

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING
WASHTENAW COUNTY
CHAIN OF LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Wednesday, March 15, 2017
Live Simulcast and Video on Demand
<https://livesream.com/accounts/110:11930/events/116649>
Hamburg Township
10405 Merrill Rd.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

Board Members Present: Dries, Everett, Schmidt, Maciejewski, Walz, Pratt

Board Members Absent: Feinman

Liaison Absent: Commissioner Deatrick

Staff Present: Meghan Bonfiglio, Chief Deputy Water Resources Commissioner
Jeff Krcmarik, Environmental Services Supervisor
Jonathan Pelukas, Environmental Program Coordinator
Jonathan Tullman, Solid Waste Program Specialist
Michelle Katz, Water Resources Coordinator
Kristi Paton, Water Resources Specialist
Autumn House, Water Resources
Mallory Walczesky, Water Resources Assessment Coordinator

Others Present: Dr. Douglas Pullman, Aquest
See attached lists for other attendees (Public)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Walz at 7:09 p.m., Walz abstained from Chairing the Public Hearing since she owns property in the proposed project area, then turned the meeting over to the Vice-Chair Schmidt. Vice-Chair Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.
2. **AGENDA**
Motion by Dries, supported by Maciejewski, to approve the Agenda as presented.
Motion carried.
3. **PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING**
Pratt provided an overview of the expectations of tonight's meeting proceedings. Pratt briefly reviewed the nine steps of implementing a Lake Management Project pointing out the local municipalities initiated a Resolution requesting assistance with a lake management project with the Board of Public Works. He also mentioned the special assessment process and encouraged those that may not have lake access to notify our office so we can verify the parcel records for the proposed Special Assessment District.
4. **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**
Krcmarik presented a slide show explaining Implementing a Lake Management Program managed under Public Act 185. He explained the district boundaries' maps currently establish for the proposed Special Assessment District (SAD) containing about 3500 parcels within the district. He explained there are many steps that are taken in conducting a Lake Management program including a lake management study to determine the lakes conditions in order to provide a budget and action plan to manage the lakes issues. He mentioned the budgeted amount is established by working with the Township officials in determining those proposed assessment amounts. He mentioned if there are any protests to the project to please contact our office with those concerns. Krcmarik provided the projected five years of the SAD amounts, established as deeded Lake Access parcels, \$100.00/year for five years, Lake Front parcels, \$175.00/year for five years, Commercial parcels, \$700.00/year for 5 years. He provided the website information located at <http://www.tinyurl.com/wclakemgmt> where any and all information in regards to the proposed lake management is available. Pratt mentioned that the lake management opinion report that specifically addressed each of the lakes in the chain is available at this web site. Krcmarik also mentioned there will be office hours at Hamburg Township to answer questions on March 23rd from 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. and March 29th

from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. He also mentioned that the proposed SAD parcel rolls will be available next week on the web site for review.

5. LAKE MANAGEMENT OPINION PRESENTATION

Dr. Douglas Pullman presented highlights of the Lake Management opinion completed by Aquest in 2016. He explained the pollution paradigm and disturbance paradigm in regards to the Chain of Lakes current lake conditions. He also provided the Lake Management goal “To preserve, protect, and improve critical habitat quality and biological diversity of the aquatic ecosystem and thereby enhance ecosystem stability and resiliency.” He mentioned the needs to monitor lake scans to make the necessary assessments in order to obtain the data to continue the improvements in the lake conditions. He explained the lake scan maps that are available in the full report and the also how the information is collected. He provided the current challenges to the Chain of Lakes ecosystem and explained each of those invasive species creating the instability. He mentioned targeted delivery systems to address those invasive species and not the desirable species in order to preserve, protect, and improve the lakes ecosystem by creating a stable environment.

6. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING CHAIN OF LAKES PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Pratt introduced the portion of the public comments process and explained how it would operate. He explained that not all of the questions could be answered at this meeting and those questions would be addressed in a frequently asked format with the answers available on the web site and also would provide them at next public hearing if approved.

Vice Chair Schmidt opened Public Hearing commentary

(3 minutes per Speaker) on Chain of Lakes Lake Improvement Project proposed Special Assessment District at 7: 55 p.m.

Ralph Blasey, 11145 Wynns Dr., Putnam Township asked if there would be any representation from the fisheries division to monitor the effects of a lake management program. He also is concerned about the boat trafficking. Mentioning having boat washing capabilities could help improve conditions. He also mentioned he has lived on the chain for 35 years and inquired about lake projects involving a continuous flow and the impacts on the lake treatments.

Peg Breece, 10349, Strawberry Dr., asked how the use of chemicals would be effective when the water is continuously moving. She also asked when the weeds die she thinks they settle on the bottom adding to organic material if they are being sprayed. She also asked questions about what the proposed lake treatments are and how often they would occur.

Pratt mentioned the permit process, partnership between Dr. Pullman and the applicator to review of what would be applied and where they will be applied. The information would be posted on web site once those treatment plans are determined.

Thom Black, 10945 Monticello Rd., Hamburg Township, in general he is enthusiastic about the project. He is on the board of White Lodge, a large residential recreational community. The members as a corporation own 55 parcel lots that are undeveloped and each individual members are being assessed. He has provided letter of protest in regards to the assessments of these undeveloped lots.

Cheryl Dehmlow, 9992 Winston, Dexter and Putnam Townships, she asked if there is another form of mitigation to avoid invasive species. She also asked about the Portage Lake’s public access and if any fees could be established to help mitigate the lake assessment costs and washouts. She requested the board members keep an open mind and commented that in her opinion it appears as though members have already established a determination.

Dave Wilutis, 2348 Baseview Dr., he is a PBWOA (Portage, Baseline, Whitewood, Owners Association) board member, he wanted to make everyone aware of a map he has drawn indicating other lake property owners, including himself, that he is aware of that are applying their own lake treatments, either with or without permits. He is concerned about what other property owners are applying and those effects to the ecosystems it may impact further downstream. He along with the PBWOA feels the approach to have a Lake Management plan would be beneficial in having the expertise in managing the applications as opposed to individuals. He also mentioned his shoreline and issues with starry stonewort that is about five foot as well as other areas in the Huron River canal.

Julie Teicher, 9380 Dexter Pinckney Rd., Dexter Township, she is here to give a statement in support of establishing a SAD. Her family has own 83 years, she has spent summers there her entire life and have great memories. Until a few years ago her shoreline was a sandy clear bottom and the last few summers there have been significant change in the shore line containing weeds and cloudy water. The water fowl are much closer to the shoreline due to the increase in vegetation. She also mentioned the amount of weeds in Hell creek is astounding and the excessive thick weed growth. She mentioned she feels the Chain of Lakes are a valuable resource and if they are not protected by the extensive weed growth, the lakes will become swamp land and invaluable. With our Chain of Lakes, what happens in one lake happens in another. The benefits that this SAD would bring are beneficial to our local economic revenues, wildlife and recreational activities. She then explained these proposed SAD costs in a weekly amount comparing them to a cost of a Starbucks coffee.

John Farrell, 11935 Algonquin Dr., Putnam Township, he represents a group of residents that live on a lagoon that have been treating weeds for the last 65 years. He is very aware of the Starry Stonewort in the lakes and has concerns about their current contact with an applicator the residents have. He is inquiring about when these lake treatments would be completed and would like more information of how and when these applications would be done.

George Nelson, 11752 Algonquin Dr., Hamburg Township, mentioned he is in support of the program. He has a question about the commercial properties proposed assessments costs, noting that the boat owners that dock at the marinas have lake access just like the property owners that have lake access and wants to ensure those docked boats are also paying a fair share of these SAD costs.

Dawn Milz, 10835 Monticello, Hamburg Township, presented the board with a letter with her comments to the project.

Geoff Henricks, 11282 Colony Rd., he mentioned they decimated their canal, two months after this occurred he saw the fish leave due to lack of oxygen. He said the weeds are a huge issue and noted that both times he has tried to rake the canal the amount of undergrowth is astounding. He also has concerns about the lake treatments effectiveness in a continuous flow chain.

Don Pargoff, 10718 Pinebluff, Hamburg Township, he agreed that the lake treatment is needed and mentioned an issue with black water possibly caused by the zebra mussels. He had questions was the river canal lots that are north of Strawberry Lake merging into the lake that has the same benefit that are not included in the district. He also has concerns about the cost sharing in access lots; there are 100 lot owners for 1 lot that has access with 8 only boats. He had concerns about the Commercial Marinas that have slips are only charged \$700/per year vs. the 100 owners that have 1 lot with access are being charge \$100/per year each and would like the board to consider these variances in the assessment amounts.

Rick Knieper, 4662 Kenmore Dr., Hamburg Township, has a question in regards to the involvement in the project going to the Board of Commissioners in Livingston County. He wanted to know why Washtenaw County was involved and this is the first he has heard about this project. He also mentioned that he has noticed that the dock removal in the fall has indicated that there is something in the water that is oxidizing the aluminium from the docking systems. He also mentioned that since the sewer systems were established in ORE Lake that this is occurring. He also mentioned that the City of Brighton has a permit that allows them to use the creek flowing into ORE Lake as an overflow of their sewer treatment plant that he believes is causing issues downstream and believes these costs should be shared with others upstream in the lake systems.

Ryan Breece, 10902 Colony Rd., lives on Strawberry Lake and has work on these lakes as well as Whitmore Lake. He mentioned that some people have good things to say about the lake treatments and some have not good things to say about the treatments. He doesn't feel like there was not enough information in regards to the type of chemicals proposed to use and what would happen to the dead weeds after treatments are applied. He also feels that his time was wasted and that the answers he thought they would be receiving tonight have not been sufficient in regards to other options, besides chemicals being applied and not enough information on the Lake Management plans on treatments.

Justin Kivi, 1304 Nita, Putnam Township, stated that he feels we are treating the effect of the weed issues and not the cause of why these issues are occurring. Feels there should be emphasis on what upstream is causing the issues.

Ron Esch, 3550 Windwheel Pt., lives on Whitewood Lake and is a PBWOA member. He mentioned that he is in support of the project along with the other PBWOA member, has seen the deterioration in the lakes condition. His approach is to address the issues when they start becoming problems as opposed to waiting until it's too late. He also had questions about amounts assessed for the Marinas. He mentioned that the lake property owners, and that these properties are the most valuable assets and they need to be protected.

Jeff Morgan, 5198 Edgelake Dr., Hamburg Township, would like to know how many applications are being completed for these assessment amounts and if the applications are chemical or systemic.

Rob Reynolds, 4751 Downing, Hamburg Township, protest in being in the SAD doesn't believe he has access to Strawberry Lake.

Mary Dee Dryer, 8725 Grove Dr., Dexter Township, has lived on the lake for 28 years and mentioned her dock length has increased due to the weed growth in the last few years. She also mentioned that while in Marco Island they experienced Red Tide. She commented that as a community, there needs to be a plan in this process and communication to what the effectiveness results are with the residents through the plan process.

Schmidt commented that the Lake Management plan's process is communicated on a yearly basis with the community posting on the web site as well as municipal meetings.

Tom Ehman, 8940 Dexter Pinckney, Dexter Township, mentioned based on the comments he has heard at tonight's proceedings that the SAD will be continued on April 15th and what the recommendations to move forward with the SAD are.

Pratt commented on that there are recommendations on proceeding with the SAD based on the Lake Report and that the Board of Public Works will determine if there will be a meeting to proceed with the SAD with an additional public hearing tentatively scheduled for April 19th that the property owners would also receive a notice for if the Board approves proceeding with a second hearing.

Leslie Panzica-Glapa, 8010 Base Lake Dr., Webster Township, she mentioned that she has not heard many people bringing up prevention of these lake issues. She is concerned about people that are using weed and feed and the guidelines of applying these chemicals 50 feet from the shore line. She asked if there are concerns about these chemicals potentially being administered into the lakes and the effects on the wildlife as well as humans. She also mentions that after copper sulphate was administered in the lake, her son was diagnosed with Type I diabetes. She also mentioned that her neighbour's dog was diagnosed with lupus after swimming in the lake. She is concerned about these chemicals and the effects they may have.

Kathy Sample, 7746 Base Lake Dr., Webster Township, commented that five years ago Dr. Pullman did a study on Base Line Lake and the project was voted down at Webster Township. She asked what changed and how the analysis would be different now. Base Line Lake is a deep glacier lake and those lake treatment effects may differ than a shallow lake. She agrees that the weeds are an issue. She mentioned the disruptions when chemicals are applied effecting the swimming and watering of plants. This creates 3-5 days that swimming or plant watering cannot be done. She also mentioned changes in the human behaviour in people that are willing to put chemicals into the lakes and the not put chemicals on their lawns.

Phil Nowacki, 10850 Kennedy, Putnam Township, lives on the canal at the north end of Portage Lake. He mentioned the residents there spray for weeds 3 times a year which only keeps the weeds at bay. He mentioned there is no swimming in those canals due to the conditions. He also mentioned that those proposed weed applications would not take care of the weeds at the roots only the tops based on his research. He also has concerns about the SAD amounts proposed for the commercial properties and lake access those boat owners have vs. the property owners paying \$100/per year for lake access. He also asked about cropping as opposed to spraying. He asked about the assessments for people in the canals be different. He also questioned why Kent Lake is not being considered in the SAD, and the current applications applied there and those effects to the COL.

Pratt mentioned that the BPW has no involvement in the Kent Lake project, we are only involved in projects that we are petitioned by the municipalities.

Denise Delleree, 4299 Cornwell Ln., mentioned there have been very good comments made tonight. She also mentioned her concerns about the upstream systems and the effects of the lakes downstream. She is also concerned with treatments to the COL and that they would just flush downstream through the river system. She also pointed out her review of Dr. Pullman's the Lake Management study and thought there was not a crisis and the money is not necessary to be spent in treatments. Nuisance conditions observed were not over a level 3.

Jim Jensen, 3534 Windwheel Pt. Dr., Hamburg Township, wanted to voice his support for the Lake Management plan and doesn't feel that waiting until these issues become a crisis.

Lindsay Clinansmith, 8608 Portage Lk. Blvd., Dexter Township, she mentioned in her review of the lake study and pointed out that the portion of the report that mentioned aesthetically pleasing is not an important part of this project. She stated the importance is to improve the eco system and wanted more information on how the treatments would impact fish as well as the wildlife. She asked what if nothing was done. She also stated that she found that only 4 of the lake study areas were at a level 2 on of which is Tamark Lake which was mismanaged. She asked what happens when the five years of the SAD are over. She asked if any of the use of these herbicides/algacides can this cause antibiotic resistance while using the water system. She also indicated that in her entire neighbourhood, they only have two and a half feet of actual lake access and yet all the homes are being accessed. Concerns about the commercial assessments for the boat slips available with lake access. In her review of the chemical used concerns on the human as well as the wildlife.

Richard Jedele, 11397 Algonquin Dr., Hamburg Township, has many of the same concerns that have been brought up tonight. He mentioned they have been treating their canal. Spray 3-4 times a year that seems to keep the weeds at bay. Had concerns about the wildlife and fishing and long term effects. Concerned about the back lots and the assessments established.

Kevin Gallagler, 9694 Base Lake Dr., Webster Township, thanked the member for the work thus far. He mentioned there is a real weed issues in the last few years have increased. He mentioned 10-12 feet from the shore line in fishing they are bound to catch seaweed. The weed problems are getting worse and seems to be coming faster. He did mention there are valued concerns that he has heard tonight. He feels that individually doing treatments in piece mail with little knowledge, that

having the experts that can determine the based on the facts are better to manage the issues. He is in support of the project. He mentioned he attended the information at a PBWOA meeting with a presentation by another management opinion was very valuable.

Janice Arps Prundeanu, 7778 Base Lake Dr., Webster Township, a PBWOA member, mentioned that she wished that more people could have attending the meeting PBWOA held providing the study done by Lake Restorative. She mentioned that the presentation of that report was very informational in regards to the weed issues and also addressed the chemicals that would be used to treat the lakes. She was in support of the SAD project.

Ed Dorrington, 7688 Base Lake Rd., Webster Township, complimented the PBWOA for bringing the study available. Has concerns about the assessments with the Marina's and paying a pitness of the assessments is unfair. Encouraged for people to look at the information out on the web site at PBWOA and look into other lakes that have had experience with a project.

Bob Cooley, 7506 Base Lake Dr., Webster Township, had a question in regards to a matte kind of weed that has been in front of his home. He asked if this is something that would be treated. He had concerns about the type of treatment and the effectiveness of this treatment of where it has worked and where it hasn't worked.

Kathleen Cooley, 7506 Base Lake Dr., Webster Township, asked about the SAD if it was a permanent assessment or only for five years. She also asked about the disturbances of trash and other matter in the lakes left from the boat traffic.

Pratt answered that this is only for five years and the county only acts on a potential SAD project if the local municipalities petition the county to serve the residents of the community.

John Hale, 9790 Winston Dr., Portage Lake, asked when they would be notified of what type of parcel the SAD would be assessed. He mentioned he is hesitant of an SAD that could possibly never end.

Tracy Uguccioni, 5259 Gallagher, has been on the lake board at Strawberry Lake. She was concerned about the chemicals that are going to be dumped in the lake. She asked if there were alternatives to this approach.

Irv Karwick, 1300 Nita, Putnam Township, thanked for the information provided tonight. He mentioned that the example of the assessment amounts of Joslin Lake Project

Pratt answered that in many cases that the full assessment amounts are not necessary and are reduced from the full assessed amount. Usually occurring once a management program is underway for a few years.

Rick Beaudin, 9676 Zukey Dr., asked about the quality of the water in general terms. He talked about getting swimmers itch. Asked about who monitors the water quality and what would the effects be to these chemicals do to the water quality. He also mentioned that this project that has been broadcasted throughout the community. He also mentioned that as a community, clean-up of our lakes should be done as a community.

Emmy Maximuk, 4640 Oak Lane, mentioned that she has been an observer of the hearing. She asked the board to consider establishing the next public hearing meeting and address those questions that have been asked. She has specific issues about her assessment amount.

6. **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

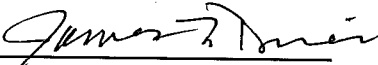
Vice Chair Schmidt closed Public Hearing. Motion carried.

7. **SUMMARY/NEXT STEPS**

Pratt reviewed the next steps in the SAD process and that there would be a vote with the Board of Public Works members to establish proceeding with the project and to move forward to the second public hearing.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 pm



James Dries, Secretary