

JOINT MEETING
OF THE COLOMA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
AND THE
WATERVLIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
May 19, 2010
7:00 p.m.---Coloma Charter Township Hall

Dan Hutchins called the meeting to order. The Watervliet Charter Township Board Members present were Dan Hutchins, Patricia Bambrick, Tom Scheid, Bob Wallace, Vick Kinzler, Joe Stepich and Joe Matthews.

Coloma Charter Township Board Members present included Ken Parrigin, Sandy Kraemer, Lance Becht, Jim Fulton, Cindy Aviles, and Jeff Mitchell.

The purpose of the joint meeting was to hear the report from the two consultant companies that completed their Paw Paw Lake Restoration Plan. Larry J. Protasiewicz represented the Spicer Group, Inc. and Stu Kogge represented JFNew, Inc.

The two companies were contracted by Coloma and Watervliet Charter Townships in August of 2009 to prepare a long and a short-term restoration plan for Paw Paw Lake.

The townships formed a Joint Lake Project Committee (JLPC) to work with JFNew and the Spicer Group. The plan was initiated to assess and balance vegetation management with water quality and to include an evaluation of dredging and watershed improvements.

The issues include Eurasian water milfoil throughout the lake; heavy phosphorus in sediments that result in the lake going anoxic (without oxygen); releasing phosphorus into the water column and lime green algae blooms; and aesthetics.

Alternatives discussed were dredging; alum pellets or liquid (aluminum sulfate); aeration; herbicides (Sonar targets milfoil); drawdowns; biological controls (milfoil weevils); and harvesting. The pros and cons of these methods were discussed. The watershed was discussed, especially regarding eliminating phosphorus. Buffer strips are needed and drains need to be stabilized. The commercial heavy metals coming into the lake also need to be stabilized.

The recommended long-term restoration plan is to utilize a multi-faceted approach to both help control nuisance aquatic weed species (specifically Eurasian water milfoil) and restore the lake by removing and binding up phosphorous which is accelerating eutrophication of the lake. To eradicate Eurasian water milfoil, Fluridone (SONAR) is recommended to be applied throughout the entire lake in 2011, with spot treatments of 2, 4-D in subsequent years. Applying herbicides other than SONAR and/or in only portions of the lake

will not eradicate this species as effectively as SONAR. To control phosphorous in-loading in the lake, two different methods are recommended to be implemented, on a small scale in a portion of the lake (as pilot studies), to evaluate the effectiveness of these methods within Paw Paw Lake before committing to a lake-wide use of one or more of these methods. The two methods recommended for pilot study, within the northeast portions of the lake, are (1) the use of Alum (aluminum sulfate) to precipitate and bind phosphorous in the water column and bottom sediments and (2) aeration of the water column and bottom substrates to limit phosphorous release from sediments during anoxic time periods. These two methods are being recommended as "pilot studies" for upwards of 5 years, less if findings are conclusive sooner, to determine which method better addresses the phosphorous in-loading problem in the lake. Use of these methods on a smaller scale, instead of lake-wide, will help to better evaluate and demonstrate the effectiveness of the treatments. The consultants also recommend educational workshops about reducing potassium loading in the lake and installing boat washing stations at the access sites.

Ed Schmitt asked what heavy metals were in the lake. The consultants said arsenic was the most harmful, along with chromium, selenium, and zinc. Ed Schmitt said he has dredged and had samples tested and they did not show the high numbers as stated by the consultants. Charlie Pater said the current ph helps to keep out zebra mussels but if they treat the lake with alum, it will significantly effect the ph. C. Pater also asked how do you get PO 4 out of the water column. He said, however, that it would clear up the water. A gentleman said the purple area in D3 is caused from the Branch-Derby Drain. He asked what generates the other purple area in the deep area of the lake. The answer was settling. C. Pater asked how much sediment is coming up after heavy boat traffic and was answered that lots of suspended weeds go down to the bottom. The consultants said aeration helps muck reduction. C. Pater asked if the consultants had considered pumping surface oxygen to the bottom of the lake. Lorraine Pater said she thinks they should stop putting weed killers into the lake. Someone asked if the committee has checked on any grants available and they said they are doing that.

J. Stepich, speaking for the lake committee, outlined the next steps after this lake analysis, if this lake renovation goes forward. The boards would formulate a plan and once it is developed they would publish for the first public hearing. After the first public hearing, they would give an outline of the plan and the total cost. He said it would be decided on how it would be paid for, and a second public hearing would be scheduled, and a notice published. Then a special assessment district would be set up, the basis established, and the length of the assessment. If approved, the work would begin in 2011. Stepich said whether this lake study goes anywhere or not, we have a first class analysis of Paw Paw Lake.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vick Kinzler of Watervliet Charter Township and a support by Jim Fulton of Coloma Charter Township at 8:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Bambrick
Watervliet Charter Township Clerk

Dan Hutchins
Watervliet Charter Township Supervisor

Recorded and transcribed by Marcia VanDrasek, Deputy Clerk