

Colon Township Lake Advisory Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2023

Colon Township Hall, Colon, MI

Call to Order: 9:04 a.m. Chairman Taylor

Roll Call: Members present: Bell, Borgert, Camper, Crawford, Schneitter, Taylor, Tenney

Members Absent: Charles, Costello, Newman, Gentz, R. Justin, M. Justin

- 1) Motion to approve minutes of 9/10/22 meeting. Borgert/Tenney, all yes
- 2) Motion to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Gib Lerouge. Taylor to produce letter of appreciation. Tenney/Borgert, all yes
- 3) Motion to approve newsletter as presented for printing and mailing by Crawford. Crawford/Borgert, all yes
- 4) Andy from PLM reviewed the water quality report from 2022. The April results show Phosphorous levels that were typical for a lot of lakes, 13 ug/L on Palmer and 10 ug/L on Long. The Nitrate levels were very high on Long at 2,220 ug/L and moderately high on Palmer at 1,091 ug/L. The September results show moderately high levels of Phosphorous on both lakes at 16 ug/L. The Nitrogen levels were not enriched with levels at 230 ug/L on both Long and Palmer. The oxygen levels were uniform top to bottom in the April testing. The oxygen levels show stratification around 4 meters at the September testing. The inlets from both Little Swan Creek and Big Swan Creek have higher levels of Phosphorous and Nitrogen compared to the lakes. After reviewing the water quality information from last year, including the Phoslock treatment, Andy from PLM and Paul from progressive A/E believe the limiting factor in the lake system may be Nitrogen and not Phosphorous. Phosphorous was reduced by an average of 8 to 10 ug/L after each Phoslock treatment. Both lakes are unique with the brown color and low Phosphorous levels. Andy and Paul would expect to see more of a green color given the Phosphorous and Nitrogen levels.
- 5) Paul stated Nitrogen is much more difficult to control than Phosphorous because it is naturally occurring in the environment and used up stream by farmers. Paul and Andy recommend having an in-depth water quality study done on both lakes to positively identify the algae species present as well as the make up of all nutrients in the water column. The study should provide additional information not already available and help Andy and Paul come up with a treatment plan. Paul believes any recommendation after the testing would involve algae control rather than Phosphorous or Nitrogen control. The cost of the sampling is about \$1,000.00 per lake. Paul and Andy both felt they would be able to make a better recommendation if both lakes were sampled. Spring water quality samples have been taken by PLM. Larry Lemke from the Matteson Lake Association reported that Phosphorous is the limiting factor in Matteson Lake. Paul explained the reason for the increase in Nitrogen in Long and Palmer is probably due to fertilizer run off from the farms between Matteson Lake and Long and Palmer Lakes. Bell noted the MSU extension is going to do water testing on Palmer Lake this year. Motion to allow water quality sampling by PLM once Andy sends Borgert contract/scope of work. Borgert/Bell, all yes
- 6) Wilson from Matteson Lake associated thanked the board for their support with the watershed management grant application, unfortunately the grant was denied. Wilson and Lemke are reviewing their options moving forward and plan to meet with EGLE to discuss the reason for the denial. Lemke stated there are no funds available from EGLE this year. A watershed management plan is needed to get an implementation grant. Paul from Progressive A/E presented information about a conference taking place on 5/18 to address the lack of funding for inland lakes. Paul suggested contacting our local legislatures to encourage them to attend. Currently there are 12 legislatures signed up to attend. Lemke said the conservation district provided a lot of assistance with their application and said they intend to continue working with them on the next step. The Matteson Lake association is still interested in pursuing a watershed management plan but they want to discuss next steps with all the groups they have been working with.

- 7) Lake levels tabled to lake board meeting
- 8) No fishing report given
- 9)
 - A) Lake conditions Long Lake inlet 2.75' secchi reading. 3.0' secchi reading on the lake
 - b) Temperature was 44 degrees.
 - c) No new stump or log issues to report
 - d) Tenney read the results of the last e-coli testing from 2022. 4/3/23 testing results were also read. All 2023 levels were very low and in the safe range. All levels were below 7 CFU/100ml. Monthly testing will continue unless high levels are found at which time more frequent testing will be done. It was noted that the Matteson Lake Association records low e-coli levels in the lake while our testing shows high levels of e-coli in the stream at the inlet and downstream from the outflow from the lake.
 - e) No public comments
- 10) Motion to adjourn. Crawford/Borgert, all yes

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Crawford