

## **UPDATE ON LAKE RESTORATION INITIATIVE**

### **October 2009**

#### **REVIEW:**

As you know from our September Update, both the Coloma and Watervliet Township Boards voted to split the cost (\$45,000) for the necessary comprehensive studies that will provide decision making data.

The two companies who have teamed up to provide the data are Spicer and J.F. New. Following the townships' vote to provide funding, they got to work and completed all of the data collection necessary to allow us to make knowledgeable decisions on improving the lake.

The study is comprised of four parts. The first is a bottom sediment characterization; the second is a bottom sediment water quality analysis and assessment; the third is a late summer aquatic vegetation assessment and the fourth and final area of analysis is to determine water quality and vegetation management of the lake.

#### **UPDATE:**

All of the above studies have been completed. Spicer and J. F. New had expected to get back with us in September; but as these things go, they will likely not have the final recommendations until late October. We will keep you informed.

In the mean time, your Lake Improvement Joint Committee members have been busy gaining the information we need to make decisions. Six members of the committee attended a conference last week on TAKING CHARGE: Special Assessment Districts for Lake Improvements. Three from Coloma (Ken Parrigin, Rick Rasmussen and Jeff Mitchell) and three from Watervliet (Joe Stepich, Pat Bambrick and Mary Spessard) attended. It was well worth our time.

One of the best things we learned was that we are doing it right! A big "thanks" to the leadership of the Lake Restoration Committee. Every time the speaker started out with "Please do not forget to....." We all waited anxiously and when his recommendation came out we all thought "We did that!" One of the recommendations was to keep interested parties informed. We are trying hard to do that.

An interesting piece of information was the description of the two required public hearings. Once the recommendations are approved by the Township Boards, the first public hearing is scheduled. The first hearing deals with the proposed plans and the total cost estimates. It deals only with the plans and total cost. It is not until the second public hearing that the topic of the proposed special assessment roll (who pays) and the anticipated cost of the project to the individual lots and parcels is address and opened for discussion.

If you have additional questions about this process, please let me know and I will try to respond or find someone who has the answers.

These updates are being sent to you because of your expressed interest in Paw Paw Lake. If you know of others who may be interested in receiving the updates, please have them contact us and we will place them on the list. (mspessard@comcast.net)

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