek inlet is down significantly from last year, but numbers have increased every month this summer. After further discussion Borgert proposed that we continue testing on a once per month basis unless we have high numbers in the lake and asked for a motion.

Motion to sample once in August and if the numbers go up over 300CFU/100ml at the beach, Lake St., or Little Swan Creek inlet we would return to sampling on a biweekly basis, as well as all sites on the creeks. Also, we will continue sampling during the months of September and October by Tenney/Bell, all yes

- d) Costell asked about the total number of acres treated in Palmer and Long Lakes in the last treatment for E. Milfoil. Borgert responded that 4.5 acres were treated on Long Lake and 2.5 acres on Palmer Lake.

Borgert asked Tenney to give a report about the engineering study & report on establishing a legal Lake level. Tenney reported that this study, which consisted of phase I and Phase II, was conducted in 1976. The purpose of the endeavor was to set a legal and consistent level for both lakes; assess the condition of the channel connecting the lakes; and assess both the dam and spillway on Palmer Lake. At the time of this study the channel between the lakes was clogged with weeds impairing the water flow between the lakes. Some considerations were: a dam at the North end of Long Lake, dredging the channel, and diverting Little Swan Creek to the Southeast end of Palmer Lake. None of these were done for various reasons. Tenney went on to compare this report and where our lakes are today. In 1976 the lakes were considered Eutrophic, dying lakes and they continue to be in the same state today for some of the same reasons. Phosphate being one of the leading causes now and in 1976, 2010 drawdowns, elimination of Zebra Mussels, algae domination of the lakes leading to very limited lake vegetation, Gizzard Shad being introduced to the lake in or around 1992, and emergence of climate change being another. Forty-seven years later, where are we at? The 1976 engineering studies were passed on to Taylor to be scanned and posted on the website.

- e) Paul from Progressive A/E will be at the September meeting to discuss plant growth and hopefully Andy from PLM will attend to further discuss the algae issues.

- f) 2023 Lake board meetings scheduled for 9/9. All meetings are scheduled to be held at the Colon Township Hall at 10:00 a.m. Public welcome.
- g) Motion to adjourn at 11:29 by Bell/Tenney, all yes

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Crawford  
Colon Lake Board Secretary