

Paradise Lake Improvement Board Minutes – 7/27/11 (Special Meeting)

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, all present
2. Public Comment
 - a. Marilyn Smith let it be known that the PLA is sponsoring a boater safety class on July 30th and also a continuation of the clean boat clean water education circuit at the public access. The PLA stated that they will be placing buoy's in the lake to mark milfoil in order to assist in containment.
 - b. Dick Elliott asked what the effect the chemical Tony Groves has mentioned will have on native plants, fisheries and Eastern Pond Mussel.
 - c. Michal Byers asked if there are any studies showing that weevils worked.
 - d. John Solosey stated that he felt that Zebra Mussels would kill the Eastern Pond Mussel anyway so we shouldn't worry about potentially killing them with chemicals.
3. Correspondence was briefly discussed and it was decided just to put in on the website for all to read.
4. Chairman Report – None. Jim did take a moment to mention that milfoil is common among many, many lakes throughout the country and stated that we are not alone.
5. Appearances – Tony Groves
 - a. Tony reviewed the vegetation survey and explained further how he came up with the 700 acre figure as there was a good deal of confusion relating to his calculations.
 - b. Tony stated that there are native milfoil and hybrids along with invasive types of weeds common to lakes such as ours however, there were no sightings of hybrids. He also tested for weevils and found some on 1/3 of milfoil tested.
 - c. Cathy questioned the 700 acre number and asked if during his testing, he noticed an overlap between milfoil and native plants. Answer (Tony) – Yes, there was some overlap; milfoil was mixed with native plants.
 - d. Arden asked if Tony was surprised at the weevils shown. Answer (Tony) – No, weevils have been stocked in the lake and they are also native so this is a reasonable number.
 - e. Tony stated that they did look at alternatives to a chemical solution. He stated the following: Dredging would cost over 50 million dollars, Suction Dredging is too slow and labor intensive, Benthic Barriers cost between .50-1.25 a foot which would mean about 25,000 an acre and it kills everything, Grass Carp do not like to eat milfoil, Aeration is not effective on milfoil, weevils are unpredictable.

- f. Discussion on SAD draft criteria coupled with a discussion on two options of treatment that Tony was suggesting. Alternative 1 includes a whole lake Fluridone treatment with weevils following behind after two years. Treatment is alleged to only kill the milfoil in low doses and should not kill native plants and fish. Current weevils would die however, after 2 years of chemical treatment, weevils would be stocked for the following 3 years. Also included in this option is a watershed protection guidebook and 25,000 towards a boat washing station, funds for administration, monitoring and a contingency fund.
- g. Question: Elaine – A lot of what you are proposing depends on whether or not Hebron Township will take part in our treatment. What if they say no? Answer (Tony)- We need Hebron’s support to treat the whole lake. They can make a contribution and pass a resolution to help us and then we will be free to treat the whole lake. If Hebron does not help, we have the contingency fund. Reply (Elaine) – So ordinarily, if we do not use the contingency fund, what happens to that money? Does the Board get it back? Answer (Tony) – Yes.
- h. Question: Cathy – Is Alternative 2 just in Emmet County? Answer: (Tony) No.
- i. Arden to Hebron Township residents: Would you donate money? Residents at meeting responded yes but did not commit to a number.
- j. Tony – If Hebron helps to sponsor this project then that would allow us to treat the whole lake.
- k. Arden to Hebron Township residents: Would you be willing to organize and talk to your board to help us out?
- l. Question: Elaine – Carp Lake Township residents must pay their share of the SAD or face the consequences. What if Hebron residents organize payments outside of their Township Board and then decide to back out after a year? Answer (Tony) – We need Hebron to sponsor our program so we can treat the whole lake. That is what we need to focus on. Reply (Elaine) – I believe that cost is equally as important as the treatment.
- m. Question: Cathy – Fluridone kills other plants doesn’t it? Answer (Tony) – Yes, in high doses.
- n. Tony handed out a study by the Michigan Science Board concerning Fluridone and stated that he has treated over 100 lakes with no fish kills or health risks.
- o. Question (Cathy) – If Fluridone needs to stay in contact with milfoil for 60-90 days, will it wash over the dam? Answer (Tony) – yes but we would not treat until well after the spring melt.
- p. Question (Elaine) – Is there a long term study available for Fluridone and if so, how many years does it cover? There has been a study that covers 8-10 years that looked at the fishery.
- q. Question (Elaine) – Why has Fluridone been banned in the European Union? Answer (Tony) – I’m not sure that it has. Reply (Elaine) – Yes, since 2003. Answer (Tony) – I don’t know.

- r. Question (Elaine) – Although an audience member stated that he doesn't think it matters that we put the Eastern Pond Mussel in harms way since he feels they are going to die anyway, I believe that science is creating new solutions every day so I think it is important to protect them now. How will Fluridone effect the Eastern Pond Mussels? Answer (Tony) – It has no effect on Pond Mussels or the fishery.
- s. Question (Elaine) – What about how fast this treatment would kill the weeds. Don't we have to worry about all those dead weeds causing much more muck at the bottom of the lake? We don't have any depth to spare. Answer (Tony) – There will be no problem with the oxygen levels or sediment. The weeds will just sink to the bottom and die.
- t. Question (Elaine) – The EPA recognizes that Fluridone's breakdown products include a known cancer-causing agent called n-methylformamide. Can you comment on that? Answer (Tony) – I don't know anything about that.
- u. Chairman spoke about chemical treatments and what has been found in other parts of the world. He feels we need to look at our options more and come up with a consensus on moving forward.
- v. Tony stated that there is no health issue with Fluidone. It has been looked at and is the best fit for this lake.
- w. Question (Cathy) – Don't we need Hebron Township to support us before we have a Public Hearing? What if only two people donate? Answer (Tony) – We hope Hebron contributes so we can move forward.
- x. Elaine stated that it is a shame that the United States is just so willing to add chemicals to anything when a good portion of the time, we have no idea what the consequences will be down the road. She added that Europe and other countries use a precautionary principle in that a product must be proven safe before use whereas in the US, a product must prove harm before it is pulled from the shelves. Answer (Tony) – He does not feel this is the case. Reply (Elaine) – It has been proven. Even now, when you read about 24-D, the words "safer than" always precede it. That is a recent change. Reply (Jim) – Elaine is talking about the chemicals which have been approved for use here in the US only to have people in hazmat suits come to get them out of your garage years later. [Specific chemicals named were not recorded in the minutes]
- y. Arden – Arden asked the Hebron Township residents to contact the Hebron Township Board and see what they could accomplish. Elaine added that she did not feel it was the residents' responsibility to do so and that the Board should assign a representative. It was decided that Paul would be charged with the duty and would attend the next Hebron Township Board meeting on the Board's behalf.
- z. Elaine stated that she feels it is important for Carp Lake Township residents to know that they may be responsible for footing the bill for Hebron Township if their board declines.

6. Public Comment

- a) Audience member - Would Tony go to the Hebron Township Board meeting?
Answer (Tony) – Yes, if I was invited.
- b) Bob Smith – Chemicals could cause harm; why not use weevils? Answer (Tony) – There is a warranty with Alternative 1. Weevils cost too much and we would need a million to treat the lake.
- c) Paul Erickson – I am a 50 year resident, I don't believe in magic. The two options presented will work. I 100% support option 1 or 2.
- d) Dick Dragoo – I care about this lake and I am a 40 year riparian. I have to please customers. It is a major task to clean up milfoil. I have trouble getting to my dock it is so thick. I don't want to lose my business and I support option 1.
- e) Michael Byers – I am from Hebron Township. I did my research on weevils. There are no studies that show a 2000 acre lake successfully treated with weevils.
- f) Audience member – I am a resident from Hebron Township and will only contribute monetarily if alternative 1 or alternative 2 are used.
- g) Audience member – I caution people not to write letters to the newspaper because our home values and reputation as a community can't afford the continual negativity. It is also important to respect the opinions of other people. Don't snicker when someone is expressing a different opinion than your own.
- h) Ann Klebba – What percentage of the native plants will be killed? Answer (Tony) – Not more than 10%. The milfoil is smothering your fishery. Removing milfoil will help your fishery.
- i) Marilyn Smith – The DNR cautions against chemical treatment, as it harms the fishery. Also, studies show that the breakdown of the chemicals in Fluridone and 24 – D are harmful. Dash Boats are a potential option. The cost for the boat itself is reasonable and we have volunteer divers. How about bacteria? I would like to suggest we try weevils first before turning to chemicals. I oppose using chemicals to treat the lake. Reply (Tony) – Houghton Lake fish reports show no decline in fisheries during these years of treatment.
- j) Audience member – Chemicals make me nervous. I would like to see weevils tried first.
- k) Audience member – Will you test wells in the area? Answer (Tony) – No, there are no restrictions regarding wells with this chemical. 2 4-D for example has a restriction because it had at one point gotten into some wells.
- l) Bob Roll – You said there would be collateral damage on native plants, now you are saying this damage would be minimal. Which is it? Answer (Tony) – If I were asked to put a number on collateral damage, I'd say less than 10%.
- m) There was a brief discussion on Fluridone and how it stays in the water and how it works.
- n) Bob Roll – Should the audience submit questions to the board? Answer (Jim) – I believe that is what they are doing right now.

- o) Audience member – I support alternative 1. Studies show it will work at a low dose.
- p) John Beeson – I have been hit hard by this community, the Dept. of Agriculture, the Hwy Dept. and even the County has been after me. I have done nothing illegal. It is time to save this lake.
- q) Rick Schweller – The FoPL started the petition that formed this board. We want to help Hebron Twp residents. Also, there are two types of data, facts and fiction. When the Carp Lake Twp Board surveyed riparians, they supported an integrated approach. There are no silver bullets. If we could have worked with the PLA, this process would be easier. I support alternative 1.
- r) Mary Madigan – Following the treatment, will the weeds that wash up on shore be toxic? Answer (Tony) – No, the plants are never toxic. The plants will sink.
- s) Betty Waak – When you came here for your interview, before you were hired, the Board asked you about a rumor circulating that you would use a whole lake Fluridone treatment. At the time you said the rumor was false and now you are saying the complete opposite. Answer (Tony) – Let me clarify, I meant that there was no way of knowing what sort of treatment I would recommend without first studying the lake. Reply (Betty) – But at the time, you said no, correct? Answer (Tony) – Yes, that is correct.
- t) Audience member – You need to look at chemicals at a rate they will be used in our lake. Not at the rate studies use.
- u) Chairman Jim – Discussion on 24- D studies. Also Jim pointed out that we at the very least need to be cautious about our decision.
- v) Question: Elaine – Tony, I would like you to find out why Fluridone was banned in the European Union.
- w) Marilyn Roll – I have not always been against chemicals. Pond weeds will be killed by Fluridone. How long will it take for the weeds to come back? There are places in this lake where weevils have worked. I oppose chemicals.
[Answer not recorded in the minutes.]