

Colon Township Lake Board Meeting Minutes  
 September 14, 2024  
 Colon Township Hall, Colon, MI

1. Call to Order: Chairman Borgert called meeting to order at 10:04 AM  
 Motion by E. Bell & second by T. Tenney to approve agenda. All yes, Motion Carried.
2. Roll Call Board Members Present: Borgert, Bell, Conklin, Crawford, Tenney, Wenzel. Absent: None
3. Roll Call Advisory Committee Members Present: Bell, Borgert, Camper, Charles, Crawford, Schneiter, Taylor, Tenney. Absent: Costello, Gentz
4. Motion by T. Conklin & second by E. Bell to approve minutes of August 10, 2024 meeting. All yes, Motion carried.
5. J. Crawford read account balances as of 8/31/24. Checking has a balance of \$109.15. CD has a balance of \$315,045.30. Money market has a balance of \$24,768.23. Motion by J. Wenzel & second by E. Bell to accept the financial report ledger as presented. All yes, Motion carried.

CHECKING

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
07/31/2024	Beginning Balance			\$ 3,432.00
08/05/2024	PLM check from July	\$ 3,326.25		\$ 105.75
08/12/2024	Transfer from M.M.		\$ 61,240.00	\$ 61,345.75
08/16/2024	Progressive Companies	\$ 60,700.00		\$ 645.75
08/19/2024	City of Three Rivers	\$ 540.00		\$ 105.75
08/30/2024	Interest		\$ 3.40	\$ 109.15
08/30/2024	<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$ 109.15</b>

**BILLS SUBMITTED TO BE PAID**

09/14/2024	P.O. Box			\$ 58.00
09/14/2024	City of Three Rivers for 6/30 e.coli testing			\$ 540.00
09/14/2024	Laggis Fish Farm for 675 walleye for Long Lake			\$ 3,972.50
<b>BILLS TO BE PAID:</b>				<b>\$ 4,570.50</b>

CD

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
06/14/2024	Beginning Balance			\$ 315,045.30
				\$ 315,045.30
08/30/2024	Ending Balance			\$ 315,045.30

Anticipated interest to be paid 9/14 \$3,756.38

MONEY MARKET

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
07/31/2024	Beginning Balance			\$ 85,956.04
08/20/2024	Transfer to checking	\$ 61,240.00		\$ 24,716.04
				\$ 24,716.04
08/30/2024	Interest		\$ 52.19	\$ 24,768.23
08/30/2024	Ending Balance			\$ 24,768.23

6. Old Business

- a) J. Borgert reported that Andy from PLM took water samples from Long Lake after the last lake board meeting. The number of algae increased from about 59,000 after the last phycomycin treatment to about 102,000 with this testing about two weeks later. The algal count is high but remains much lower than before the phycomycin treatment started. Paul from Progressive Companies stated many lakes are seeing an increase in algae growth right now. Paul said he did not have much experience with phycomycin so he would not be able to make a recommendation about future use. J. Borgert asked Paul to review the phycomycin treatment done earlier this year with Andy from PLM.
- b) J. Borgert reported that PLM treated the lilly pads around the long dock just North of the Decker Road bridge on the Palmer Lake Channel and cleaned up the edges of the lilly pads on the access channels on the rest of the Palmer Lake Channel on 9/10. The total treatment was about 3.5 acres.

7. New Business

- a) Paul from Progressive Companies reviewed the Matteson Lake group's application for a planning grant on Big Swan Creek North of Matteson Lake. The group is asking for a \$90,000.00 grant with \$80,000.00 in matching money/volunteer hours. There is a total of \$250,000.00 in grant money available this year. If approved, the planning grant money would be used to do an in-depth study of Big Swan Creek North of Matteson Lake with the hope of getting a watershed management plan and implementation grants for that portion of Big Swan Creek. EGLE has identified impairments in Big Swan Creek that include fish consumption, eutrophication, PFOSS, and nutrient loading. Based on the e. coli sampling done by the lake board, it is believed that there is an e. coli impairment as well. To get EGLE to recognize an e. coli impairment, water samples would need to be taken on both shores as

well as the middle of the creek at 2 or 3 locations for 5 consecutive weeks. All samples would need to show an elevated level of e. coli. Adding an e. coli impairment would help strengthen the application for a watershed management plan and any grant applications.

- b) Paul from Progressive Companies discussed the watershed management study done over the last year. Paul said the data collection is complete, and the final report will be compiled and completed by the end of the year. The study included taking water samples at 4 high and 4 low flow water times at 7 locations along with pictures from a drone of the creeks and their banks. Paul believes the report will be beneficial in identifying problem areas that could be addressed as part of a larger watershed management plan. J. Borgert asked what the lake board should expect next. Paul said Progressive Companies will produce a report with cost estimates for implementation of best practices. Paul also said those recommendations will be for long term practices and will not result in immediate improvement in water quality. Paul said he will email the report to the board when it is finished and will attend the April 2025 meeting to go over the report.
- c) J. Wenzel said his office received many calls about the low water level in Palmer and Long Lakes over the last several weeks. J. Wenzel went to the Village of Colon to discuss the reason for the low water levels. J. Wenzel said the water was at least 7 inches below the court ordered legal level. J. Wenzel worked with the Colon public works department to reduce the flow over the dam and reset the dam gates to the proper level. J. Wenzel showed the public works department the legal level and reviewed the dam operation. The water level has been restored to the proper level. E. Bell asked about the assessment district for dam operation. J. Wenzel said that district is in place but would need to be updated before an assessment could be put in place. J. Wenzel advised that the Village of Colon should get the district updated by September 2025 with the thought of getting the assessment in place in 2025. J. Wenzel also offered to help get the assessment set up.
- d) The e. coli results from 9/9 were read by T. Tenney. It was noted that all samples taken in Palmer Lake are in the safe to swim range. Little Swan Creek continues to have many areas that are in the not safe to swim range.

There was some discussion about changing our e. coli sampling to include taking samples on both banks and the middle of Little Swan Creek at 2 or 3 locations for 5 consecutive weeks next year. This information could be presented to EGLE with the idea of getting another impairment established for Little Swan Creek. The current testing is good for identifying problem areas and for notifying the public about e. coli levels but is not statistically valid for establishing an impairment. The board will discuss this issue at the April 2025 meeting. There was further discussion about taking another set of e. coli samples in October. After some discussion it was decided that the board should complete the testing this year as previously approved.

- e) Discussion was had about paying bills that come in between today's meeting and our next meeting in April 2025. J. Crawford reviewed the bills paid last year between meetings. It is believed the bills will be slightly higher this year because we must pay Progressive Companies for the completion of the watershed study. J. Crawford noted that the township is doing a great job paying bills and monitoring balances to allow the lake board to maximize interest each month. J. Crawford said it is possible that a withdrawal would need to be made from the CD to cover bills depending on when the bills are paid. J. Crawford and T. Taylor said the bank has policies in place to allow for the withdrawal and it is believed any withdraw request could be handled quickly by the bank. Motion by J. Wenzel & second by T. Tenney to allow J. Borgert to pay bills up to \$25,000.00 between now and the April 2025 meeting, all yes. Motion Carried.
- f) There were no public comments.

- g) 2025 lake board meetings are scheduled for April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, and September 13. All meetings are scheduled to be held at the Colon Township Hall at 10:00 a.m. Public welcome.
- h) Motion by T. Tenney & second by E. Bell, to adjourn at 10:56 All yes, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Crawford  
Colon Lake Board Secretary