

STATE OF MICHIGAN

WASHTENAW COUNTY
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

SPECIAL MEETING
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING
LOWER HURON RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Broadcasted from: Dexter Township Hall
6880 Dexter-Pinckney Road
Dexter, Michigan 48130

BOARD MEMBERS:
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LAUREN SMITH, Vice-Chair
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EVENTS:	PAGE:
1. Call to order	3
2. Remote meeting guidelines and protocol	3
3. Approval of agenda	4
4. Purpose of public hearing	5
5. Description of the project	7
6. Open public hearing	10
7. Public comment	11
8. Close public hearing	43
9. Roll call vote	69
10. Next steps	70
11. Adjournment	71

Dexter, Michigan

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 - 6:33 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

MR. SCHMIDT: I'd like to call to order the Special Meeting of the Washtenaw County Board of Public Works regarding the Lower Huron River Chain of Lakes improvement project. Thank you all for coming out this evening. I appreciate you participating in the process.

If you would like to speak this evening, please make sure that you fill out one of these cards and get that to one of the staff here so that we can make sure you don't get skipped. All right? All right.

At this point, since we're running a in-person and virtual meeting, I'm going to ask Theo to give the rules and regulations with regard to how we're going to operate this evening.

REMOTE MEETING GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOL

MR. EGGERMONT: Excellent. Yeah. So as we get to the public comment period, we'll prioritize people who are in-person first -- or sorry. We'll do letters first. I received one letter. And then we'll do in-person. And then we will move to our remote participants, and we have directions on our agenda or onscreen, but if you are on the phone and can't see the screen, if you press star 9 to raise your hand, and then star 6 to unmute after we call

on you, that's how you'll be able to participate. If you are on your computer, you'll press Alt-Y on Windows, and Option-Y on a Mac to raise your hand, and then once you're called upon, if you can find the unmute button to unmute yourself, and then we will allow you to speak.

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good. Thank you, Theo.

I realize I failed to introduce myself. My name is Drew Schmidt. I'm the Chair of the Board of Public Works, and these are my fellow Board Members up here.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MR. SCHMIDT: We have an agenda. Is there a motion to approve the agenda?

MS. ROOT: So moved.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right, moved. Is there support?

MS. SMITH: I'll support.

MR. SCHMIDT: Moved and supported. Any discussion?

(No response.)

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good. All those in favor signify by saying aye?

MR. PRATT: Aye.

MR. SCHMIDT: Aye.

MS. ROOT: Aye.

MS. SMITH: Aye.

MR. SCHMIDT: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. SCHMIDT: Motion carries. Thank you very much.

All right, first order of business, we are -- this is a pretty standard layout for the hearings for lake improvement projects. We're going to first talk about what this public hearing this evening is for, and then we're going to have a brief description of the project. Many of you are familiar with that because this is a renewal, so that'll be good. And then we'll open it up for public comment.

So, at this point, Theo, would you care to talk about the purpose of this hearing?

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MR. EGGERMONT: Yes, I would. Thank you.

So this is the Board of Public Works. They're governed by Public Act 185, and so this is a public hearing that they're holding to hear from members of the public. They're -- or who have an interest in any property along the Huron River Chain of Lakes under the assessment, which we're calling the Lower Huron River Chain of Lakes. So there's been a slight adjustment. We've shortened the number of properties and we're going to talk a little bit about that.

So those who have an interest in a property that's being considered for the assessment are asked to give their input if they'd like to either support or object the project. And after hearing that, the Board of Public Works will decide how they want to proceed.

So far under the process in the assessment we've discussed the project with the Lake Association, as well as with residents who have an interest in discussing how the project should proceed. We brought the assessment to the Townships, so that is Hamburg and Putnam Township in Livingston County, and Dexter and Webster Township in Washtenaw County. And they've passed resolutions to support the project as proposed. And then the Board of Public Works subsequently passed a resolution to proceed and send it to the Board of Public Works -- or sorry -- the Board of Commissioners in Washtenaw County to move forward with the process.

That set forth in motion setting the public hearings, and we've set two public hearings for this project, tonight, and then if approved, a subsequent one. The first one is to hear input, support, comments objections to the Special Assessment as proposed. And then the second, if approved, would be to hear about the Special Assessment roll, which is basically who's in, who's out, and how much members pay.

The Board can revise, amend, correct, or adjust any of the plans that are part of the project, and/or the cost of the assessment between now and the next public hearing.

Just a note on protesting the public hearing, if you'd like to take your case to the Michigan Tax Tribunal, you should speak at the public hearing to note that you're protesting and what your objection is. We found out, there was a, at a different lake improvement project someone brought it forth and they had noted on the comment card that they were objecting to the assessment, but they didn't speak publically, and so the Michigan Tax Tribunal didn't put their -- didn't award in their favor. So, we recommend if you'd like to protest, please do speak at the, at this hearing.

Should I repeat anything I said?

(No response.)

MR. EGGERMONT: All right.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right, thank you very much, Theo.

Next up, we're going to have Lauren talk about the substance of the project.

Lauren?

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

MS. KOLOSKI: Thank you.

Hi, everyone. I'm Lauren Koloski. Most of you know who I am and have had talks with me before in the past. Thank you for being here. I do appreciate all of you showing up tonight.

The Lower Huron River Chain of Lakes Improvement Project, which originated in 2017, is seeking to continue with a modified five-year project to control the growth and reproduction of non-native aquatic invasive plants, including but not limited to Eurasian Water Milfoil and Starry Stonewort.

The project will work to control the growth of nuisance native aquatic plants as well, including but not limited to, Chara and the variable pondweed that you're seeing up there.

The project will focus on maintaining the ecological health and recreational opportunities for the Lower Huron River Chain of Lakes. Additionally, other items may be included which would provide support for maintaining the ecological health and recreational opportunities that will be subject to approval by the Washtenaw County Board of Public Works. The project areas include Little Portage up to Whitewood and the connecting waters. And I have brought a map that has the entire Special Assessment District as currently proposed on it so you can actually find your individual parcels on there as

well, too.

So invasive non-native plants that have few or no natural predators in their natural environment can quickly spread and disrupting ecosystems by pushing out those native species and reducing biological diversity.

We manage plant growth by partnering with a lake scientist, an herbicide contractor, and a mechanical harvester on this project.

We -- oh. So additional benefits of this project as renewed, is the monitoring of harmful algal blooms. We work closely with EGLE and the local health departments to monitor and sample water as needed.

The total cost of this project, this five-year project, is \$1,034,800. The cost of the Special Assessment District is covered by the residents who have been identified as deeded legal access to the lakes. The proposed project assessments will be placed on the 2022 winter taxes and continue to show up on winter taxes until 2026. Treatment under this proposed project would cover the years of 2023 to 2027.

The cost structure for this project is as follows: waterfront charges are \$173 per year; deeded access to the lake is 900 -- I'm sorry -- \$98 per year; waterfront commercial charges have a range between \$750 and \$3,750 per year.

Over the year a lot has -- over the years a lot has been learned, and we have developed some excellent educational materials specific to this lake system. So, if you want any of those, please let me know. I have them available. This lake system is evolving and changing. The human impact on the lake shows. Internally we are working very hard to stay up to date with the challenges and changes by educating ourselves as best we can to provide the best possible management of this lake system.

If the project is approved and we move forward, I will continue to send emails to residents on when treatment and harvesting happens, provide educational resources. And I provided a sign-up sheet over there, so if anyone is not on my list and they would like to see -- be on that list and get those emails, please add your name and email on there.

I've appreciated the support over the years since I've been on this project, and I thank you again for being here.

Let's move to the next agenda item.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good. Thank you, Lauren.

Just a reminder, if anybody wants to speak, if you haven't filled out a card already, please do so, and somebody from the staff will pick that up and make sure

that gets you in the queue.

We're now, we're going to move to the public hearing portion of this meeting. And just a reminder, this is -- we're here to collect comments. We may be able to handle some clarifying questions depending on the nature of them. But once again, this is, this is really an exercise for us to collect comments from the public about the project, so.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MR. SCHMIDT: All right, so we're going to have -- oh, first, any letters submitted prior that we need to read into the record?

MR. EGGERMONT: Yes. We have one letter. I can read it. So we've opened the public hearing. I'll read the first letter.

"Dear Lauren, due to a conflict, we are unable to attend tomorrow night's public hearing regarding continuation of the SAD. Following are our comments: the quality and health of the Portage (sic) Chain of Lakes is dependent on the continuation of this vital program. We have witnessed very good progress over the last five years. It is essential to build on this progress.

Washtenaw County is doing an excellent job in managing the project; communication is professional, timely and thorough and Lauren demonstrates a sincere commitment to its success. The cost is minimal, especially considering the negative impact abandoning it would have on our property values. Washtenaw County, the PBWOA and each of the Township Boards who have supported the Lakes Improvement Project can be proud of the contributions made to improving the quality of our lakes and the Huron River. We strongly encourage (sic) support and participation.

Sincerely, Ed and Michelle

Dorrington, 7688 Base Lake Road, Webster
Township, Dexter, Michigan, 48130."

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Theo. Are there any others? Just the one?

MR. EGGERMONT: That's the only letter I received.

MR. SCHMIDT: Excellent. Thank you.

Okay, we're going to proceed to the folks that filled out cards. We have a three-minute time limit. Lauren has a one-minute left indicator, so we'd ask that,

just so we can get everybody in, and also have our virtual participants be able to participate that people be respectful of that time limit.

First up, Mark Schultz. And we ask that when people come up, that they give their first and last name, property address, municipality, county, state, all that good stuff.

MR. SCHULTZ: Well, Mark Schultz. 1160 Sarah, Pinckney, or Putman, but Pinckney-Putman they work together on everything.

I've been out there my whole life. I've been living out there 18 months. I don't see any difference. I fish all the canals; I'm fishing every day. I'm not seeing no improvement myself. And I have kids, my parents had me, we've been up to four generations, and I'd like to see the way shit was, but I'm not seeing improvement.

And the only other thing I want to say is if you're fertilizing your grass, that's going into the lake, making weeds grow, and now you're killing weeds; doesn't make sense to me. So. I'm not picking on anyone, but those are my concerns.

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good. Thank you.

Ed Linderman.

MR. LINDERMAN: Ed Linderman. 8797 Grove Drive, Pinckney, Michigan, Dexter Township, Washtenaw County.

I've been out here most of my life, since I was three years old. The lake never used to look like it does now. It looks bad. Over the last five years, I don't believe it looks any better today than it did five years ago. I got some chemical treatment two years ago near my shoreline. It was better that year than any other year of the five.

I don't have any signs on my trees this year. I see absolutely no treatment being done. The weeds are continuing to grow. Every time I leave my dock with an outboard boat, I get weeded before I get to deep water. People go by all day long pulling tubes and going half throttle in front of the house right next to the drop off chopping up weeds. They all end up floating up to my shore. If that could be handled, I'd be more than happy to pay, but at this point in time, after five years, I'd just as soon not pay anymore.

Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, sir.

Bob Armbruster.

MR. ARMBRUSTER: Yes. My name is Bob Armbruster. I live at 1392 Nita, Pinckney, Michigan, Putnam Township. And the only comment that I would like to make is that it seems like all the funds are commingled, and that 90 percent of the treatment is going

into the canals, and I think there should be greater emphasis on taking care of the main body of the lakes. Perhaps then with funds not getting commingled we could put the proper emphasis on the treatment of the main body. But like the others have said, I don't think in the last five years that the lake quality has improved. In fact, I think it's gone backwards.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

Tom Erman? I think it's E-r-m-a-n. E-r -- E-h maybe?

MR. EGGERMONT: Ehman.

MR. SCHMIDT: Ehman? Ehman. I'm sorry. Tom Ehman.

MR. EHMAN: Does this sound system work?

MR. SCHMIDT: It does.

MR. EHMAN: It does. People in the back in the audience they can hear all right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, Tom, I can hear you.

MR. EHMAN: First, I would like to know what the scope of the work is, and the reason I'm asking is I see these folks out treating the lake along what I would call the drop offline. They certainly don't come inside the docks or try to come in very shallow where are a lot of the weeds are going. They haven't done it for five years. They're just out in the middle of the lake, and most of

the people who you're assessing are concerned about the weeds that are growing from shore out to the drop off or along the docks. Now, I know that you can't get under the docks and that's an unreasonable thing, but certainly they ought to be doing more than just penetrating the drop offline around these lakes. Otherwise, it's not a real benefit to most of these other folks who are paying for all of this.

Secondly, after you explain what the scope of the work is going to be, at the last initial meeting when the first SAD was activated, there was a woman at a table where you stopped, and you complained about being assessed if you had a parcel that really shouldn't be. I don't see that happening tonight. Is that going to be corrected? Or are we going to take everybody's time out while somebody bitches about their assessment? That doesn't seem reasonable. It would seem like there would be someplace when you leave tonight that you can go and say, "I don't think I should be here because."

MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah, we -- we will -- we can take your address and we can look to see if it's --

MR. EHMAN: Is that a reasonable thing?

MR. SCHMIDT: Within reason.

MS. KOLOSKI: Drew, am I allowed to --

MR. EHMAN: I don't want to have people hear me

complaining, and I don't want to hear them complaining --

MR. SCHMIDT: Understood.

MR. EHMAN: -- because of a mistake they made.

MR. SCHMIDT: Understood. We can certainly verify the assessment that would be applied.

MR. EHMAN: Thank you.

THE COURT REPORTER: Did we get his name?

MS. KOLOSKI: No. Could you please give us your name and address, please?

MR. SCHMIDT: Oh, yeah. Tom Ehman.

MR. EHMAN: Tom Ehman.

MS. KOLOSKI: Name and address, please.

MR. EHMAN: Yeah, I didn't follow the directions.

MR. SCHMIDT: Oh, I'm sorry. You know what? I should have enforced that, shouldn't I?

MR. EHMAN: I'm Tom Ehman. I live at 8940 Dexter-Pinckney Road, Dexter Township.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

MR. EGGERMONT: And Drew, after all the comment, you can call on us for any of the things that you want us to address.

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good. Thank you.

All right, up next, Dave Wilvitis.

MS. KOLOSKI: Wilvitis.

MR. SCHMIDT: Wilvitis. Welcome.

MR. WILVITIS: Thank you. Hello, I'm Dave Wilvitis. I'm at 2348 Baseview Drive, Pinckney, Hamburg Township.

I'm also on the Board of the PBWOA, and so I guess to start out, I only have three minutes, is I do want to reference for folks to, on our website we do have a white paper that we have looked at and dealt with for this whole program and try to take a very unbiased view of everything, and then give our opinion on it. And I'm going to read one of the closing paragraphs at the end. I would suggest that you look at PBWOA.org and go to the white paper. It will give you a much more comprehensive review of this program. This is a very, very complicated program, as stated by Washtenaw County, as stated by the State of Michigan and EGLE, it's one of the most complex lake management programs. Why? There are nine lakes, a river system. There was -- this is not Whitmore Lake. This is not an isolated lake. And the biggest component is we have attended quite a few of the meetings with Lauren and Theo is that EGLE has a big say in this through federal restrictions and so on.

So in a lot of cases, one has to think about this is you're trying to treat a program with an arm tied behind your back, okay? That is very challenging in terms

of how you treat certain invasive species because there might be some federal protected item which we could go into detail about, but I've got three minutes. So, I think it's very important to visit the white paper at PBWOA.org. It talks about all of this in great detail, okay?

So let me just, in conclusion, I have copies for the Board if you'd like just for the record. The last paragraph. This is the PBWOA Board conclusion, and the last paragraph says:

"Observing the development of this Chain of Lakes Improvement Project and participating as a voice for our residents and members since the project's inception, the PBWOA believes a lake improvement program needs to continue. As stated earlier, it took decades for the lakes to get this way; we believe it will take more than 5 years to reverse the cycle. The lake community needs to remember how far we have come, how much we stand to lose if the program is discontinued."

That's key. If you want to go back, if the group collectively wants to go back to a group of three residents do their own permitting, or just go out and get some copper sulfide and treat it yourself, that's not a

holistic program, okay? You could be harming your neighbor because it's a river system. Water flows, takes those chemicals, takes it to your neighbor, okay? We have to remember that it's a very complex system, okay?

"The lake community needs to remember how far we have..."

I've already said that:

"...stand to lose if the program is discontinued. We have a solid foundation for protecting our property values and the health and enjoyment of these lakes we consider going forward with this endeavor."

MS. KOLOSKI: Dave about ten more seconds.

MR. WILVITIS: Otherwise, you think about what maintenance program you would suggest for a very complex lake system. If you have some answers, please voice them. Answers.

Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

All right. Up next, Leslie Glapa.

MS. GLAPA: Hello.

MR. SCHMIDT: Greetings.

MS. GLAPA: I'm Leslie Glapa, 8010 Base Lake Drive, Dexter, Michigan, Webster Township.

I totally object to this whole program. I'm on

a fixed income. I really can't afford any extras, money going out. And I'm totally against chemicals going in the lakes. The, I think fertilizers on the lawns and, you know, the weeded beach, if we stopped, it's going in our lakes, so it's a domino effect. You know, we put these chemicals in the lakes, our beautiful eagles are being -- they eat the fish. I'm sure that it goes around the fish and the turtles and all the wildlife. So, you know, we already went through the DDT crisis with the eagles, so I think really, we should really think about these chemicals. Yeah, stop the fertilizers, you know, and it's -- it's not really a swimming pool; it is a lake.

And -- and has anyone thought about health issues? I -- ever since this program started I have had -- I love to swim, but I've had terrible health issues, I have neuropathy in my feet, pains going up my feet, pains in my arms, some skin cancer, which is not anywhere the sun has ever seen, and it's all -- I feel like I'm swimming in a cesspool of chemicals, and I'm really unhappy about that. So, I totally protest this, and I hope that it can be stopped, but it doesn't look like anyone else is standing up for the wildlife or -- thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

Next up, Nelson Bauder.

MR. BAUDER: I have no -- I'm not speaking.

MR. SCHMIDT: You don't want to make any
comments?

MR. BAUDER: No.

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay. Very good. Thank you.
Next up, Pat Delaney.

MS. DELANEY: Hi. My name is Pat Delaney. I'm
at 3290 Shawnee Trail in Pinckney, Michigan, and Putnam
Township.

I live on Whitewood Lake. Actually, I live on a
canal where the boat launch is. And I do understand that
this is a huge system that needs to be taken care of. If
I'm going to be assessed, however, for what's being done
in this project, then I would like my waterfront to be
taken care of, which it has not been. So, like they came
out June 11th, and then we were supposed to be on a system
for June -- I mean May 11th, and it said that the water
was going to be treated again on June 2nd, and it never
was. And like today we tried to get out of our, you know,
from shore out into the lake, and we could not. The weeds
are so deep and thick. It's like a lawn out there.

And so I don't mind being assessed for it if
there's going to be, if it's going to be treated, but it
has not been treated, and it in the past five years, even
last year, it got to this point again where you can't get

out into the water, and it gets so bad that it's like make-up work, you know, it's nothing proactive as far as we can see in our canal. So, I just wanted to give you that feedback, and hopefully we can get treated soon because we're all getting stuck out there. We have to like weed our way through it back up. It'll take us like, what, a good five minutes to get out there? Like we back up, and then we have to go, clear the prop, and you back out. So, we'd like to, if we're going to be assessed, we'd really like to see our canal being treated.

Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

Up next, Mary Lou Knoch.

MS. KNOCH: I'm Mary Lou Knoch, 3184 Deer Trail, which is Hamburg Township, and I'm Whitewood Lake on the lake.

I agree with most of everything that people have said tonight. I first moved on to Portage Lake in 1973 and I've been on Portage Lake and Whitewood, and I've never seen the weeds so bad. They've gotten worse in my opinion the five years that you've been doing it. I agree that we want to be able to swim, and they don't come in near shore. I'm concerned this year because I have and no notice on my tree. So based on that, maybe they haven't treated my area at all.

Pat is my neighbor. I've never seen their canal so bad. And it's a big, wide canal. You know, they -- they should be able to swim in it and use it. So, I just want to be on record that I'm happy to pay for it, but I think it should improve.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

Matthew Ben --

MR. BENBASSAT: Benbassat.

MR. SCHMIDT: I'm sorry?

MR. BENBASSAT: Benbassat.

MR. SCHMIDT: Bassat?

MR. BENBASSAT: Yeah.

MR. SCHMIDT: Please.

MR. BENBASSAT: Thank you.

MR. PRATT: Toughest part of the job, right?

MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah.

MR. BENBASSAT: Thank you for letting me speak today. I am at 8010 Base Lake Drive, and I've been duking this out for years to try to curb this chemical thing in the lake here. The weeds are there in the lake because of the petroleums, and they're trying to absorb the toxins, so everyone's trying to just make this where they don't have any weeds at all, but it's from the gasoline that's in the lake. We live right next door to the U of M sailing club, which is a super place to live, you know,

they don't have hardly any motorboats at all, and the weeds are non-existent until the boats really get on the lake. Once the oil gets into the lake, each quart of oil contaminates a quarter million gallons of water, okay? And so, all those thousands of gallons of, you know, exhaust going into the lake, the weeds are trying to absorb the toxins to, you know, help the people.

Now, we keep taking it and trying to turn this into a chemical bath here. It's -- it's killing a lot of stuff there. It's affected a lot of people. I know a lot -- on Base Lake alone there's over 80 percent of the people along the -- the one whole shoreline where we're at that have cancer, okay? And I've did research for this stuff for years and watched this stuff, and I'm tired of seeing my friends and people die because of chemicals that are just being dumped in the lakes.

If you're going to stop anything and regulate anything, regulate the gasoline powered boats in the lake and also the chemicals that are being dumped into the lakes. This is not -- what's happening is it's mutating and it's getting worse and worse. They did it a handful of years ago; it was treacherous what happened. If you go downstream and you see about where the crew team, you know, starts, you know, doing their rowing down, you know, past the damn, the froth is, it's two feet deep,

you know?

I mean, this stuff is killing the turtles, it's killing the frogs, it's killing the peo -- you can't touch this stuff. People are burning their skin. This stuff is not safe. Most of the stuff is cousin to Agent Orange. This stuff is not healthy. I don't care what the DEQ or anyone else says. You know, 20, 30 years ago people were being thrown in prison for using this kind of stuff. This is not right. And if we're just going to sell out and throw the chemicals in the lake instead of doing this stuff, what are we doing to this planet? Aren't we here for Mother Earth and to help support the better health of people? It's not about everyone getting out there in their dang boats and being able to run across the lake, you know, 50 miles an hour, you know? What about being able to swim and being able to just be, you know, in a lake and enjoy yourself?

This has gotten really bad. This is going on on the whole planet. If we don't stand for what we believe in, we're just going to be conformists and allow this, this pollution and stuff to keep killing the planet. You know? If we don't stand -- if we don't stand for life, we're standing for death. This is -- man, I -- I feel like it's at the point --

MS. KOLOSKI: Ten seconds.

MR. BENBASSAT: -- where people have to almost take up arms to defend nature. And each other. You know, and the ecosystem. It's bad, man. It makes me cry. It makes me hurt inside. I want --

MR. SCHMIDT: I --

MR. BENBASSAT: I want this stuff to stop.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

MR. BENBASSAT: Please.

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good.

MR. BENBASSAT: Everybody, please.

MR. SCHMIDT: Next up, Greg Peter.

MR. PETER: Thank you. Greg Peter, 9255 McGregor Road. I believe it's a Pinckney address. It's Dexter Township.

I've been here before at the Dexter Town Hall to talk about different programs. I've served as the scientific advisor to the PBWOA. I'm a member of the MLSA, the Michigan Lake and Stream Association. I just attended their conference this last, three weeks ago, I think. And I'm currently the president of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and deal with these issues all the time.

But let me say that this program is one that is scientifically based, and the phosphorus levels in the lake are going to always stimulate growth, whether it's

coming from concentrated farm practices upstream or people's lawn fertilizer or whatever. Phosphorus is, settles in the lake, and if you disturb the bottom, and that's another issue we'll get to some day, but if you disturb the bottom and re-spin the phosphorus, you get more plant growth. And I think we all know where that's going. But I tried to speak about that issue here at the Township once and was broadly beaten down by the boating industry because there's certain boats that really do a lot of damage, but we don't need to get into that today.

I'd like to state that the scientific effort here, I've been out with the lake scientist when he does the treatments and does the surveys. We've got one of the best people in the world working for us out there, and I just would encourage folks to understand that it's a very complex issue, and the use of chemicals is not indiscriminate. As a matter of fact, PFAS is in there because we had some upstream problems with that, and I take all the weeds that come into my shore, I live on the south -- or the east shore, so everything from the southwest wind brings it in. So, whether it's boats or harvesting or whatever, I mean, I get a lot of weeds, and I just pick 'em up, put 'em in a trailer, and take 'em home and compost 'em. So, and people go, "Oh, you're eating PFAS in your vegetables," and I'm going, "I've been

eating PFAS since the mid-60s." It's just now, you know, testing, you know it's there.

Is it -- have I gone -- have I got one minute left?

MS. KOLOSKI: One minute left, Greg.

MR. PETER: Okay, thanks. I won't take up all your time. I just wanted to encourage you to understand it's a very complex scientific issue, and it's not something which we want to use emotion to make our decisions. Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

Next, Kevin Radcliffe.

MR. RADCLIFFE: Thank you for letting me speak. My name's Kevin Radcliffe. I live at 8755 Grove, which is Pinckney, but Dexter Township, Washtenaw County.

I can say that I kind of came just to see what was going on with this one. I have a couple concerns. One is usually related to what actually gets treated. I'm not opposed to the SAD itself, but over the past five years the Starry Stonewort I think it is between the end of our dock and the drop off, which I live on, by the Yacht Club, and it's, you know, 200 feet from the end of my dock before it gets deep, I used to be able to walk out there. You can't walk out there now and stuff. And every boat we take out, whether I mean fortunately the jet skis

don't draft enough; they usually don't get in it. But everything with a prop, the prop gets fouled on the way out, prop gets followed on the way in. It's not so bad as some of the canals where it sounds like they can't even get out, but I think the treatment protocols, I know they're limited by EGLE, need to be focused more on trying to make it better for the homeowners around the lake. It seems like over the past five years we may have been treated really once, and I know that Lauren you've sent messages and stuff that EGLE didn't give the permits. And to be honest, I don't know what happened in the lost, you know, two COVID years where probably not as much got done.

But that's -- that's my main concern, and then just my second one, one of the other speakers mentioned his property exclusion. I happen to own two properties, one is on the lake, one is right behind in the last Special Assessment the one behind did not get taxed, and I just want to make sure that type of thing continues going forward so I don't get a double assessment for a lot that basically has a garage on it, so.

MR. SCHMIDT: Uh-huh. Very good.

MR. RADCLIFFE: That's all.

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good. Thank you.

Is there anyone else present here at the Dexter Township Hall that would like to speak that didn't fill

out a card? Anyone else?

(No response.)

MR. SCHMIDT: All right, I don't see any others.
We'll move on to our remote participants now.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me, excuse me?

MR. SCHMIDT: Yes, sir?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If you want to make an
additional comment can you do that now?

MR. SCHMIDT: That's not typically our practice.
Everyone's allotted their three minutes to make their
comments.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

MR. PRATT: Staff will be around after the
meeting though. If you want to catch somebody after the
meeting, I think there's an opportunity to get into any
particulars with staff after the meeting.

MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah.

MR. PRATT: If you've got anything extra.

MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah.

MR. PRATT: Usually we stick around.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. Theo, we have remote.

MS. KOLOSKI: One more letter.

MR. EGGERMONT: We have one more letter that was
submitted to the Supervisor of the Township, and she was -
- just brought it in.

MR. SCHMIDT: Please so.

MR. EGGERMONT: Dianne. So, I'll read this now.

"June 13th, 2022. Dianne Ratkovich,
Dexter Township Hall here.

Dear Supervisor, Ratkovich and Township Board Members: Unfortunately, we are not able to attend the public hearing, but we want to express our support for full funding of the SAD renewal for weed control on the Chain of Lakes (especially Portage Lake and Little Portage Lakes).

We have now lived on Portage Lake for five years and have had the benefit of seeing the positive results of the weed control program. We believe that without the improvement that we have seen that the use of the lake water for recreational activities, we (sic) would be severely limited by weeds and algae.

Personally, we also feel that the non-riparian users of the lake, especially those who rent berths on the lake, but don't own riparian property, should pay their fair share of the costs of keeping the lakes usable by them.

Please contact me with any questions or

concerns. Elizabeth Knibbe, Carl Sly, 9715 Portage Lake Avenue, Pinckney, Michigan, 48169."

And then they list contact information.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

MR. EGGERMONT: I'll move to remote participants now.

MR. SCHMIDT: Please.

MR. EGGERMONT: So, if you are a member of the public who is attending the meeting digitally, please press star 9 to raise your hand if you're on the phone, or Alt-Y if you're on a Mac or on Windows and Option-Y to raise your hand, and I will call on members in the order that I see them arrive.

So, our first one, we have Karen Dalgleish. So, I will allow you to talk now.

MS. DALGLEISH: Hi, can you hear me?

MR. EGGERMONT: Yes, we can.

MS. DALGLEISH: Okay, super. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity. I'm Karen Dalgleish at 9433 Dexter-Pinckney Road, Dexter Township. I'm on Little Portage Lake.

I have never seen the weeds as horrible as the past couple years. What is going on is not working. We cannot go into the water. Our skin blisters, and we wait

like a week longer than what the yellow paper tells us to wait, and we are having all kinds of skin issues. We both love to swim, and we can no longer do that.

We are also concerned about the wildlife. You know, how do you tell the deer they can't drink that water, because it says right on the thing don't let your livestock drink water? So that's a concern for us as well. I think somebody else had voiced that concern.

And I think what we really need to consider is changing some laws on the lawn fertilizer. This just -- this program just, in our opinion, is not working, and we feel like we're being poisoned.

MR. EGGERMONT: All right, thank you.

All right, next up we have Brian Mulzer. I'll allow you to -- I believe you have permission to talk already from when we were doing the mic check. Thank you for your help earlier.

MR. MULZER: Yeah, no worries. Brian Mulzer, 9512 Portage Lake Avenue.

So, I'm new to the area. I've only owned a property in about ten months now, so I can't speak to whether it was good or bad or how it's doing. I just have a series of questions and really, I'd just like to know where I can get some more information. Things like what are the charges that will be assessed, how do those

compare to what's currently being assessed to people? How do we -- how do we ensure that the money is spent properly? How do we know where the money is going to? You know, is it being spent on the things that we, were allegedly that they're being spent on?

The other question I have is are there any partnerships with the other counties that are also impacting the ecological development of the Chain of Lakes? So obviously we're in a series of chain -- a series of lakes, other counties have this impact as well, things that are coming down river into our lakes and out of our lakes. So, I'd like to know, you know, how we're impacted by other counties that are, that are -- are they doing similar things?

And then lastly, at the beginning, I apologize, I can't remember the lady's name, but she had mentioned if we'd like to get additional emails, sign up, obviously I'm not there in the room so I can't, but I'd like to be included in those emails.

And that's it.

MR. EGGERMONT: Thank you.

Are there any other members who are remote who would like to speak, please raise your hand?

Next up we have Barbara Reed. I will allow you to speak here in a second.

MS. REED: There we go. Hi, this is Barb Reed. I live at 1145A Cedar Bend Drive, Pinckney, in Hamburg Township, and I'm on Tamarack Lake.

I have seen great improvement over the last five years. Before this program started, we had Starry Stonewort in front of our house within six inches of the top of the water, and we would have to try to float over that to get out to where there were not weeds in the deeper water. The Starry has been gone the whole five years. There are more weeds this year than I have noticed in the previous few years, but they aren't the Starry and they are much more manageable. So, I would really speak highly in favor of this program continuing.

MR. EGGERMONT: All right, thank you.

Next up we have Ronald Prebe. I'll allow you to talk here. Now you should be able to speak.

MR. PREBE: Yeah, I just was concerned about the algae blooms that are popping up, and it may be due to the warm weather we've had off and, on this year, but we'll be needing further treatments if we don't approve the SAD.

Can you hear me?

MR. EGGERMONT: Yes, we can hear you. We typically wait to have the Board call on us to comment, but if this Special Assessment District is not approved, there would be no more treatments.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Next year.

MR. EGGERMONT: Next year. Just to clarify.
The current program runs through this year.

MR. PREBE: So, this year we're supposed to be
getting more treatments?

MR. EGGERMONT: Correct.

MR. PREBE: Okay. That's all I wanted to know.
Thanks.

MR. PRATT: Can we get an address?

MR. EGGERMONT: Can we get your address, please?

MR. PREBE: 2961 Indian Trail, Pinckney,
Michigan, 48169.

MR. PRATT: Sorry.

MR. EGGERMONT: Thank you.

MR. PREBE: Livingston County. Hamburg
Township.

MR. EGGERMONT: Are there any other members who
are attending remotely who would like to speak? If so,
please raise your hand. You can do that if you're on the
phone by pressing star 9 or Alt-Y on Windows, and Option-Y
if you are on a Mac.

We'll do last call for any participants who
would like to speak remotely.

(No response.)

MR. EGGERMONT: We have no more participants

online who'd like to speak at this time.

MR. SCHMIDT: Excellent. And we -- we missed one of our cards, so we have somebody present here that -- to speak yet.

Bonnie Swanson?

MS. SWANSON: I'm Bonnie Swanson, 11463 Lauderdale Court, Pinckney, Michigan. I live on Tamarack Lake. And you probably all know that Tamarack Lake is a problem, and it has gotten better, you know, it has a way to go. And I commend both Theo and Lauren for the work they've done in Washtenaw County and all the Boards.

My concern is if people if people start putting in their own --

RECORDED VOICE: Recording in progress.

MR. EGGERMONT: Sorry.

MS. SWANSON: If people start putting -- if we don't go through with this, and people start putting in their own chemicals, you're going to have a spotty treatment, but you don't know what your neighbor is putting in there. I mean, you could be swimming in who knows what kind of chemical. At least with EGLE and the scientists, at least we have some control of what's going in the lake. That's a big concern for me.

The other thing is, I know if -- it might be kinda crazy, but maybe we should put a ban on all

fertilizer going in the lake on all the lakes.

That's all I have to say.

MS. KOLOSKI: Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

THE COURT REPORTER: May I see the cards just for the names?

MR. SCHMIDT: Oh, absolutely.

MR. EGGERMONT: And I see we have another member who's raised their hand.

MR. SCHMIDT: Oh, remote? Please, go ahead.

MR. EGGERMONT: Kathleen Smith. I'll allow you to talk now. If you could state your name and address, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's on mute.

MR. EGGERMONT: She's on mute. Kathleen, you are on mute. If you can move your cursor around your screen, it may be at the top or the bottom. There should be --

MS. SMITH: Can you hear me now?

MR. EGGERMONT: Yes, we can. Thank you.

MS. SMITH: Okay. Do you need me to state it again?

MR. EGGERMONT: Yes, please. We just were able to hear you recently.

MS. SMITH: Okay. My name is Kathleen Smith. I

live at 11966 Algonquin Drive, Pinckney, Michigan, 48169.

MR. EGGERMONT: And your public comment?

MS. SMITH: Yes. My family and I have lived on Portage Lake for 70 years. We have seen a lot of things happening out here, and I have to tell you, at 72 years old, I am totally disgusted of what has happened to this lake. It is awful. We, my neighbors, and I, we still have a lot of weeds; a lot of 'em. And today I sent Lauren a picture of some type of substance that is in the water by my house, my neighbor's house, and down to the access. I have no idea what it is, and I sent her a message and asked her if she could please identify it. It smelled, and it was pretty bad.

I -- I haven't seen a change. We still have a lot of weeds by us. We -- I'm on the east shore of Portage Lake, and I am just a little bit south of, across from Mud Bay. I don't know solutions. What I would like to see happen is I have neighbors who do professionally -- oh, excuse me -- and they fertilize their grasses. I don't know how we can stop them -- oh, I'm so sorry -- but I wish there could be a way that we would come up with some, you know, some way to say, "Hey, we know you're fertilizing; could you please stop?" Oh, pardon me; I'm really sorry. That's, you know, one of the things that my neighbors and I have talked about is that we can't be

strong to say to these people you have to stop, because there probably isn't any way we can do it. And I don't know if any of the associations can do it or not, but I think it's something we may want to look at.

Thank you for listening to me. I appreciate the time, and I hope we can get this all settled.

MR. EGGERMONT: Thank you.

MR. SCHMIDT: Excellent.

Any others, Theo?

MR. EGGERMONT: We have another one here. Let's see. Donald, did you have your hand raised? I'm going to allow you to talk. If so, I thought I saw your hand up.

MR. RAGO: Can you hear me?

MR. EGGERMONT: We can, yes.

MR. RAGO: All right.

MR. EGGERMONT: And please state your name and address, please.

MR. RAGO: 11372 Algonquin, Pinckney, Michigan, 48169.

MR. EGGERMONT: And your public comment?

MR. RAGO: Pardon me?

MR. EGGERMONT: And do you have a public comment?

MR. RAGO: Uh, yes. I been out on that lake for 35 years. I seen some changes. I've seen very little

changes in the weeds, which I'm not -- not sorry about because I'm an avid fisherman. I understand that the weed control is targeting evasion -- invasive species, which it should. So other weeds are staying in the lake, which people should understand it's not going to kill all the weeds, thank God, or if it killed all the weeds, it would kill the fish. I have been experienced in Canada at Rondeau Bay. When Rondeau Bay in Canada killed all the weeds and killed one of the best fishing bays until the weeds grew back, which is many years later.

So, what you're doing as far as killing the invasive species in the lake is fine with me. The only thing I would like to understand is how do we get control of the algae? You're not killing the algae. The algae will eat -- algae is still forming around the lake shores and stuff like that, but I don't see any of that getting improved. You know, the weed control is, as long as it stays on the invasive species, that's fine. The other weeds should grow in the lake. And people have to understand, if you kill all the weeds in the lake just so you can ride around on your jet ski and your power boat, you're going to kill the fishing.

So that's it. But basically, that's all I've got to say.

MR. EGGERMONT: Thank you.

Any other members attending remotely who would like to speak, please raise your hand now.

(No response.)

MR. EGGERMONT: All right. That's all I see.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. Awesome. Thank you very much, Theo, for managing the virtual participation.

Okay. I have all the cards. We don't have any other cards that have come in.

(No response.)

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay. Awesome. Thank you.

All right, at this point I'm going to close the public hearing, or the public comments portion of our hearing. I want to thank everybody for coming out and participating in this process. It's important that we do that. And thank you.

So, next item on the agenda is consideration of the resolution to proceed. And is there a --

MR. PRATT: Yeah, why don't we kind of follow the Robert's Rules. I will make a motion to put this on the table, but then we will ask the staff some questions with the purpose of answering at least some of the things that have come up today that are relatively easy to answer, but we'll probably ask, one of the first questions might be to just make sure Lauren's contact info is out

there if anybody has a little bit more of the back and forth type of thing. So, we'll give the best answer we have today, and if you really want to pursue with the back and forth, we'll continue that, you know, after the hearing or, you know, catch us afterwards, or maybe follow up during the week.

So, the motion would be for the Board of Public Works to approve the resolution to proceed with the project, approving the project cost estimates, determining the Special Assessment District, directing the Director of Public Works to prepare the Special Assessment roll for the next meeting, and to schedule that second public hearing on the Special Assessment roll. So that will all be about, that meeting will be all about objecting to a Special Assessment or the amount or what have you. So, I will put that motion on the table to consider all those items.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Evan.

Is there support?

MS. ROOT: I'll support, but can we make a minor change on Exhibit B?

MR. PRATT: Yep.

MS. ROOT: Under Special Assessment District. It should actually indicate Lower Huron River Chain of Lakes. It does indicate North Lake on this one.

MR. PRATT: Yep.

MS. ROOT: So, I'll support with that change.

MR. SCHMIDT: Excellent. All right.

MR. PRATT: Accepted amendment, but I'll -- if you all have some questions first, I don't need to go first. I already spoke a long time.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you. All right, any discussion? Questions?

MS. SMITH: Well, I think I will first steal Evan's thought about Lauren putting her contact information out there for anybody who wants to call up with further questions or comments. I was curious, Lauren, this may not be a question you can answer on the spot, but it seems like a lot of residents raised concerns about chemicals in the lake.

MS. KOLOSKI: Uh-huh.

MS. SMITH: So, I'm curious if there is anything else going on testing these lakes for other chemicals, whether it be PFAS or other, you know, legacy pollutants, and whether there is a partnership happening that can kind of, we can facilitate for any information that what they may be seeing is not chemicals to treat weeds?

MS. KOLOSKI: We -- there is -- so the State of Michigan does overseas all the PFAS response, and that is the only one that I know of that they're doing monitoring

for additional chemicals. And Evan, you would know as well too, but no, there's no public entity doing any sort of monitoring outside of that. There's no public beach on the Chain of Lakes that I'm aware of, or they would be doing E. coli sampling. But we know there's, the water quality sampling that we take right now is your basic nutrients and the ones that the lake scientist does, but there's not a partnership set up. The one we have is with EGLE when we do the HAB sampling, we sample for the Cyanobacteria. We assist them to be able to get more samples. But nothing else that I am aware of.

MR. PRATT: We might be able to provide some links if we haven't already to, EGLE's done a few presentations --

MS. KOLOSKI: Yep.

MR. PRATT: -- on the whole Huron, and I think the Huron River Watershed Council --

MS. KOLOSKI: Yep.

MR. PRATT: -- has a little page on PFAS as well. That's a good question.

MR. SCHMIDT: Theo, I think this might be a question for you. Is there any prerequisite that communities that come to the Board requesting a lake improvement project have any programs in place to limit fertilizer usage perhaps as a condition of them coming to

talk to us?

MR. EGGERMONT: I'm not familiar with any. Any restrictions on fertilizer would typically be held by the township level. We -- we do send out a lot of educational information, so we try to -- try to encourage through the Special Assessment that by putting nutrients on your lawn without a buffer strip, that those often flow into the system that we're activity trying to reduce the amount of weeds for.

MR. SCHMIDT: Uh-huh.

MR. EGGERMONT: So, the best we can do at this point outside of a county-wide ordinance or a municipal ordinance is just to encourage through education and to have residents speak to their neighbors to try and reduce the amount of fertilizer that they're using, or to encourage buffer strips, and especially trying to cut down on the amount of phosphorous in your fertilizer to zero.

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay.

MR. EGGERMONT: Bonnie's mentioned at a prior PBWOA meeting that there's nutrients in the lake. If you're watering with the lake, you are putting those nutrients back on your lawn, so there's some cycle that we can actually try to reduce the amount of nutrients in the lake by not adding more but using what's already there.

MR. SCHMIDT: Very good. All right.

MR. PRATT: And just to comment on that, too, I mean, I'm -- I don't know on the aquatic side like, okay, there's some -- a lot of row crops need nitrogen, so nitrogen is a big fertilizer for farmers. Soybeans put nitrogen back in, so that's why farmers will rotate. I mean, people learned this a long time ago.

But the state banned phosphorus in fertilizer in 2012, so that should not be commercially available with phosphorus in it. I have no idea what people are putting on their lawns or if it's from in state or somebody thinks they need to go out-of-state, you are allowed to use phosphorus if you've got a soil sample, which Michigan State Extension will do for people for a small charge, and you can demonstrate I'm short phosphorus on my property. But phosphorus is naturally occurring in Michigan soils; that's one reason why there's a ban, and I think as several people have said, there's an incredible amount of phosphorus already in the sediment in the lakebed, which is where the roots are, and that's the biggest issue.

Again, I'm sure that nitrogen coming off of properties could contribute to growth as well; I don't know all the plant chemistry with aquatics and stuff like that, but just so we're at least sharing information we have. And I know some of Lauren's resources online have those things.

For the folks on the phone, Lauren, can you just make sure we've got your -- I'm not sure if everybody has your contact information.

MS. KOLOSKI: Oh, of course.

MR. PRATT: Can we just share that real quick?

MS. KOLOSKI: Yeah. The best way to reach me is Lakes@washtenaw.org. That comes right into my inbox. And if you email that, I can get you on the list. If you go to the Washtenaw County, if you go to Washtenaw.org/huroncol, you can go there, and there's also a sign up on there to sign up to get my email updates as well. So, there's multiple ways to reach me. So, Lakes, L-a-k-e-s @washtenaw.org will come to me, or the sign-up list on the Chain of Lakes website will get you directly onto my list.

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay.

MS. ROOT: And Drew I -- Lauren or Theo, we heard a number of residents speak about skin rashes and concern for turtles' lives and deer drinking the water and affecting them. Is there anything that the company that's putting this chemical into the lakes can provide to these, to the customer or to the residents to make sure that these types of chemicals are not causing harm either to themselves or to wildlife in general? Is that possible?

MR. EGGERMONT: Sure, so we do post the SDS, the

safety data sheets, and so if anyone has any particular concern about any particular chemical on their postings --

MS. ROOT: So, it's available?

MR. EGGERMONT: It is available. So, we're happy to follow up. Either it's on -- correct, Lauren?

MS. KOLOSKI: Correct, it's on the Lakes website under resources on the left panel side of the webpage it does say safety data sheets, so those are posted online.

MS. ROOT: Perfect. Thank you.

MS. KOLOSKI: Uh-huh.

MS. SMITH: If I may, I have one follow up question?

MS. KOLOSKI: Yes.

MS. SMITH: So, the documentation here, I think Exhibit A for example, says that this program will control the growth and reproduction of non-native invasive plants, but not including to. But it doesn't have the standard second line about control of growth of nuisance native plants, like the North Lake plan does.

MS. KOLOSKI: Mmm. Okay.

MS. SMITH: So, I'm curious if that's purposeful I guess --

MS. KOLOSKI: No.

MS. SMITH: -- or if --

MS. KOLOSKI: On my project description I have

it in there that it's going to do the, but not limited to the Chara and the variable pondweed that I have, but maybe I, it didn't get added -- it is missing from that one. Okay, so yes.

MS. SMITH: Okay.

MS. KOLOSKI: It is -- it is -- it should be the -- my project description has it in front of me --

MS. SMITH: Okay, that's fine.

MS. KOLOSKI: -- but it didn't get transferred over to this one. But yes, it is the project will also work to control the growth of nuisance natives, aquatic plants as well.

MR. EGGERMONT: We had to cut this for the notification to the mailings for --

MS. SMITH: Oh, for -- too long? Okay.

MR. EGGERMONT: -- the sheet, so we just didn't elaborate on the non-natives that we were selecting just for --

MS. SMITH: Okay.

MR. SCHMIDT: To save -- save costs to the residents.

MS. SMITH: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Well, just to follow up on that, so I mean we've heard a lot of concerns about chemicals and overall pollution in this lake, these, this lake system I should say. So, I'm kind of curious if

they're, like if this line is derived from our scientist, the lake scientists who are coming and exploring the lake and doing an assessment, and they're deciding effectively that we should also be trading native nuisance plants, or if this is kind of just our standard method of approach for a lake project?

MS. KOLOSKI: Well, they -- so natives can grow to nuisance levels, and they can impede traffic and they can, you know, impede the recreational stuff like that, so we are heavily regulated by the State of Michigan and to what we can do for natives.

MS. SMITH: Okay.

MS. KOLOSKI: We, after like June 15th we're restricted to the 100-foot contour when it comes to natives, so we, and we also can't treat any natives on undeveloped shoreline as well either. So, we have a lot of restrictions on what we can do, which has brought us to this year where we're bringing in the mechanical harvester twice this year because we are seeing the growth of the natives come back, and we're seeing them kind of thrive and show up, and we want to preserve them and give them a haircut. So, we're able to bring them in twice a year --

MS. SMITH: Okay.

MS. KOLOSKI: -- instead of, you know, it all just being invasives and, you know, the Milfoil and the

curly-leave pondweed that you're seeing out there. We are seeing a comeback of these natives, which has had us alter our treatments. We are seeing less chemical herbicide treatments, and we're increasing our harvesting because we are able -- we've been successful at managing some of those.

But the natives do need to be controlled as well; the residents love the lake, they want to enjoy it, they want to use it, but --

MS. SMITH: Okay.

MS. KOLOSKI: -- it's a nice benefit to have the harvester.

MS. SMITH: Yeah, that's awesome.

MR. EGGERMONT: And the harvester doesn't kill the plant; it just takes it down so that we can --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Then they float up on shore and we have to clean them up. That's twice as bad.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They need to pick up all of it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, and that's where the algae grows --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- on a floating, all that floating crud.

MS. SMITH: Okay. Yeah, I appreciate the

clarification.

MR. SCHMIDT: So, do you have another question?

MS. SMITH: I'm good. Thank you.

MR. PRATT: Can I just follow up on that?

MR. SCHMIDT: Please.

MR. PRATT: Because I, I mean there was a lot of frustration expressed. I think the number one comment actually was "it doesn't look any better in front of my house" I think was the most consistent theme we heard. So, I was going to ask about the near shore -- if I heard you correctly, you were saying after June 15th you can't do any kind of application of aquacide (phonetic) I think they call the chemicals, right?

MS. KOLOSKI: Contact herbicides. So, it's the contacts we can't do that.

MR. PRATT: Yeah, you can't do anything closer than 100 feet from shore?

MS. KOLOSKI: We can't do anything outside of the 100-foot contour.

MR. PRATT: Outside of the 100-foot shore.

MS. KOLOSKI: Correct.

MR. PRATT: And further. Okay.

MS. KOLOSKI: And so we don't, under this project we, if there's natives there and they're on your shoreline and, you know, it's a beautiful patch of Chara,

that is not impeding traffic and, you know, using the recreational use as a whole, that's a benefit on your shoreline because that will help absorb some of those nutrients, which then takes it away from the algae, which then if those plants aren't there, the algae will take it up and use it and cause an algae bloom.

So we have this balance that we have to maintain between the plant life and the algae life, and it's a really fine, you know, beam we have to balance, and if we take away all the plants, we have all that nutrients available for algae if we, you know, and the algae needs to be controlled, but that's -- it's just one tool we have in our toolbox by letting those plants be happy and live in your lake system because the nutrients are there, as Evan said, the nutrients are there, and if the plants can uptake them, that'll prevent a lot of algae blooms, which are harder to control.

And as to combat the algae questions, we are seeing them, but we have a one-week notification requirement to go to the downriver drinking water system. So, if algae pops up, by the time I could get out there and do anything with it, the flow-through rate on these lakes, it just kind of washes it through. A storm comes through, gets rid of it, most of it, most of the time, not all of the time. But there is a balance we have to

maintain out there.

MR. PRATT: So, but I think what I was hearing you saying is if we're upping the mechanical harvesting, that might be able to help as long as you're getting a heads up from specific addresses, like, "Hey, it's gotten really bad, and my access is impeded."

MS. KOLOSKI: Oh, yes.

MR. PRATT: Whereas in the past we might have said those are native plants and we're not prepared to do a lot.

MS. KOLOSKI: Correct.

MR. PRATT: We might be -- have a little more ability at this point.

MS. KOLOSKI: And I do have an online comment form as well, too, for residents to tell me about these things.

MR. PRATT: Yes.

MS. KOLOSKI: If there are things that are happening out there in between our surveys, I need to know, and I want to know. What I do when those emails come in, they go directly to our lake scientist, and him and I talk together as a group to see what we -- we can do to address it. And then when he goes out on his surveys on the boats, he actually has all of your comments marked on the lake, and we look at them individually as we go

along, and we assess the areas individually so that I can give you a very clear response as to what we saw in what area, and what we're going to do. And so that's a really important tool for the residents to have as well, that that's available to you as well.

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay. Good.

Any other questions from the Board?

MR. PRATT: I got a couple more if that's okay?

MR. SCHMIDT: Please.

MR. PRATT: Theo, there was a question about are the dollars more or less than previously, and I can't remember.

MR. EGGERMONT: Yeah, so the assessment is the same as it has been in the past. My hope is that we can reduce the assessment costs, so we were able to in the -- this current assessment that exists, we were able to stretch that to a sixth year. Instead of stretching it to a six year in the future, we would reduce the assessment cost. So, the goal is to be able to reduce in time.

MR. PRATT: Yeah. We have had other lakes where the amount that we tell people this is a maximum, we can't go over it, it's usually conservative. Certainly, the Chain has been more challenging budget-wise, but really most of the lake projects that this team has done, they get to a point sooner where we don't need to be doing as

much of the treatment or harvesting or both. We've typically cut assessments on just about every other lake project that we've done. We just have not had that opportunity here, other than our first year where we were unable to obtain the permits and there was very little application. We did cut that assessment by half the first year, but that wasn't because things were going well; that was because things were going poorly, and we did not want to, you know, charge people. That was something this Board agreed to do.

MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah.

MR. PRATT: So good to know though. It's not an increase in cost, and if we can we'll back it off.

MR. EGGERMONT: And while you're on the -- while we're discussing money, there is a follow-up comment about where the financial reports are, and those are all online. So, members can find those there.

MR. PRATT: Yeah.

MR. EGGERMONT: You know, feel free to email me and I can send those to you.

MR. PRATT: Yeah, we totally understand. There's a lot of websites with so much stuff on 'em, it's hard to find what you're looking for, and we understand that ours may have grown to that point, so. If there's something specific that you do want, feel free to let

Lauren know.

MS. KOLOSKI: Yep.

MR. PRATT: I take that as Theo jotted down a note to connect with the individual who was asking about how is the money spent. We certainly keep track of what are we spending on applications. I know that's way the lion's share I'm going to say probably in the 70, 80 percent plus range, but there's a certain amount to the consultant, there's a certain amount of staff time, and due to the complexities of the lake and the number of people, you know, it's a dollar amount that's a pretty fair size, but on a percentage basis it kind of tracks with some of our other lakes. So that's kind of the way to think of it is how much are we actually getting to the treatment, what does it cost to just administer the program, whether you're taking calls, et cetera, et cetera, and then what are we paying to the consultant type of thing. And again, we are paying for that scientific advice.

And I would say back to the question about who recommended dealing with the natives, I think it's kind of been both. It's kind of been the feedback we get from residents that "I still have weeds that are still a nuisance," but also from the scientists to say -- I mean I've heard other lake scientists say that, as the fellow

who fishes said, having zero plant life is probably not good, no different than right after Mr. Farmer tills the field and disks it up, if he doesn't plant anything and if he doesn't deal with anything, he's going to have a whole mess of weeds; that's guaranteed. And a lake system is no different. If you -- if you have a blank slate, invasives are the things that will come up first because they're trained to take advantage of it, or I'll say they've evolved to take advantage of empty space, so that's a bad thing. So prior scientists have actually told us that maybe total plant mass reduction isn't the key; getting more of those natives that are better for the fish and doing more of the haircuts where they're not as impeding. They're far enough down that you're not seeing impacts to the props. That seems like -- that seems like the goal the people are asking of us, so, if we can keep that in mind.

The only other thing was there was a, some question about treatments on canals versus lakes. I don't know that we have that information today, so maybe we can just take a look at that and be able to answer that. I don't think it's the case that 90 percent of the applications go in the canals, but those are where the treatments go first. And so that's what everybody sees happen first, and I think it's also a little easier to see

the applicators have to spend a little more time in those canals I'm going to guess, so it's a little easier not to miss them, whereas if they're just going to, going along at the pace they go when they apply along shore, they're past your house in, you know, less than a minute I would guess.

Lauren, do you have any more comment on, just in general?

MS. KOLOSKI: I do. So, the canals, most of these canals on the lakes that we're seeing were not natural to this lake system. I was pulling up a subdivision plat on Big Portage when I was looking at the assessments, and the residents had taken an old road and dug out a canal in there. And so, these canals are extremely nutrient rich, and if we -- and the invasives have taken over. So, the Starry Stonewort and the curly-leaf pondweed have taken over those canals. They're extremely nutrient rich, they're stagnant. They do require a little bit more attention sometimes than the main water body because they, you know, you have that huge flush in the main water body. You also have a lot of the restrictions for the muscels in the main water body because of the flow of the water.

But the canals, they get really nasty really fast, and we have to kind of address those early in the

year because they are such like, like little lakes inside of your lake system, and it just concentrates in there, and that's where the algae and the plant balance goes with this is because if we take all of the plants, then we have the algae blooms. If we, you know, keep some of those plant life, it'll absorb some of the nutrients.

And so, I view the canals on Tamarack Lake as very similar systems. They're very kind of closed and they have a lot of those invasives that are, have taken over and are hard to control, but they are -- there's a lot of invasives in there, and Starry Stonewort has taken over, and curl-leaf pondweed has taken over, and we're still continuing to learn and continuing to understand how these plants work and what works best for them. But right now, that is the best approach that we have in the scientific community, and if something comes up that's different, we're going to explore it. But that's what we -- we have. And copper product is the only one that kills Starry Stonewort, and some of our lakes do not allow copper on the lakes, so we can't use copper on the main water body, but we can use it on the canals.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

MR. PRATT: I do have one more question.

MR. SCHMIDT: I figured you did.

MR. PRATT: And I'm going to guess people are

aware of this, but can you go over the process when we do harvesting for how the harvester will pick up weeds that folks collect and put out other --

MS. KOLOSKI: Yes. So harvesting is not, it's not a -- it's not perfect, so the machine if you see it out there, you'll see them with the harvester, and you'll see the conveyor, right, so the conveyor's goal is to pick up as many plants as it can get. Well, it's not going to get all the plants. I mean, we are very clear that they cannot get all the plants with harvesting. But if you put your, the plants on your, the end of your dock, they will come by and pick them up while they're still on the lake. They're usually on the lake for about two weeks in the summer. And so after they go through and I try to post it online, and you'll see they're big green machines out there, but they go through and they cut it, and they try to, like, they have a conveyor belt to get it up, and it's not going to collect all of the plants at all of the times, and we do understand that, you know, there are some issues with it washing up on shore. We're trying to address that and look at that, and see how we can incorporate that, but right now the thing is if you put it at the end of your dock, they will come by and collect it if they did not catch all of the plants in their conveyor belt.

MR. PRATT: Okay.

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay. Thank you. And thank you for the question.

MR. PRATT: Do you have anymore?

MS. SMITH: I have a very mild one.

MS. KOLOSKI: Yes?

MS. SMITH: I'm just curious about the mechanical harvester functionality --

MS. KOLOSKI: Yes.

MS. SMITH: -- in the canals, versus like --

MS. KOLOSKI: Sure.

MS. SMITH: -- you know, main shoreline. Can you speak to that?

MS. KOLOSKI: They're very restricted in how close they can get to the shoreline. I think it's six feet is the depth that's as -- they can't go anymore shallow than that. And they cannot navigate in between the docks because they have a tip hazard. So that is some of the restrictions that we have with our harvester, and the current machines that they own right now.

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay. All right. So, I know that at the end of the year there's a program evaluation that's done --

MS. KOLOSKI: Yes.

MR. SCHMIDT: -- and you look at the

effectiveness. I did hear a few comments this evening of folks with a contention that were no better than when we don't treat. Is that borne by the reports that we, in the evaluations that we send at -- see at the end of the seasons?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's pretty subjective.

MR. EGGERMONT: I can take that one.

MR. SCHMIDT: Well, it's not. There are criteria.

MR. EGGERMONT: There's -- so I was looking at that anticipating the question. In the -- you can compare, if you just look at the 2021 report that's online and look at three specific ones that they tracked. So, they track at certain points and it's not everywhere, but they do have a system for selecting here's the number of spots and here's where -- here's what we use I think it's every 300 feet.

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay.

MR. EGGERMONT: If I remember right. So again, with Eurasian, there's a significant Eurasian Milfoil, there's a significant decline from --

MS. KOLOSKI: Which is invasive.

MS. SMITH: Invasive. 2019 to '21. For Starry Stonewort there was a big decline in 2020, and then a slight increase in 2021. For flowering rush, there was an

increase in 2020 and a decrease in 2021, but relatively flat, especially compared to the Eurasian Milfoil. Eurasian Milfoil is one that we've seen a big decrease in it, so. So, we are seeing some effectiveness.

MR. SCHMIDT: So, it depends?

MR. EGGERMONT: Yep, depending on the plant. But if -- feel free to look at the data online from the consultant report. You can look at the different bar graphs over the past three years. We have the past three years because this is the same consultant that we've used over the past three years. The prior consultant had a different system, and so the metrics are not the same.

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could I have a question about that? I haven't had a sign on my tree for two years. What does that mean?

MS. KOLOSKI: We can definitely talk afterwards about those specifics.

MR. SCHMIDT: I guess the, maybe to kind of cap off the questions is I would be curious if we do a consideration or a comparison to do nothing, because I think that's the alternative that I hear from folks is "I don't want you -- it's not worth the money." What would -- what would the lake look like, or the lakes look like if we were to cease the improvement program?

MR. EGGERMONT: Yeah, so we have an example of that in Joslin Lake. So, we have a Special Assessment District that was part of the -- they had proposed a Special Assessment District. It was part of the lakes that we manage. I think it ended in 2015 or 2016 and hasn't had any program since then, and the residents worked together to put the program back in place because the weeds had gotten so bad. And so, the -- we have an example of a lake where it was treated, was not treated, the weeds got really bad, and they said, "We want to go back in the program."

MR. PRATT: I think Joslin was the first lake program that the county started, I think they first applied in '03, so I -- I think they had been at it for plus or minus ten years when they stopped. The reason '03 to '15 is more than ten years is once again as we got into the program and further in the program, it wasn't costing nearly as much year to year. Again, that has not happened in the Chain. This is not an isolated thing. As people have said it's a little more complex, but the bottom line is they had enough money to stretch their program a couple of extra years. You gotta -- can't necessarily say with a different system. I think that argument's been made at Whitmore Lake as well where folks who were around before that treatment program started have said, "Oh boy, that

was really bad." We've heard testimony from people who've been out here since before the dam was built or shortly after the dam was built, and people who have been here a long time who've said, "I'm still seeing lots of weeds." I think all we can say is there -- there -- we believe there's less of the invasives than when the program started.

But I believe this group and the scientists we've had have always been pretty upfront to say, "We're not going to eliminate all the weeds; we can guarantee you there'll still be weeds," and the question is is there, you know, is it good enough for you. So, if you're still having trouble at your home, again, making sure Lauren is getting the heads up. If you haven't seen a treatment and you think you deserve a treatment, or need a treatment, or you fit the criteria for a treatment, definitely let Lauren know. And that doesn't mean everybody's going to get a treatment, though. Lauren has many conversations where it's either a permitting issue or an endangered species issue, or a "We can't do it that way in this location" issue. I know that we don't end up doing it for every single person.

MS. KOLOSKI: Correct.

MR. PRATT: But number one way, if you're feeling like you're not getting the treatment you need is

to make sure Lauren's aware --

MS. KOLOSKI: Uh-huh.

MR. PRATT: -- that you think you need it.

MS. KOLOSKI: Yes.

MR. SCHMIDT: And that's definitely been a -- we've seen over the years through these projects is an increased opportunity for the residents of the lakes to have more timely input, and I -- I think if people take advantage of that, you may be more pleased.

MS. KOLOSKI: Yes.

MR. SCHMIDT: So. All right. Very good.

Any other questions from the Board?

(No response.)

ROLL CALL VOTE

MR. SCHMIDT: Okay. At this time, we'll vote on the resolution. We need a roll call. Michelle, could I trouble you to call the roll, please?

MS. KATZ: Certainly.

Pratt?

MR. PRATT: Yes.

MS. KATZ: Schmidt?

MR. SCHMIDT: Yes.

MS. KATZ: Smith?

MS. SMITH: Yes.

MS. KATZ: Root?

MS. ROOT: Yes.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. Motion passes. Thank you very much.

NEXT STEPS

MR. SCHMIDT: And the next thing on everyone's mind would be what are the next steps? What happens after this? And we're very fortunate to have someone here to tell us about what those next steps are.

Theo, what's next?

MR. EGGERMONT: Thanks, Drew.

So as the Board has passed the resolution to determine to proceed with the project, they can make changes prior to the next hearing. The next hearing is set for July 20th, it is a Wednesday, here. Will also be available online. That is at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to review and confirm the roll. I think there was a gentleman earlier who asked about where's the person who went through the map, so we're happy to take those questions. After the meeting we'll stick around for, you know, 20, 30 minutes after the meeting. We can get those now or we can address -- it's helpful if we can hear those now, but the point of the next assessment is to discuss, review, and confirm the roll. The Board can amend or revise the roll prior to the next hearing. And then we will post notice through mail as well as through a

newspaper and on our website and other locations as appropriate so that you all have that information about the next public hearing.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Theo.

If you have additional questions, I'm going to -
- I'm going to reference you to staff after adjournment of this hearing. So, at this point, is there a motion to adjourn?

MS. ROOT: So, moved.

MR. SCHMIDT: Support?

MS. SMITH: I'll support.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. All those in favor?
Aye.

MR. PRATT: Aye.

MS. ROOT: Aye.

MS. SMITH: Aye.

MR. SCHMIDT: All right. I'd like to thank everyone for coming out this evening and participating in the public hearing. Thank you.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00 P.M.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF WASHTENAW)ss.

I certify that this transcript is a complete, true, and correct transcript to the best of my ability of the SPECIAL MEETING, FIRST PUBLIC HEARING LOWER HURON RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, held Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at Dexter Township Hall, 6880 Dexter-Pinckney Road, Dexter, Michigan.

I also certify that I am not a relative or employee of the parties involved and have no financial interest in this matter.

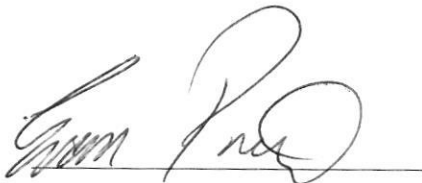
DATED: June 22, 2022

S/ *Amy Shankleton-Novess*

Transcription provided by:

Amy Shankleton-Novess (CER 0838)

Modern Court Reporting & Video, L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Pratt", written over a horizontal line.

Evan Pratt, Secretary