

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WASHTENAW COUNTY  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
PLEASANT LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Freedom Township Hall  
11508 Pleasant Lake Road  
Manchester, Michigan 48158

Board Member Present: Dries, Maciejewski, Pratt, Schmidt, Smith, Walz  
Board Members Absent: Jefferson, 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 7:01 p.m.

**2. AGENDA**

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

**3. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 10, 2019**

Motion by Schmidt, supported by Maciejewski, to approve the minutes as presented.  
Motion carried.

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

Koloski stated that she gave the presentation last time and will defer to Dr. Pullman to provide the status of the project.

**5. PRESENTATION FROM LAKE MANAGER, DR. DOUG PULLMAN**

Dr. Pullman explained that the lake is becoming less healthy and less diversified due to the invasive species of weeds crowding out the desired plant communities in the lake. Dr. Pullman described that this is a goal-driven program which seeks to create a stable, biologically diverse aquatic plant community to make the lake healthier and more resilient to being invaded by other species. He described that this can be measured by asking: is the lake getting better/worse; what is better and worse; are the management efforts on the lake contributing to improved conditions.

Dr. Pullman described his lake scan method of collecting data on the lake. He explained that according to his research, nuisance conditions in the lake have diminished over the last five years; however, other data shows that the lake is not as healthy as it needs to be. Lake management over the next five years will focus on making the lake stable and biologically diverse.

Dr. Pullman explained that in treating the lake, they are constrained by the permit process as to what native plants they can treat according to EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes & Energy). Dr. Pullman described that even though the Milfoil has been treated, other plants are now spreading and taking over. He discussed the options available to address the problem. One option is to do nothing; however, the consequences of that decision aren't desirable because the Milfoil can come back and do even more damage. He discussed that a lot

of times once an invasive has been taken care of, native plants quickly grow back in its place, and then eventually the growth levels even back out to what it was before the invasive was there. Another option to address the problem is integrated management. Another is harvesting, but that is not feasible for this lake. Dr. Pullman introduced Kaiser Associates, who has been working with him on his projects, and who may eventually take over when he no longer does this type of work.

Dr. Pullman offered to answer questions from the public. One member of the public inquired about what biodiversity actually is; Dr. Pullman replied that they manage the weeds and try to protect the good ones. This member of the public stated she has a concern for the invertebrate population as well as other wildlife in the lake due to the swimming ban when the herbicide is placed. Dr. Pullman explained that the ban is so people don't stir up the water, as this deactivates the herbicide. This member of the public expressed that that did not answer her questions about the herbicide being dangerous. Dr. Pullman replied they know it's not dangerous because it is regulated by the USEPA and has been tested. She requested the research that shows that it's safe. Dr. Pullman replied that the information can be obtained from the companies themselves as it is a governmental requirement that the herbicide companies produce that data, which must be conducted by a third-party.

Dr. Pullman offered that in regard to the invertebrates, fish, and wildlife, what they're trying to do is get the lake back to a healthy state, which benefits the wildlife, because when it is healthy, it provides a better habitat for the wildlife. The member of public continued to express her concerns that even though the Milfoil is going down, the other plant growth is increasing, according to Dr. Pullman's charts. She expressed concern about the same thing being done and that it won't work in the future. Dr. Pullman replied that they change it up every year based on his needs assessment of the lake.

Another member of the public inquired if it is possible to get the lake back to its original healthy state, to which Dr. Pullman replied yes, and he is confident that significant improvements will happen. She expressed her concern about the increasing amount of lily pads; Dr. Pullman replied that there are significant restraints to being able to treat lily pads.

Another member of the public inquired what else those living on the lake can do to decrease the problem, aside from not using too much fertilizer. Dr. Pullman said to decrease the flow of water and runoff into the lake: use buffer strips, divert drainpipes, and filter water through vegetation.

Koloski offered that she has a lot information from the watershed group that will help inform this person of what can be done to take care of the lake.

## 6. **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING - 7:37 p.m.**

1. Betty Schneider, passed.

2. Julie Johnston, represented 11978 Elmdale, Freedom Township. Wanted to let Dr. Pullman know that in front of 11968 Elmdale Drive there is Purple Strife. Her other concern is that what was done last year was great in a couple of places, but in their area it got thick in midsummer and had trouble getting boats through.

3. Dale Weidmayer, passed.

4. Carol Westfall, 11268 Hieber. Wants the project to be approved again as she has seen the improvements over the last five years.

5. Lon Nordeen, 11268 Hieber. Wants the project to be approved again as he also has seen the improvements over the last five years. He discussed a study by Washington State that indicates if lake management is not done, property values of homes go down on average 15 to 20 percent.

6. Bob Miller, 10955 Hieber Road. He is the historian for the township and displayed a book of history of the township. He expressed the lake has been improved and he supports continuing it. He questions the equitable funding of the project, as there are many properties classified as non-waterfront properties even though they have an easement to the lake.

7. Gerald Swartout, 11631 Pleasant Shore Drive. He wants the lake in the best shape possible, but stated that there should be competitive bidding for the project, and would like to always see two bids for any project,