

Clear Lake Association Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chris Berke at 9:14 a.m. at The Clear Lake Golf Club.

Roll call of officers:

Present: President—Chris Berke
 Vice President—Bob Fagan
 Treasurer—Mary Griffin
 Secretary—Christine Berke
 Members at Large: Rick Eldridge, Rob Reed

Lake residents present: Richard & Barb Fenby, Bob & Delores Horan, Cheryl Courtney, Susan Anderson, Inge Spaulding, Joe Day, Sheila Meier, Karen Spaulding, Scott VanderHill, Scott Palma, Ben & Jan Mumah, Kim Hatchew, Cindy Fagan, John Garlick, John Currie

Colfax Township Board present: Nick Kaye, Chad Currie, Sandy Maxwell

Reading of the October 14, 2014:

Minutes were read and were moved to approve and were seconded.

Treasurer's Report:

Mary reported that there was an income of \$75.67 and expenses of \$135.98 providing a balance of \$2,340.94.

Old Business/Standing Committees Reports

Chris Berke reported that the Annual Kayak Fest is scheduled for Saturday June 27, 2015. It will be set up as a poker run like last year and will be looking for lake residents to participate and let us use their docks again. Prizes will be awarded. Tom Langley will be hosting the dinner afterward at his house.

Chris Berke reported that the gentleman who was given permission to trap muskrats said there were traps already in place on the lake. No one knows who is doing this and is unauthorized. Please keep your eyes open.

Bob Fagan reported that Jamie Stifler is coming July/August and is still interested in getting a Clear Lake Web Site up and running. He will most likely combine it with the Lakewood Association's site along with links.

New Business

Paul Hausler from Progressive AE, a lake management and water resources program consultant group, made a presentation regarding what Progressive AE can offer in terms of a lake

management program by completing a study of Clear Lake and to make recommendations as how to rid the lake of invasive plant species.

He broke down lake characteristics into three groups that are studied: General, Chemical, and Biological.

General lake characteristics: Oligotrophic, Meso trophic, and Eutrophic.

Chemical Characteristics (look for presence of): Phosphorus, Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, pH, Alkalinity, Chlorophyll-a

Biological Characteristics: Algae, Aquatic Plants, Fish, (Hybrid Milfoil which is on the rise)

Progressive AE reviews existing information/Data from local, state, and national sources regarding lakes our size. They also review this information from the Michigan Clean Water Corps.

Water quality samples are taken from the deep basin, any tributaries present, and bacteriological samples.

Geographical Analyses will be done on GIS and Bio Base Mapping.

Qualitative Analysis of aquatic plant sampling, algae sampling, and Bio Base biovolume.

Progressive AE will explore and evaluate alternatives to improve lake conditions

Lake Ecology—not all plants are bad, plants serve numerous purposes. It's important to identify good and bad plants.

(michiganlakeinfo.com is a good resource to research)

Progressive AE makes recommendations with estimated costs of a lake management program. They explore and evaluate financing alternatives.

Discussion that followed presentation:

Rick Eldridge asked if water depth makes a difference in plant growth.

Paul Hausler stated that wind, wake, environmental conditions play a role in growth

Mike Hughes asked about the length of this process.

Paul Hausler stated that if we start the process this summer, we could have a fall assessment

Chris Berke stated that was why we had an earlier than usual Clear Lake Association meeting so that we could begin to move forward.

A question was asked about using a prior assessment of the lake and if it is still in place.

Paul Hausler responded that assessments have term limits and need to be re-established.

Scott VanderHill asked about treatment types.

Paul Hausler stated that treatment types available are: Chemical, Weevils (which are no longer used), and Mechanical Harvesting (which is not recommended for Eurasian Milfoil as it tends to spread more quickly).

A question was raised about the effect private owners applying herbicide.

Paul Hausler stated that the private owner would need to follow directions closely, and cautioned that if too much is applied, it can cause plant life to multiply.

Paul Hausler suggested that private owners postpone any self-applications until after the study so that Progressive AE could get as accurate a study as possible on our lake. He did state that the best time to self-apply is in late May.

Paul Hausler stated that a report could be ready by August if we start during June.

A question was asked if chemical treatment is the only means of getting rid of the milfoil?

Paul Hausler stated that it depends on the plant life. Use of chemicals can take up to three years to get the growth under control. The idea would be to focus on the heavily concentrated regions of the invasive plant growth.

A question was asked what the effect of chemical treatment on “good” aquatic life would be.

Paul Hausler stated testing has been done on aquatic life regarding specific chemicals used for specific plant life. He stated that most chemicals are harmless to jelly fish and invertebrates. He recommends that people stay out of the water for one day after application of chemical. He said that we can go to a website of a chemical to see what the effects are on other aquatic life. He said that the frequency of the treatment is determined by plant growth.

Paul Hausler stated that we would contract with Progressive AE and that the township board holds the fiduciary.

Paul Hausler stated that there are NO guarantees to effectively manage the growth of invasive plant life, however, most lakes do respond to treatment.

Other questions that were raised were:

What about sediment? Answer: creates biomass yearly, regardless, but is not an issue.

When harvesting a lake, where does the cutting go? Answer: Recommend looking for a farmer who can use it; makes a good mulch.

When it is a NO swim day, can we close the public access: Answer: Legally, you can no swim from the dock of a public access.

What about aeration? Answer: We are mitigating stagnate vegetation and evaluating on a lake right now.

Paul Hausler did mention that the Michigan Water Alliance may be a source of grant money to cover cost.

Paul Hausler discussed that the first year is the greatest expense in preparation for a lake management program. In the second year, we would begin to effectively manage the invasive plant growth. It would be more effective using systemic herbicides, as it would cost \$400.00-\$500.00 per acre.

Progressive AE's Proposal is as follows:

**Clear Lake
Mecosta County**

**Aquatic Plant Control
Diagnostic-Feasibility Evaluation
Proposed Scope of Services**

- Compile and review previous studies and reports on Clear Lake**
- Evaluate the physical characteristics of the lake**
- Conduct an aquatic plant survey in accordance with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's *Procedures for Aquatic Vegetation surveys*.**
- Conduct genetic analyses to evaluate the presence of hybrid milfoil in Clear Lake**
- Evaluate alternatives to control nuisance aquatic plant growth in Clear Lake**
- Prepare a letter report of findings and recommendations**
- Prepare an annual budget for an aquatic plant control program**
- Conduct a meeting with lake residents to present and discuss findings and recommendations**
- Assist the lake association with the organizational proceedings to re-establish the plant control special assessment district**

The total cost of the services outlined above will be \$6,000.00.

Discussion continued on possible assessment fees on the 83 owners on the lake to cover the cost of the study. It was figured that \$75.00/owner would cover the cost of the study which is \$6,000.00. Then we would go from there regarding a lake management program. If we look at the prior assessment and update the study of the lake it should make the study easier. If the assessment goes through, it will be on winter 2015/2016 taxes.

Cheryl Courtney moved that we accept Progressive AE's proposal, as given, to complete a survey on Clear Lake to work toward a lake management program, and that any fees be paid through the property owners' assessment through the Colfax Township board.

It was seconded.

It was brought to a vote and passed.

Adjournment: 10:36 a.m.