

## Colon Township Lake Board Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2023

Colon Township Hall, Colon, MI

1. Call to Order: Chairman Borgert called meeting to order at 10:17 AM  
Approval of agenda with change to add Paul from Progressive A/E by Crawford/Wenzel, 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, Crawford, Schneider, Tenney. Absent: Charles, Costello, Gentz, M. Justin, R. Justin, Newman, Schneider, Taylor.
4. Motion to approve minutes of September 10, 2022 meeting. Tenney/Bell, all yes
5. Paul from Progressive A/E reviewed historical water quality information. Phoslock treatment in 2022 reduced Phosphorous levels but did not increase water clarity. Water quality reports were presented at the 9/10/22 meeting and are available on those meeting minutes. Water quality sampling will be done 5/17/23. A review of 2016-2022 plant growth was presented. The trend for rooted plant growth continues to improve. Paul believes the low numbers in 2022 was an anomaly created because they had a new surveyor doing the testing in 2022. Paul believes we will see more rooted plant growth this year than in years past. Plant growth seems to be low growing plants and are believed to be Chara and Naid. In 2016 plants were mostly present only in the channel. By 2022 plant growth had spread into both lakes as well as the channel. There is still room for improvement, but the trend seems to be moving in the right direction.
6. Financial Report.

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
08/31/2022	Beginning Balance			\$ 308,227.05
09/15/2022	PLM phoslock treatment	\$ 12,430.00		\$ 295,797.05
09/15/2022	P.O. Box rental	\$ 52.00		\$ 295,745.05
09/15/2022	Laggis Fish Farm(Walleye)	\$ 912.50		\$ 294,832.55
09/30/2022	Interest		\$ 62.99	\$ 294,895.54
10/12/2022	Three Rivers Water Samples	\$ 420.00		\$ 294,475.54
10/12/2022	Three Rivers Water Samples	\$ 280.00		\$ 294,195.54
10/12/2022	PLM water quality	\$ 1,430.00		\$ 292,765.54
10/12/2022	PLM lily pad treatment	\$ 828.00		\$ 291,937.54
10/18/2022	Progressive A/E	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 288,937.54
10/31/2022	Interest		\$ 62.57	\$ 289,000.11
11/18/2022	Three Rivers Water Samples	\$ 280.00		\$ 288,720.11
11/30/2022	Interest		\$ 59.81	\$ 288,779.92
12/30/2022	Interest		\$ 146.37	\$ 288,926.29

01/12/2023	Tax Receipts	\$ 15,950.00	\$ 304,876.29
01/16/2023	Progressive A/E	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 301,876.29
01/17/2023	Tax Receipts	\$ 13,862.78	\$ 315,739.07
01/31/2023	Interest	\$ 200.31	\$ 315,939.38
02/09/2023	Tax Receipts	\$ 9,137.81	\$ 325,077.19
02/21/2023	Tax Receipts	\$ 12,124.41	\$ 337,201.60
02/28/2023	Interest	\$ 187.52	\$ 337,389.12
03/07/2023	Tax Receipts	\$ 18,455.50	\$ 355,844.62
03/23/2023	Tax Receipts	\$ 600.00	\$ 356,444.62
03/31/2023	Interest	\$ 244.50	\$ 356,689.12
03/31/2023	<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 356,689.12</b>

**BILLS SUBMITTED TO BE PAID**

03/15/2023	PLM Long Lake permit	\$ 875.00
03/15/2023	PLM Palmer Lake permit	\$ 1,600.00
03/15/2023	PLM Lepley Lake permit	\$ 200.00
<b>BILLS TO BE PAID:</b>		<b>\$ 2,675.00</b>

Total tax receipts to date \$70,130.50

Motion to approve the 3/31/23 financials. Bell/Crawford, all yes

**7. Old Business**

- a) Wenzel asked about access for residents on channel just North of Decker Road bridge. Crawford stated lily pads were treated on the North & South side of the long dock in the fall along with the access channels for those on Long Lake Road. Borgert stated the treatment was done September 2022 and seems to have worked well but full results will not be known until the lily pads start growing this spring. Bell also noted that the channels have to be used in order to stay open.
- b) Walleye stocking was supplemented by board on October 22, 2022. 250 walleye were placed into Long Lake in addition to the stocking done by the DNR.
- c) The cash reserve policy adopted by the board was read again for those not present at the last meeting. The expected budget information was reviewed by Borgert. Projected expenditures for postage, attorney fees, contracted services, water quality studies, printing & publishing, and miscellaneous items are funded by projected income.

**8. New Business**

- a) Borgert was nominated for the chair position. No other nominations were received. Motion to accept Borgert as Chairman by Wenzel/Tenney, all yes  
Crawford was nominated for the secretary position. No other nominations were received. Motion to accept Crawford as secretary by Tenney/Bell, all yes

- b) Motion to accept advisory committee's recommendation to print/mail newsletter by Crawford/Bell, all yes
- c) 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. Next sampling date is set for first week of May.  
Crawford inquired about the low water levels in the lake over the past couple of weeks. Wenzel said the Village of Colon is fully responsible for operation of the damn. Apparently the flood gates were left open in error after the head of the DPW unexpectedly left the job. There has been a lot of turn over in the village recently leading to the error. Wenzel is going to contact the village regarding the damn and its operation over the summer after the turmoil at the village has settled.
- d) This report was presented at the advisory meeting. This is a review of the presentation. 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.
- e) This report was presented at the advisory meeting. This is a review of the presentation. Wilson Raye from Matteson Lake associated thanked the board for their support with the watershed management grant application, unfortunately the grant was denied. Raye and Larry 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.  
It was suggested that we work with the Matteson Lake Association on testing/sampling so we are not duplicating efforts since the board tests up and down stream of Matteson Lake.
- f) This report was presented at the advisory meeting. This is a review of the presentation. 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. Lemke from the Matteson Lake Association reported that

Phosphorous is the limiting factor in Matteson Lake. Paul explained the reason for the higher Nitrogen levels in Long and Palmer Lakes is probably due to fertilizer run off from the farms along Big Swan & Little Swan Creeks upstream from Long and Palmer Lakes. Motion to accept the recommendation from the advisory committee to complete the testing by Tenney/Crawford, all yes

- g) The DNR will be doing a spring fish survey just after ice out in 2024. The survey is mostly to check on the walleye population in the lake. Borgert stated they will have some other fish information, but the main point of the study is walleye population and growth. The DNR will be stocking 1,800 walleye in Palmer lake in the fall and will allow us to stock an additional 450. Borgert said the cost to supplement the stocking is \$2,097. Laggis Fish Farms will provide the fish again. Borgert said he could use some help stocking the fish as Laggis will not deliver quantities less than 1,000 fish. Motion to purchase 450 walleye from Laggis Fish Farm for \$2,097 by Bell/Crawford, all yes
- h) Public Comments. Frank on Burr Oak Road suggested moving the reserve balance to a money market account to get a higher interest rate on the funds. Frank also said he would like to see the agenda and all handouts for the meeting posted prior to the meeting. Crawford asked about the no wake zone in the channel between Decker Road bridge and Long Lake. Ward from Shoreline Manor has noted many boats above no wake speed in the channel possibly disturbing the vital spring fish habitat. Ward was told by the sheriff that the no wake zone is not enforceable. Borgert stated the no wake zone was put in place after a public hearing by the DNR and suggested contacting the township to get a more information. Wenzel stated the undersheriff, Jason Bingaman would be a good contact for any possible enforcement action.
- i) Kyle Boone from Ecosystems Connections Institute in Columbia City, Indiana will be at the May meeting to present information about watershed management plans.
- j) 2023 lake board meetings scheduled for 5/13, 6/10, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9. All meetings scheduled to be held at the Colon Township Hall at 10:00 a.m. Public welcome.
- k) Motion to adjourn by Tenney/Wenzel, all yes

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Crawford  
Colon Lake Board Secretary