

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WASHTENAW COUNTY  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
PLEASANT LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Freedom Township Hall  
11508 Pleasant Lake Road  
Manchester, Michigan 48158

Board Member Present: Dries, Jefferson, Maciejewski, Pratt, Schmidt, Smith, Walz  
Board Members Absent: Mekjian  
Staff Present: Michelle Katz, Water Resources Coordinator  
Theo Eggermont, Public Works Manager  
Lauren Koloski, Washtenaw County Environmental Supervisor  
Others Present: See attached lists for other attendees (Public)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dries at 7:03 p.m.

**2. AGENDA**

Motion by Schmidt, supported by Pratt, to approve the agenda as presented.  
Motion carried.

**3. PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT, PRESENTED BY LAUREN KOLOSKI, WASHTENAW COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SUPERVISOR**

Koloski reviewed housekeeping items such as: instructions for public comment portion of the hearing, public interest in Special Assessment Appeal process, and inquiries about individuals' specific assessments.

Koloski reviewed the history of the current project and identified that the goals of the identified lake management plan are to improve the recreational capabilities and monitor biological diversity. She reviewed that all parcels that have deeded access, commercial and residential, are part of the assessment district. She discussed that a budget has been developed with a third-party consultant and an assessment structure per individual parcel was developed. This was all assessed under Public Act 185, which allows a multi-jurisdictional partnership.

Koloski reviewed the steps for implementation of the project, and identified that currently they are at Step 7 of the process.

Koloski reviewed the assessment amounts: Non-waterfront residential properties with lake access are assessed at \$125; waterfront residential properties are assessed at \$325; and commercial properties with lake access are assessed at \$425. Koloski shared website information where the public can find more information about the project and various other resources available to the public.

Koloski discussed Management Level Zones 1 and 3. Management Level Zone 1 addresses Pondweeds, Hybrid Pondweeds, and Milfoil which are treated with contact herbicides and algacides. Highly selective management agents are applied in Zone 1 with the objective being to focus on only a single species or two, the Ebrid Watermilfoil and Curley Leaf Pondweed.

The focus of Management Level Zone 3 is generally to prevent the weediest species from growing at nuisance levels near home and commercial developments. Lake access is the critical focus in Management Level Zone 3 and selectivity is a subordinate priority.

Koloski presented more information regarding Pleasant Lake, including that fifteen different plant species were observed in Pleasant Lake in 2017; that aggressive management of one or more species is the direction in which they are heading; Ebrid Watermilfoil growth is expected to reach nuisance levels after the Memorial Day Holiday; Wild Celery was identified as a dominant plant in the lake, and since there is no known control strategy for Wild Celery, no action will be taken at this time. Data shows that conditions are worsening in the lake and Ebrid Watermilfoil needs to be addressed to improve lake conditions.

The cost allocation of the project was identified by Koloski. The lake management specialist is 12 percent; lake herbicide applicator is 70 percent; weed harvesting is 5 percent; and project development is 12 percent. The cost-per-year budget is estimated to be \$40,675, which takes into consideration a worst-case scenario situation. Budgets over the past 5 years have provided surplus into the next project planning period eliminating the need to borrow.

#### 4. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

1. Betty Schneider, 11577 Pleasant Shore, Freedom Township passed.

2. Julie Johnston, represented 11978 Elmdale, Freedom Township as her mom could not be present. She indicated Purple Strife has been seen in the lake, which is not native to the lake. She inquired if spraying is going to be in certain areas, as her area didn't get sprayed last year and they couldn't get their boat out due to the amount of weeds. She expressed that when they cut the weeds, they floated and got stuck in the lily pads and ended up with blue-green algae for the first time.

3. Mike Schaible, 10795 Pleasant Lake Road, Freedom Township passed.

4. Charlotte Stewart, 5264 Happy Hollow Road, Freedom Township wants the lake sprayed.

5. Jerry Schmidt, 5176 Happy Hollow Road, Freedom Township stated he believes the lake is in the worst shape it has ever been due to the weed growth, which impedes recreational activities on the lake.

6. Catherine Roberts, 11485 Pleasant Shore Drive, Freedom Township stated she has been very happy with what has been happening, but that the east end of the lake is a mess; thick with weeds. She inquired if anyone is finding a cure for Eel Grass. Dries stated this will be followed up. She also inquired if lily pads can be addressed because they are native plants, as they are getting overwhelming as well.

7. Gerald Swartout, 11631 Pleasant Shore Drive, Freedom Township stated that every 3 to 5 years there should be competitive bidding, and because there is no competitive bidding for the project, he would be against it.

8. Mark Langen, 5035 Happy Hollow Road, Freedom Township passed.

9. Chris Mikesell, 11866 Hieber Road, Freedom Township stated she supports the program and would like to see it continue, but wants to make sure she's getting best bang for her buck; specifically stated concerns about the culvert by her home that drains from the farm field into the lake. This creates concerns for her about water quality. She has addressed this with the township but wants everyone working with the lake to be informed. She stated she would put in rain gardens to help slow down the flow of the water, but would need help. She invited the Board to come by and look at it first-hand.

10. Beth Heuser, 11254 Hieber Road, Freedom Township expressed her thanks for coming, because other ways to address the problem were not liked or were not thought to be beneficial. She is thankful for this being managed by this body, as opposed to random people just willy-nilly dumping any kind of chemicals into the lake. She agrees with Mikesell regarding a buffer on the other side of the road regarding the farmer's land,