

# Colon Township Lake Board Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2022

Colon Township Hall

1. Call to Order: Chairman Borgert called meeting to order at 9:59 AM  
Approval of agenda: Pangle/Tenney, all yes
2. Roll Call Board Members Present: Borgert, Bell, Crawford, Pangle, Tenney, Wenzel (10:02)
3. Roll Call Advisory Committee Members Present: Bell, Borgert, Camper, Charles, Costello, Crawford, Gentz, Taylor, Tenney. Absent: Justin, LeRouge, Newman, Schneiter,
4. Motion to approve minutes of July 9, 2022 meeting. Pangle/Bell, all yes
5. Financial Report.

| Date       | Description                    | Expenses    | Income   | Balance       |
|------------|--------------------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| 06/30/2022 | Beginning Balance              |             |          | \$ 349,346.17 |
| 07/09/2022 | Progressive AE                 | \$ 3,000.00 |          | \$ 346,346.17 |
| 07/25/2022 | City Three Rivers water sample | \$ 245.00   |          | \$ 346,101.17 |
| 07/31/2022 | interest                       |             | \$ 69.17 | \$ 346,170.34 |
| 06/30/2022 | Ending Balance                 |             |          | \$ 346,170.34 |

## BILLS SUBMITTED TO PAID

|                   |   |  |              |
|-------------------|---|--|--------------|
| 07/15/2022        | PLM Phoslock Treatment 7/15                   |  | \$ 11,865.00 |
| 08/04/2022        | PLM Phoslock Treatment 8/4                    |  | \$ 12,430.00 |
| 08/15/2022        | PLM E. Milfoil & Starry Stonewart Long Lake   |  | \$ 4,152.50  |
| 08/15/2022        | PLM E. Milfoil & Starry Stonewart Palmer Lake |  | \$ 8,767.50  |
| 08/20/2022        | City of Three Rivers 23 Water Samples         |  | \$ 805.00    |
| BILLS TO BE PAID: |   |  | \$ 38,020.00 |

Tenney noted that the bill from the City of Three Rivers on 8/20 was for 2 sampling times. Crawford asked about the difference in price for the two Phoslock treatments and Borgert stated he thought the difference was do to amount of product used.

Motion to approve the 7/31/22 financials. Bell/Tenney, all yes

## 6. Old Business

- A. The cash reserve policy was read by Crawford. Taylor noted that the advisory committee made a motion to advise the lake board to approve the policy as read.

Motion to approve cash reserve policy as presented by Tenney/Bell, all yes

## 7. New Business

- A. Taylor reviewed advisory committee report including watershed plan with the Twin Lakes of Matteson, Inc. group, cash reserve policy, and water conditions.
- B. Tenney reviewed the Twin Lakes of Matteson, Inc.'s request for information the lake board has about the watershed that they don't already know. Tenney shared the Pfoos issue from several years back. Tenney also attended the EGLE presentation on 7/12 about the application process for applying for grant money. Information from the presentation was sent to the advisory committee and board members by email. Tenney & Borgert discussed the requirements by phone and decided the best course of action was to partner with the Matteson Lake group as our board would not have enough time to complete the process by the 8/12 deadline. It was also noted that the Matteson Lake group has already done a lot of the work. Tenney drafted a letter of support and sent it to the Matteson Lake group to include with their application. Wenzel noted the conservation district of St. Joseph and Branch Counties will write for the grants and believes they will support the application as well. He also noted that the St. Joseph Drain office supports the effort.
- C. The last E-coli testing by the lake board was 7/17. Testing was done by PLM on 8/4 in both lakes. Palmer Lake DNR access was <4, beach, <4, and Lake Drive <4. Long Lake Southwest corner was 20, in front of Steinke's resort was 20, and bridge was <4. All numbers are better than acceptable levels and much better than previous tests. Previous test results were reviewed by Tenney. Another round of testing will be done by Borgert, Tenney & Bell on 8/23. Lake levels appear to be improving but levels in Little Swan Creek seem to remain elevated. Borgert noted that Zimmerman from the health department has been removed from our testing project after the beach closing issues in July. Zimmerman was removed because this is a surface water issue that is not in the Health Departments jurisdiction. Zimmerman agreed to provide Borgert with the contact person at EGLE out of Kalamazoo for further follow-up.
- D. The last of four Phoslock treatments was completed on Long Lake on 8/19. About 30 acres treated near the inlet from Swan Creek and three acres near the mouth of Lepley Lake. Borgert took secchi disk readings during each treatment and noted the treated area was about 3.5 feet after treatments and the area in the middle of the lake was about 3 feet. PLM Phosphorous levels were reviewed from each treatment. Phosphorous levels were as follows

|      | Pre Treatment  | Post Treatment |
|------|--|----------------|
| 6/17 | 23   | 10             |
| 7/14 | 18   | 12             |
| 8/4  | <10  | <10            |
| 8/19 | Not reported yet. Will be presented by PLLM at next meeting on 9/10. Samples at this treatment were to be taken on the surface as well as the thermocline level. |                |

Todd Herman, 1129 Lake Drive, asked how long the treatment has been going on. Borgert told him the treatments started this year. Herman also wanted to know the reason for the treatment. Borgert said we are trying to remove the Phosphorous from the water column to starve the algae and improve water clarity with a goal of seeing improved native plant growth. Crawford noted the goal of the board is to see native plants in the near shore areas.

Further discussion was had about the use of EutroSORB. Borgert noted that this product is not yet approved and said PLM had not said anything new about it. Progressive AE said the product is still in review by the state. EutroSORB is similar to Phoslock but less expensive. Charles asked if the whole lake could be treated. Borgert stated this is experimental at this point but with good results it could be something to look into. Both Phoslock and EutroSORB strip Phosphorous from the water column and create a blanket on the lake bottom that reduces the amount of Phosphorous released from the sediment. The hope is that cleaner water from Long Lake will move through the channel and into Palmer Lake. There are not water use restrictions from use of either product.

- E. Borgert noted that several people have asked about Lilly Pad Treatments in the channel as they thought it was done each year. It has been several years since any Lilly Pad Treatment has

been done. PLM reviewed the channel on 8/4 and recommended that the X's in the channel be touched up this fall. PLM plans to treat this area along with the area North and South of the long dock North of Decker Bridge in the channel (Walters Trail).

Pangle and Wenel noted support for the Lilly Pad treatment.

Thornton, Walters Trail, asked if any other vegetation would be treated. Answer was no as that is outside the scope of work the board can do. He also noted that he has applied for a dredging permit and not heard anything back in more than 1.5 years. Borgert and others noted that boating traffic will help keep the new access ways open in future years. Wenzel offered to forward email from Thornton to EGLE to see if he can get the application reviewed.

Motion to treat X's in channel & Walters Trail access North and South of long dock in the channel by Tenney/Pangle, all yes

F. Progressive AE and PLM to attend the September meeting

G. Gentz, next to DNR landing, said he was told he had to remove his buoys. He had them in place to try to keep boats farther away from his dock as he has noted boats taking off at speed from the landing coming very close to his dock but was told the buoys are not legal. The board has no authority over boating but recommended that he try to get boat numbers and report them to the sheriff. All high speed boats must remain 100 feet from any moored object. Discussion around unsafe boating and wave action continued for several minutes.

Pangle asked about calls she received around magic week regarding the PLM treatment. Taylor noted there were several comments on social media about the treatment. Taylor responded to each person letting them know weeds are treated as needed which does not always avoid busy/holiday weekends. Taylor also posted that the treatment area was very targeted, 14 acres treated out of the 750 acre lake system, with most of the treatment area in the channel. Water restrictions were for one day and did not affect the weekend. Use restrictions were limited to the areas treated only, not the entire lake. Taylor also invited each person to the meetings so they can get answers to their questions. Borgert did say treatments around holidays/weekends and busy times are avoided as much as possible.

I. Motion to adjourn at 11:15 by Wenzel/Bell, all yes.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Crawford  
Colon Lake Board Secretary