

-----SPRING 2022 Newsletter-----

PLEASANT LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

2022 Lake Management Plans for Pleasant Lake

Lauren Koloski – Environmental Supervisor, Washtenaw County Division of Public Works

Aquatic plant lake surveys are planned to resume in late May early June. Following these surveys, a treatment plan based off the plants observed will be created for Pleasant Lake. Before treatment, all residents will be notified with a yellow treatment notice posted along the shorelines and at Freedom Township Hall. This posted treatment notice will detail any water use restrictions. **Please follow those restrictions to ensure that treatments are effective.** If additional treatments are needed under the Lake Improvement Project, residents will be notified in the same manner. The 2021 season started with mostly native pondweeds as well as smaller amounts of invasive plants such as Eurasian Watermilfoil, Starry Stonewort, and Curly-leaf Pondweed.

Maintaining the native plants is a priority for the Lake Management Project on Pleasant Lake. Treatments created for the 2022 season will address the nuisance native plants and invasive plants observed after the Spring survey. All treatments are permitted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. The 2021 Pleasant Lake Annual Report is available for review at Washtenaw.org/PleasantLake under reports. Interested on how you can help improve the water quality of Pleasant Lake? Take some time and visit Washtenaw.org/LakeResources and review the many educational resources available.

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Don Whitsitt-Lake Resident Views about the 2021-22 winter season-

Pleasant Lake's "Ice Out" occurred on March 20 this spring, which was five days earlier than last year's total lake spring thaw. In general, data shows our winter season was a little colder and also a little less snowy than average, with both levels being within normal variances. The ice reached 14 inches where I mainly fish, which is on the thick side of average from my observation. Perhaps the reduction of warm water coming from the Consumer's operation is the reason, and therefore could be our new normal. As for this season's ice fishing, I believe more folks fished our ice than in recent years. Personally, I did pretty well with bass, bluegills/sunfish, but had less success than in past seasons with crappies and yellow perch. However, I heard rumors that other ice fisherman indeed had more success that I did with those species. In the past, I've occasionally caught some small northern pike through the ice, but not this year ...and I didn't hear that anyone else did either.

A couple of thoughts for future winters...ice fisherman, and everybody else, should remember that others may come across their holes in the hours or days after they finish fishing. Ice skaters, hikers, and others can really get hurt, or fall through the ice, if you leave your opening in a potentially dangerous state, especially if Mother Nature has covered the thin ice with a little snow. Also, I'm told some residents are using bubblers to lessen the need to remove docks, but this practice can also lead to unsafe ice, or even open water which may be detrimental to weed growth. Considering the premium, we all pay for lake treatment of weeds, and also potential liability issues, this may be a practice that needs discussion at the next PLPOA general meeting.

This spring and summer will see us (PLPOA) increase our lake monitoring activity in cooperation with MLSA/EGLE/CLMP. You'll see me out there measuring water clarity and water quality pretty regularly. At our house, we've already put our dock in, and launched our pontoon on April 11. I hope to see you out on our beautiful lake. The spring fishing has already been pretty good! Don Whitsitt, 11040 Hieber Road



What We Learned at Pleasant Lake-And Potential Risks

Open water is not a good idea in areas where there should be ice. Ice fishermen already know the dangers of leaving large holes in the ice when they leave their fishing site. “Open water” during winter, however, can also create safety dangers and lake environment risks.

A fun winter day on the lake can quickly turn into tragedy if an unsuspecting skater or person walking on the ice inadvertently steps into that hole, get pulled under the ice, and drowns. It’s not far-fetched. Years ago, a man drowned here at Pleasant Lake from that exact scenario!

Open water in the winter creates risks. Lake residents were excited when bubblers came on the market, thinking that they helped water clarity and an answer to removing and re-installing docks each year. However, EGLE still requires removal of docks. We learned this past winter that bubblers are now known to cause several risks:

- Lake environment – Unanticipated numbers of birds finding that open water and further polluting the lake with “drooping’s” that causes more growth of invasive species and other possible dangers such as algae blooms. Our lake was closed by the County Health Department in May 2019 due to dangerous algae blooms! We had geese die from botulism in 2020 and now have confirmed avian flu in the bird population in Washtenaw County by the Health Department!
- Safety – Unsuspecting skaters and walkers can accidentally fall into that open water, risking hypothermia, serious injuries, or drowning.
- Personal liability – Lakefront residents could assume significant personal liability should injury or death result from creating an open water space.
- The Freedom Township Planning Commission reviewed lake aerators and: “supports a healthy and safe lake and encourages residents to follow EGLE rules and lake district zoning regulations!”

G. Douglas Pullman, Ph.D. Aquest Corporation

Thank you for keeping me informed of the location of aeration (bubblers) on Pleasant Lake. I’m aware of similar concerns expressed by other riparians on other lakes. The activity of bubblers can constitute an attractant for water fowl in the winter, by creating open areas in the ice and providing them access to the sediments and some vegetation. In one case, there was concern that the location of bubblers attracted so many water fowl, year after year, that it resulted in excessive nutrient loading to that area and the proliferation of noxious algae blooms later in the growing season. To my knowledge this has never been verified, and warrants further observation. However, it certainly merits further consideration because it could indeed be an issue that contributes to the formation of noxious algae blooms in areas where bubblers are commonly used.

CLOUDY WATER? INVASIVE PLANTS? TOO MUCH MUCK? –INFO FROM EGLE

Hello, I am Kathy David with the State of Michigan EGLE Nonpoint Source unit. What does that mean, you ask? Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution is caused when rain, snowmelt, or wind carry pollutants and nutrients off the land and into lakes, streams or wetlands. In a lake community soap from car washing, fertilizers from our lawns, and oils and gasoline from our boats, mowers, and cars can enter the lake and cause cloudiness of the water, invasive plants to grow, and muck to accumulate on the lake bed. This makes the lake look dark and dirty.

Want clean water to swim in and beaches free of muck and weeds? It starts with small steps you and your neighbors can take on your lake property. Start by getting the lake “picked up”. Keep your shoreline and public areas free of wind-blown plastic bags, bottles, and trash. Maintain your watercraft away from the shoreline so gas and oils don’t end up in the water. Wash your cars and boats on the lawn away from the lake so soapy water soaks into the ground.

The purpose of my workgroup, NPS, is to help the public improve their lakes and streams water quality. We have a variety of publications to help you find small steps you and your neighbors can take to make a start towards improved water quality. Three terrific ones listed below describe the problem, steps you can take to start cleaning up the lake, and how you can design your landscape and lawn to help keep pollutants out of the lake.

[Brown Water, Green Weeds - Familiar Signs of Nonpoint Source Pollution \(michigan.gov\)](#)

[Practical Tips for Home and Yard to Improve Water Quality \(michigan.gov\)](#)

[Landscaping for Water Quality - Garden Designs for Homeowners \(michigan.gov\)](#)

Once you've taken some steps on your property to help improve water quality, you can begin to enjoy your lake like the folks in this final publication recommendation: Shoreline Living magazine.FINAL_lowres.pdf

Another way you can help your lake is by getting to know and work with your local watershed group. Pleasant Lake is within the Upper Middle Huron River watershed. The Huron River Watershed Council is very active with projects that monitor and protect water quality in their river. Many volunteer activities are available that you may get involved with or, simply look over their website for ways to bring a project to Pleasant Lake. You may reach them through their website [Home - Huron River Watershed Council Together we protect our home river \(hrwc.org\)](#). If you have additional questions, please contact me, Kathy David, by phone at 517-257-0251 or by email at davidk@michigan.gov.

State Regulations involving Michigan inland lakes

Besides the assistance and resources offered by the State through NPS, there are some regulations that apply to construction projects at lake shorelines. Even small projects like installing a permanent dock or controlling erosion at your shoreline can have impacts on the fish and wildlife that share the lake with you. Because the actions one person takes on a lakeshore can have effects on all people and animals that share that lake, the State of Michigan has enacted the Part 301 Inland Lakes and Streams act that lake front property owners should be aware of. [Inland Lakes & Streams Protection \(michigan.gov\)](#)

Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams regulates all earth moving and construction activities at and below the ordinary high-water mark. This means a permit may be required for any project you wish to do at your shoreline. But because some projects are so prevalent, the State has created Minor Project categories for commonly performed projects, such as permanent docks, shoreline erosion control, and boardwalks. The document at the link below will help you determine if your project will require a permit.

[Does my Project Require a Land and Water Interface Permit? \(michigan.gov\)](#)

The following are typical projects regulated under Part 301. Please note: The following is only a partial list of the most common projects associated with inland lakes and streams. Other types of activities may also require permits.

Shore Protection: Because shore protection structures can have negative effects on natural resources and other shoreline properties, shore protection structures should only be installed when they are needed to address erosion problems and the type of shore protection used should be carefully considered. Because of these negative effects of vertical walls EGLE recommends the use of natural shoreline treatments. New shoreline hardening should be avoided where alternate approaches such as plantings and natural stone can be used to protect property from erosion. The purpose and benefits of plantings/stone are to provide a natural transition between the open water and upland, while providing habitat.

Permanent Docks or Permanent Boat Hoists: Permanent docks or boat hoists which are left in year around require a permit. Seasonal docks and hoists do not require a permit if they are for private, non-commercial use by a landowner, do not unreasonable interfere with the use of the water by others, do not interfere with water flow and will not be placed in wetlands. Seasonal docks and hoists are those that are removed at the end of each boating season.

Beach Sanding: Placement of sand, pea stone, or other clean fill below (waterward) of the water line requires a permit. A reasonable amount of sand may be placed landward of the water line without a permit as long as the sand does not shift the location of the existing ordinary high-water mark or the shoreline contour. The sand cannot be placed in a wetland.

Dredging or Excavation: Any dredging below (waterward) of the ordinary high-water mark of a lake or stream requires a permit. Dredging of a pond within 500 feet of a lake or stream also requires a permit. A permit is needed for any excavation where the purpose is enlargement of or ultimate connection with an existing lake or stream.

Bubblers: One project we are frequently asked about is bubblers. Bubblers are generally used to keep ice from forming around permanent docks or boat lifts. If attached to a permitted permanent dock or lift, a bubbler does not require a permit. However, some local municipalities have regulations that ban bubblers. Riparians should be aware that they are taking on considerable personal liability should death or injury result from their use of a bubbler to de-ice an area. Additionally, bubblers should not be used in such a way as to impede navigation by people who are entitled to use the lake – such as using a bubbler to block ice fisherman from accessing the lake. Navigation and fishing are public trust rights and enforcement may occur if these rights are infringed.

Other devices, such as decorative fountains, bottom diffusers, lake aeration, and any device that moves sediment such as Aqua thrusters / aqua blasters are regulated activities and DO require a permit. Aqua thruster / aqua blaster and similar devices cause a dredge and uncontrolled fill of lake bottomlands which can have negative impacts on the public trust, riparian rights, and the environment. One of the problems with these devices is that due to wind and currents, the operator is unable to control where the muck and debris will be redeposited. There have been instances of the muck that was blasted off of one property drifting and redepositing onto neighboring properties, which makes these devices difficult to permit. Permit applicants should explore alternatives when considering aqua thruster / aqua blaster devices that allow for them and their neighbors to exercise their riparian rights responsibly while having a minimal impact on neighbors and the lake environment.

If you have questions about your rights and permit requirements as a lakefront property owner, please contact me, Kathy David, by phone at 517-257-0251 or by email at davidk@michigan.gov.

CONSUMER ENERGY FREEDOM GAS PRESSURIZATION PLANT COMMUNICATIONS

Consumers Energy encourages you to register for Everbridge, a free community information service dedicated to help you stay connected and receive local and emergency information that matters to you. Once you sign up for Everbridge, information is available via mobile phone, landline and email.

Visit <http://www.washtenaw.org/alerts> to join. We also urge residents, particularly those living in the vicinity of our Freedom Compressor Station, to report issues if they hear or see anything related to our facility.

Here are examples of who to contact and how in potential emergencies/emergent situations related to Consumers Energy, our Freedom Compressor Station, and/or pipelines in the area:

- Fire, loud sound similar to a jet plane near the compressor station or pipelines: Call 911, ask for Fire Response.
- Suspicious activity near the compressor station or pipelines: Call 911.
- Smell of natural gas (similar to rotten eggs), blowing or hissing noise: Call Consumers Energy 24/7 at 800-477-5050.
- No natural gas flow to your home: Call Consumers Energy at 800-477-5050.

Residents can also email FreedomTownshipCompressor@cmsenergy.com with any questions or concerns. Please do not contact other company officials. Making the right contact the first time is critical to getting proper response.

Freedom Upgrade Project Monthly Construction Update for April 2022:

- *On-going construction to install two compressor units on the west side of the new compressor building. April 2022 Work Plan*
- *Testing and commissioning runs on three compressors has completed. The first stage of the project is complete and will continue to be operated 24-hours per day depending on gas system needs. The project may be venting gas to perform maintenance on the units, if necessary, as part of planned work.*
- *The compressor equipment has been relocated to its final location. Work is focused in the compressor building as crews work to complete the mechanical and electrical work associated with the relocated units.*
- *A start-up and testing crew has mobilized to site and has begun the process of confirming that electrical and mechanical equipment is installed per design. It's expected that the testing work will continue through May 2022.*
- *The facility will be performing a gas blowdown in April in order to safely perform hot work in the compressor building and other miscellaneous annual maintenance activities.*

April 2022 Work Schedule

The project will work a Monday – Friday, 7:00AM – 5:30PM schedule. Saturday work is not planned, but might be required if needed to maintain progress. For the April outage we vented gas utilizing the conventional process. We will continue to keep the Township informed as the company continues to look at better ways to lower emissions. Thank you. Consumers Energy’s Freedom Compressor Station Team- **Stephanie R. Blatt**, Community Affairs Manager, O- (734) 513-6200, M- 313-402-7011

Stephanie.blatt@cmsenergy.com



Perennials, Garden Supplies, & Yard Art Sale

Saturday, May 21st, 9am–1pm; Rain or Shine!

Freedom Township Hall

Please contribute any plants, garden supplies, or yard art to the sale. Drop off at the Freedom Township Hall the morning of the sale (May 21st), 8am-9am. If possible, label each plant (very helpful to the customers). If not, we'll label them for you. If unable to drop plants off that morning, call to arrange a different time for delivery or pick up: **Beth at 428-8040 or Carol at 428-0530**. Proceeds help refill the PLPOA treasury!

**Freedom, Lodi, Saline, and Bridgewater experience power outages March 23-
Manchester Mirror** , Added on March 28, 2022 Marsha Chartrand

A power outage of undetermined origin kept homes and businesses in the Freedom, Scio, Lodi, Lima and Bridgewater Township areas without electricity for most of the day last Wednesday. Crews were on the scene resolving a “suspected equipment issue” and worked as quickly and safely as possible to restore the service. DTE Energy crews brought a courtesy van to the Freedom Township Hall on Wednesday afternoon from 1-5 pm and the township also provided a “warming center” at the hall since temperatures were in the 40s and wind chills were dipping even lower with storms and heavy rain. Emergency kits, including a flashlight and charger, were also provided by DTE. Approximately 1,300 residents were estimated to be affected by the outage.

Power was restored by 8 pm on Wednesday evening, according to a source from DTE. At least 15-20 DTE trucks and many private vehicles were noted at the corner of Pleasant Lake and Parker Roads on Wednesday morning, working at the electrical station located nearby.



DTE Community Relations distributed water, flashlights, and chargers to Freedom Township residents at the Freedom Township Hall on Wednesday and the township provided a location for residents without heating backup to warm up in the stormy, rainy weather.

RENO ROAD BOAT LAUNCH SITE - Many of us use the lake property on Reno Road to launch and remove our boats. Melanie and Evan Nau own this property, and gracefully allow Pleasant Lake residents to use this launch site. They have asked the PLPOA BOARD to manage opening the chain for lake residents—please respect their wishes and do not call them regarding this task. Our goal is to reduce more aquatic invasive species in Pleasant Lake! Call Beth 428-8040, Helen 428-0208 and Lon 428-0530 to use this site. THANK YOU

PLPOA Board: Beth Heuser-President, 734 428-8040; Lon Nordeen-VP, 734 428-0530; Helen Parker-Treasurer, 734 428-0208; Catherine Moore-Secretary, 734 428-8687, Kevin Walker, 734 323-6418; Joyce Van Ryn 734 717 3470

PLPOA Goals:

1. Continue efforts to protect Pleasant Lake and maintain your property values! This includes the threat of invasive species, other natural and man-made dangers, including the possibility of sewage and water runoff, industrial, pipeline, road emergencies, dangerous development, and other challenges.
2. Continue the Pleasant Lake Special Assessment District and Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program to accurately determine and track the condition of Pleasant Lake, manage invasive species, measure results, and prepare to react to other dangers to the lake. Let’s work as a team to protect our environment!!
3. Support cooperative resident, business, organization, and government education, outreach, encourage updates to the Freedom Township Master Plan and Zoning Ordinances to help protect the lake, its residents, the watershed, and R-3 lake district from planning and future development threats. We must be prepared for other challenges which could negatively impact Pleasant Lake, Freedom Township and our environment!!

PLPOA LOOKS FORWARD - We hope you will join the PLPOA! We need your involvement, ideas and support to maintain the health of Pleasant Lake and Freedom Township. Possible lake/water threats include a boat launch site, too many boats and watercraft, lakeside development, runoff, industrial/pipeline/natural emergencies, noise, neighborhood disturbances as well as political decisions by the legislature that limits local zoning and other legal controls. We need to keep working emergency planning and preparations, so first responders are ready, recall the 2021 California oil spill and 2010 Kalamazoo pipeline leak impact!!

All Michigan lakes face the threat of invasive species including zebra mussels, Starry Stonewort, blue-green algae, and other AIS brought in by unclean boats. This past year our annual lake surveys, which are a part of the Special Assessment District program, identified more Story Stonewort sites in Pleasant Lake and thus we added and additional treatments.

Cut and return form with payment

(PLPOA) Membership/Dues Form-(which includes the MI Riparian Magazine)

\$50 Checks payable to: PLPOA for a 1-year membership (Jan 1 to Dec 31-2022—PLEASE Pay by June 1)

Complete this form and mail it with a check to: PLPOA, P.O. Box 447, Manchester, MI 48158

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Other-Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail address (for faster communication and updates) _____

Additional contributions to support PLPOA lake monitoring, education, outreach and lake management are always appreciated! Annual fee \$50 _____ + Contribution _____ = _____