

PARADISE LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD (PLIB)
MINUTES – November 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order via ZOOM at 7:00 P.M. Present were: Arden Bawkey, Toni Drier, John Siegel, and Paul Teike. Absent was: Bob Smith.

Minutes:

Teike moved, Drier seconded approval of minutes from the Budget Public Hearing, August Special Meeting, and August Regular Meeting. Motion approved.

Correspondence:

- Teike asked about copies of emails received. Marilyn Roll stated that Drier prints them out and she files them. Drier then read a list of senders of emails and the topic.

Presentation:

Jennifer Jones stated that the complete report needed to be submitted to Professional Engineers for approval. She should have copies to the Board by the end of the month. The Board will have 60 days from receipt to determine the next course of action. This time is set by regulation.

She then gave an abbreviated summary of the report. The lake currently has 400A of weeds. There does not appear to be any further non-herbicidal methods for removal. Her recommendation is the use of an herbicide followed by DASH (Diver assisted Harvesting). She showed two charts of the current weed bed locations and the density of the EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil).

The best herbicide for our situation appears to be triclopyr. She estimates, using only the number of riparians and not back lotters, that annual cost would be \$347/parcel with a total cost of \$110,000 for all milfoil. Her final report will contain exact amounts for both riparians and back lotters using the original formula for the Special Assessment District.

Questions:

- How many treatments per season? *There would be one big one in 2021. It takes 8-12 weeks to evaluate. If there are areas greater than 2A remaining, there would be spot treatment. Within 3-4 weeks of original treatment, weed tops would become bright green*

and then the plants would begin to candy cane and fall as the roots die.

- Has the treatment been approved? *It was just recommended by the State.*
- If chemicals are used, what happens to the plant after it dies, e.g., disintegrate, float, etc.? *It will either disintegrate on the lake bottom or if many plants fall at once and there are high waves, they will end up on the shore.*
- Will the lake bottom get mucky? *It takes time for the microbes to eat the fallen weeds, so for a time, yes.*
- If the total cost is \$110,075 and the simple cost is \$347 per riparian the back lotters need to be factored in.
- The map showing red and green weed beds show some in Hebron Twp. How do we address this? *I recommend getting a legal opinion on this.*
- Hebron Twp. It is only a small area but we do need to find out what we can do there before proceeding.
- What is the difference between harvesting and dash? *Harvesting just cuts the weeds and collects them for removal. DASH is diver assisted harvesting. Divers actually dig up each individual plant and then they are removed using a suction hose.*
- Has anyone approached Hebron Twp.? *Yes, they were included in original formation of the PLIB. It is one of the poorest townships in Michigan and it is a matter of money. They decided not to participate.*
- Can an individual with property in Hebron opt in (buy in) for their own properties? *Jones did not know. Mike Solomon, her associate, said that they could but they would have to sign a waiver.*
- How many properties are in Hebron? *Not sure, recall about 40.*
- What about Little Traverse Conservancy which owns property on the lake? *It currently pays its SAD assessment. If herbicides are used, who knows.*
- If we don't treat in Hebron, will the weeds migrate back into the rest of the lake? *There is a good possibility that they would.*
- Will Restorative Lake Services follow a discipline to maintain the fish and wildlife populations in/around the lake? *Yes. There are very few failures.*

- How is application done? *We give them our coordinates and this leads to precision application. The contractor will also have gps units on board so the exact areas they treat can be determined.*
- What happens to the products themselves? *All approved products break down into natural compounds. The contractor will add a sticking agent so the herbicide adheres to the plants.*
- How much product is applied so residents can judge their drinking water? *We are very careful concerning not overdoing it.*
- How is triclopyr in respect to wildlife? *It has a very good track record. Must follow the label directions carefully.*

Survey:

Teike thanked the survey committee. Drier read the minutes from the Survey tabulating meeting on October 9.

Teike moved, Bawkey seconded a motion to accept the work product of the survey committee. Siegel asked if this meant the Board was accepting the results of the survey. *No, only the report itself.* In a roll call vote, there were 4 ayes, 1 absent. Motion passed. Jones asked if the survey results could be put in her feasibility report. Drier replied that it is a public document and may be cited.

New Business:

2021 Meeting Schedule – It was decided to hold off on the schedule until the Board gets the full report from Jones. Then they have 60 days to review it and make a final decision.

Zoom Meeting – Teike thanked Jones for hosting the meeting. Drier suggested that the Board looks into using Zoom on its own. Currently Wawatam Twp. is doing this. Someone will talk to the Wawatam Twp. Clerk.

Siegel moved, Bawkey seconded a motion to have Jones (RLS) prepare a feasibility study. It was asked if it was necessary to dissolve the current SAD as it runs through 2021. Answer was that this had never been encountered by RLS previously; legal opinion recommended. The study would cover three options: triclopyr, triclopyr + dash, triclopyr + dash + aeration. In a roll call vote 4 ayes, 1 absent.

John Tucci has offered to continue the aeration system through 2021 for \$5000. Jones stated that RLS could work this into the feasibility study as a backup. Both aeration and herbicide have not been used together before. It was noted that electric cost for the generators (three) runs about \$1500 per month

during summer months plus fees over the winter. This cost would have to be added to treatment costs. Drier asked that the email from Tucci concerning extension of aeration be forwarded to the Board.

Teike moved, Siegel seconded a motion to pay the bills. In a roll call vote, there were 4 ayes, 1 absent.

Public Comment:

- Compliments to the Board for giving the riparians the opportunity to speak up with the survey.
- Thanks to the Board for trying Zoom so more can participate.
- A riparian called today about a tree being blown down onto the generator house on Carleton Cove. Allegedly, it is fairly large. Teike said he would check it out.
- Encourage more persons to follow us on twitter. Because of a power outage, the notice about the meeting change was sent out late. More persons involved is better.

Adjournment: 8:25