

Board Attendance:	Paul Bates	Dennis Blain	Dave Butski	Dave Dahl
John Gosinski	Thomas Crampton	Brian Knapp	Bob Callison	Malissa Trenkle
Guests:	Andy Tomaszewski from Professional Lake Management & Gary Marzolf from D.A.S.H. (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting)			

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Brian Knapp introduced Andy Tomaszewski from Professional Lake Management Company & explained that we have handouts showing our history using PLM & next year's recommendations. Andy started out explaining the difference between native & exotic lake weeds on our lake. Exotic-invasive weeds that are most prevalent here are, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly Pondweed & Starry Stonewort. They typically have longer & faster growing seasons & are not as easy to control. They are weeds that are not naturally occurring here and have been introduced to the lake from the bottom of boats that enter the lake, wildlife will carry them in, or through Goose Creek. Long term, if these invasive species are not controlled they can destroy a lake. Some of the native weeds like, Eelgrass, are necessary in moderation for the health of the lake. Unfortunately, Eelgrass has become more abundant on the lake and is also a weed that does not respond well to chemicals. The treatments for it will only stunt or knock them down for a few weeks. The goal in management of the native weeds should not be to entirely remove them but to only remove if & where they are causing a recreational nuisance. These native weeds give a necessary habitat for the fish & wildlife on the lake which help to keep the lake healthy.

Based on the large amounts of Milfoil they found on the lake this year they are recommending that we use a treatment called Sonar which it is applied to the entire lake at a low dose of 5-6 parts per billion. It is a Fluridone treatment product that is systemic & attacks the root system of the Milfoil. It is widely used to reset a lakes milfoil levels. We have used Sonar on the lake in 2006 and 2009. Sonar will take out the early growing weeds like Milfoil & Curly Pondweed & will stunt Eelgrass, which starts to grow later in the season.

Sonar is an effective treatment tool but should not be done yearly, as it is expensive & includes a large amount of lab testing when monitoring the concentration levels. The DEQ will only allow this treatment every 3 years and has additional requirements that have to be met before they will issue permits. PLM's estimated cost for treating Lake Columbia in 2018 with the Sonar has a low end price of \$89,715 and a high end price of \$120,965. This price includes testing & DEQ permits. The higher price includes additional Bump-up Sonar treatments as needed. The budget also factors in 40 hours of harvesting Eelgrass, treatment of Starry Stonewort, & Clipper for the southern channel. Starry Stonewort is an algae & not a plant so Sonar will not treat it. In the southern channel, where the water moves faster, Clipper may be needed. These will also need DEQ approval if they are needed. DEQ is usually pretty good at approving these requests but we won't know for sure until we get to that point. Sonar is applied mid to late April after the Milfoil has started to grow. We should be seeing results mid to late June. At the time it is applied in April, there should be no swimming issues but there is a 1 week irrigation restriction.

Brian Knapp asked Andy if he could explain to us what happened at Clark Lake this year. He explained that they were using an Auxin based herbicide for their milfoil problem and it wasn't working. After doing tests they found out it was a hybrid milfoil & this is why the herbicide wasn't working. After the article in the Exponent was released they discovered that Sonar will kill off the hybrid strain they found & have decided to save their money until they could afford to treat with it.

Handouts of the AVIS Survey Map that PLM did in September shows types & amounts of weeds that were found in each of the sectioned areas. Eurasian Watermilfoil & Eelgrass were the most prevalent plant species on the lake, with Curly Pondweed and Starry Stonewort following. The graphs that were passed out showed that aquatic plant life dropped off in 2006 & 2009, the years we did Sonar. It also dropped off in 2012. Andy could not remember that far back but the drop in 2012 could have been due to the weather or that the association was a bit more diligent about reporting weed problems for treatment. If there was a winter with an abundance of ice & snow, the weeds in the lake have a tendency of being less.

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Sonar is a slow acting herbicide & has no lasting impacts on the wildlife. While at MSU, Steve Hanson, our new PLM contact, did research analyzing the use of Sonar in Michigan & one of his findings was that the fisheries will actually do better when the milfoil is controlled.

Andy said he will need our answer by December 1 so they can get the proper permits in to the state.

Brian Knapp introduced Gary Marzolf from D.A.S.H. (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester). He started out doing this work in 2005. His main priority is removing various bio-mass from lakes so there are no weeds, seed pods or roots left at the bottom of the lake. Instead of divers coming to the surface to dispose of the removed plants or bagging them underwater, plants are fed into a suction line that transports plants to the surface. The divers can be very selective as to what they pull up. They can collect every type of weed but hone in on Eurasian Milfoil, Curly Pondweed & Starry Stonewort because these are the easiest to see due to the turbidity of the water. The DEQ will allow them to remove 80% of the weeds. After using chemicals to treat, it is important to remove the bio-mass within 60 days of treatment or what is left will start to rot & decay. He can remove 180-200 bags of weeds per day in a 3-5 foot deep area. He has 5 D.A.S.H. boats and can do about ½ to 1 acre per day. His fee is approximately \$1600 per acre. We would need to hire him for a minimum of 3 days worth of work in order for him to be able to justify \$1600 per day. His current system cannot get rid of the muck but if he was to do this for us & there was enough to justify it, he could lease something called an "Eddie Pump", which would do what we needed him to do.

Activities Committee: Casino Bus Trip is coming up on November 4th. They also want to do the Christmas Light Decoration Contest again. **Gosinski Motioned to pay for the prize money for the Christmas Lights Contest again this year, Blain 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.**

Coleen Crampton, Royal Shores, asked if they would be doing more activities for the younger kids. Karen Kiss said they had the wreath making event & movie night this year and are open to more activities. They just need more adults to volunteer to help with them.

Mark Umlauf, Royal Shores, asked if we were hosting the Trunk or Treat event again & we are not since the High School hosted last year and had a great response. We have not had much luck with weather cooperating with us for the past few years.

Closed Open Session 8:06 pm

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President's report: Sandra Cook, our insurance agent from Barker Weber, sent us an email saying she is moving to a new company in Ann Arbor and would like to know if we are interested in staying with her. Callison asked if she had access to the same carriers, contacts & underwriters & if prices would remain the same or better. The office will get answers to the boards concerns.

Vice President's report: None

Secretary's report: **Blain Motioned** to approve Regular & Executive Minutes from September 2, 2017, & E-mail vote allowing the Baileys to dredge in front of their house with proper permits dated October 2, 2017, E-mail vote regarding Short Term Rental Issue dated October 6, 2017, and the last E-mail vote regarding another Short Term Rental Issue dated October 10, 2017, **Tom Crampton 2nd**, All in Favor.

Treasurer's report: As of September 30, 2017, the Lake Columbia Property Association had total assets of \$1,541,642. The Cash on hand as of 9/30/17 was \$1,172,916 of which \$379,900 is marked for Lake Management Reserve and \$100,000 is in reserve for the Dam and \$50,000 for our new insurance deductible.

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The leading expenses during the month September were the Granger Trash Service at \$20,085, Lawn to Lake was paid \$4945, Professional Lake Management was paid \$1,875 for weed treatment.

Ralph Smith asked why Lawn to Lake was over the contract price by \$1000. It was explained that he wasn't. There was 5 Fridays in that month so the amounts will be different from month to month.

Blain motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Gosinski 2nd**. All in favor, Motion carried.

OPERATIONS REPORTS:

A. Maintenance:

a. Monthly Dam report. No water is going over the dam.

B. Complaints/Comments/Communications: A folder was passed around with current complaints and park suggestions that we have received this month.

C. Committee Reports:

a. Building Control Committee approved (1) Decks, (2) Additions, (1) Garages, (1) Dock

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Vacation Rentals Update: The attorney is continuing to go after the violators that we find are continuing to rent on a short term basis. Tom Crampton asked if he should be responding to questions that are coming from Nextdoor regarding this. He was told if they are the people we have asked our attorney to follow up with, he should have them contact our attorney.

B. Stone Seawall at Cement City Rd Inlet: Gosinski was finally able to contact the person at the DEQ and was told to get bids and turn them in to the DEQ and they will respond to us then. This is not the same way as we were told to do this last year but there is a new contact there now so we will have to follow up this way.

C. Nottingham Ramp Repair Update: Rappleye is currently working on it & provided everything goes according to plan he should have it finished in about a week. **Again, we would like to request that when removing your boat from the lake that you refrain from power loading!**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Prep for 2018 Budget: Knapp would like to add sandboxes to the parks where we have sand piles. Tom Crampton would like us to do something with the fencing at Karen Ct. Blain would like us to add 6 more picnic tables. Gosinski is looking at about \$5000 for repairs & updates for various bathhouses. We also need to look at seal coating some of the parking lots. The Trash Contract will have a 1% increase in 2018 & the current contract runs through the end of 2018. Possible Sonar & Dredging. Raising dues the Midwest Consumer Price Increase was discussed, which would amount to about \$10/member. It was decided for the board to call a Special Meeting to sit down & discuss the 2018 Budget.

B. Winterizing Parks & Bathhouses: Dan should be finishing up this week and next depending on the weather. Bathhouses have been locked for the year. We are waiting to winterize them until Dave Frances has a chance to take a look at them all to make a list of necessary needed repairs.

C. Privacy fence request: Dave DeBaker at 115 Ambler Dr is requesting that he be able to put a privacy fence between he & his neighbor in the front of his house because of problems he is having with the neighbor. There has been police reports by Mr. DeBaker regarding his neighbor. He believes the fence will create a sight limitation for each of them & will hopefully defuse some of the tension. **Knapp motioned** to approve Mr. DeBaker's plans for a Temporary Privacy Fence, with the understanding that if he or his neighbor moves the fence will come down. **Blain 2nd**, all in favor, motion carried.

D. Kress Issue: The language in Imperial Shores says that owners own to the water's edge. Because of this language, Mr. Kress owns the treed hook next to the sandbar in front of his property. He would like us to acknowledge that this is the case. **Knapp motioned** that we put a statement in the Columbian that he owns to the water's edge. **Callison 2nd**, all in favor, motion carried.

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E. Member Dock Issue & 10' Rule: We have had numerous complaints this year regarding neighbors putting their docks places so their boats and/or lifts are encroaching onto neighbors swim areas. We will be adding something to the Columbian also to make people aware of this rule.

Adjournment: Blain motioned, Tom Crampton 2nd, and all members in attendance supported to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm.

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