

Chain of Lakes Public Hearings

Questions and responses

March 15, 2017

- 1) Any monitoring from the fisheries division for the effects of the lake management process.
 - A. Fisheries has not evaluated these lakes in seven years. At that time the fishery scored well where surveyed. The MDNR website has more information (www.michigan.gov/dnr).

- 2) Boat traffic and ability to wash boats coming in and out of the lakes to avoid adding invasive species?
 - A. The lake scientist present, Dr. Doug Pullman later explained that he agrees that boats that lake jump would of course be one source, including kayaks and canoes. He pointed out initially that another primary source is simply the human disturbance of lakes as they develop. And finally he mentioned, as a scientist studying over 50 lakes in Michigan, that even lakes with no boat traffic get all of the three main species of invasives in the Chain. Anecdotally he observed that muted swans have a strong affinity for starry stonewort and he has seen birds landing with it hanging from them.

- 3) Impact of lake treatment in relation to a continuous flow of water ways?
 - A. The current Lake Management Report (available online) does not propose or recommend any treatment in the river itself at this time. As mentioned at the meeting, management opinions are updated at least twice annually. Where there is flowing water, including any areas not on the river, the method of application may change to ensure accuracy, but generally quantities are no different.

- 4) Once the treatment of the weeds is applied do these dead weeds settle on the bottom of the lake or are they removed. Will these dead weeds add to the invasive organic matter?
 - A. As Dr. Pullman pointed out, it is important to understand that aquatic plants are mostly water, with only 2% biomass. The vast majority of organic matter in lakes like those in the chain is generally leaves and other debris from the surrounding dry landscape where plant biomass ratios are much higher.

- 5) What is the proposed lake treatments approach? How often? What is being applied? Where is it being applied? How would the residents be informed? (Basically bang for their buck) What am I getting for the assessments I am paying?
 - A. No more than 5% of the surface area of lakes like these are problem areas in need of treatment. Affected residents are notified in advance by the applicator, typically with required signage posted at each potentially impacted property. Not all properties will have applications in front of them, only as needed.

It is clear that at least initially, both mechanical treatment and herbicide treatment will be used. Regular inspections to determine need will occur multiple times annually, and include representation by each appropriate Lake Association – and interested members are welcome!! If the project is approved, Washtenaw County and Dr. Pullman will work through the Associations. Contact information for the known lake associations are posted online at our website and will be shared with Township websites. Contact Jon Pelukas from Washtenaw County via phone (734-222-3827) or email (pelukasj@ewashtenaw.org) if there are associations to add.

Many problem areas with a single invasive will only need a single annual treatment. The Management Report and recommendations point out that because there are different growing seasons for different invasive plants, when looking at the entire system, there can be as many as 2-4 applications initially, primarily due to use of different herbicides to target different plants in different growing seasons. In a small number of situations, a “touch up” application may be needed in areas of dense growth.

The Management Report and recommendations within provide the principles used for lake treatment, such as the above example in item b. Most importantly, the Report and recommendations emphasize a goal driven and constant evaluation. The appendices show areas of different invasive species that are generally recommended for treatment, evaluation to minimize both costs and the perception concerns with chemical inputs.

To the concerns about herbicide use, Dr. Pullman noted that all approved herbicides are designed to be absorbed by the photosynthesis pathway, so only plants will be affected and well below EPA thresholds for human contact. He further noted that all herbicides used have a long history of use as well as study, and are still safe.

6) What else will be done to help educate resident about lake management - beyond chemical treatment?

- A. Informational handouts from the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) were provided and more are available. The County will work with the Associations to provide desired resources, and encourages natural landscapes instead of fertilizer and chemical treatment of lawns, while recognizing that each property owner makes their own individual choices.

Additionally, Washtenaw County and the Huron River Watershed Council (www.hrwc.org) provide best management tips for lakefront living on their websites. Homeowners around the lake community have opportunities to participate in the State of Michigan’s MiCorps program (<https://micorps.net>) which provides training and guidance on water quality monitoring. Members of the Portage Baseline Whitewood Owners Association (www.pbwoa.org) currently participate in the MiCorps Program and would be happy to speak with others who are interested in getting involved. For the

past several years, the Portage, Baseline, Whitewood Owners Association (PBWOA) has hosted educational sessions on exactly this topic and included environmental leaders in their Board meetings. Washtenaw County will coordinate with PBWOA and other associations during the project.

- 7) White Lodge individuals own 55 lots that are undeveloped, how will these lots be assessed?
 - A. We will work directly with anyone who has a question about their assessment, staff can answer after the Public Hearing or you can email or call.

- 8) Can/Does the Portage Lake's public access be assessed fees to contribute to the SAD?
 - A. This was checked after the meeting, and MDNR will pay the assessed rate for a commercial parcel with boat launch.

- 9) Are there other forms of mitigation to avoid invasive species, other than spraying chemicals?
 - A. Mechanical harvesting will also be a part of this program. For example, the starry stonewort in Tamarack Lake is a likely candidate.

- 10) Commercial property owners that have lake access (boat slips), and those boat owners that also have lake access are also paying fair share of the SAD costs? Surcharge to slip owners?
 - A. The rate structure was revised after the first public hearing to address this more fairly, and can be viewed online.

- 11) The 50-60 people on a lagoon- what will the service be of multiple applications?
 - A. Applications will be done based on pre-application surveys that will include Association representatives and interested members. Information about timing of these will be provided online at the County website, and where possible through the Associations. These surveys are weather dependent. As indicated above, there are different reasons that multiple applications could be needed, but the decision for each individual application will always be based on the project goals and the plant mass present during surveys.

- 12) Why is Washtenaw County involved in this project for Livingston County Residents and are the Board of Commissioners in Livingston County aware of the project?
 - A. This project is consistent with Public Act 185, which was used to implement a multi-jurisdictional assessment project in both counties several years ago to form the Multi-Lakes Sewer Authority. In this situation, Washtenaw County was asked by Resolutions from the four affected Township Boards (two in each County) to initiate the project. We have not spoken directly to members of the BOC, but worked directly with the Drain Commissioner and Township officials.

- 13) Are any studies being done upstream of the COL that could determine the cause of the current issues with the weeds increased into the lakes?
- A. Not that we are aware of. As noted above, there are a number of reasons that invasives enter a system, and the stability and health of a given system will drive their ability to spread. It was noted by Dr. Pullman that “the horse is out of the barn”, and based on the testimony regarding many years of treatment throughout the Chain, it is likely that invasives will be a constant problem. The goals are to keep them to a manageable level before they intensify while improving the ecological diversity of the Chain.
- 14) Concerns about sewer overflow permitted into Ore Creek from Brighton Sewer Plant. Concern w/MDEQ oversight of the content of the overflows. Concerns that there are corrosive materials flowing into COL?
- A. We have not seen specific sampling results with this information, however, outside of Phosphorous, these issues would not generally accelerate plant growth, invasive or otherwise.
- 15) Will the DNR be assessed as a part of the SAD?
- A. This was not known at the first Public Hearing, but as noted above we have confirmed that the boat launch on Portage Lake will be assessed.
- 16) Is there past history of success/issues for treatments?
- A. The ecological goals noted in the Report have improved in all other lake management projects Washtenaw County has done. In general, as noted above, invasives and/or other nuisance plants are not likely to be eradicated when they are present to the extent they are in this system. However, the unified program recommended along the entire chain is expected to result in greater biodiversity of non-nuisance species with a declining use of herbicide mass (and cost) over the five year program due to a reduction in invasive biomass over time. This has been the result of all our other programs. Each year is different, and weather plays a major factor – warmer winters generally drive higher biomass while colder winters do the opposite.
- 17) What are the effects of the lake treatment chemicals on wildlife and humans? Is it safe to eat the fish?
- A. By definition, these herbicides are absorbed by organisms that use photosynthesis, so they will not impact wildlife or humans. The fish are as safe to eat as without herbicide application.
- 18) Why isn't Kent Lake being considered in the COL SAD? The applications taking place in this lake effects the COL?
- A. We do not have the authority to include Kent Lake based on the Township Resolutions we have received.

19) Properties on North Side of Strawberry Lake further in the canals are not in the assessment district, why?

- A. Parcels with lake access to the lakes on the Chain are intended to be included. We will review this area and any necessary deeds or title work.

20) What happens if nothing is done? Are there alternatives to chemical treatments?

- A. As noted above, mechanical harvesting is an option, along with “good housekeeping” practices on lawns, but since this area has been long disturbed by humans, it is an inviting area for invasives. It is very likely that the several different groups and individuals applying herbicides throughout the chain without a scientific view or ecological measures will continue application. We understand that the request to have a single entity without a profit motivation overseeing all applications was intended to improve effectiveness while reducing the total mass of herbicides.

21) What happens after the 5 years is over on the SAD?

- A. No further assessments are allowed without going through the entire process again. In other lakes, a variety of paths have been taken. First, Washtenaw County has had a history of reducing the assessment amount in later years due to improved conditions requiring less herbicide. On most lakes, residents recognize that some level of lake management is always needed once invasives are present, mainly to keep nuisance plant biomass to the lower level that has typically resulted over a 5 year program. Some Townships take over the plan from the County, while other areas request another 5 year program. Any remaining funds can be spent on lake management practices or education.

22) What are the health issues that are caused by the chemicals proposed to be used? Can they cause antibiotic resistance issues in animals/humans?

- A. As noted above and at the hearing, herbicides are formulated to affect plants, not other living organisms. The herbicides have been in use for many decades, and the EPA (and MDEQ) has approved them based on science showing no health concerns at even greater concentrations than the application levels used.

23) How does a five year SAD work? Can the assessments be reduced/increased? Can a SAD continue indefinitely? How will updates be provided annually?

- A. See above. Five years is a hard stop unless the process is initiated again, and the approved assessment can only be increased up to 10% per year. However as noted above, historically, the full assessment has not been charged for all 5 years of any lake management project.

- 24) What can be done about the other pollutants that occur in the lake chain (i.e. litter and the amount of people partying who leaves “who knows what” in the lake systems)?
- A. This project does not provide any authority to address those issues, which are already addressed by current laws. Concerned residents would need to work with law enforcement officials to address concerns with enforcement of current laws.
- 25) Who monitors the water quality in the lake systems? Swimmer’s itch in Zukey Lake?
- A. We are not aware of an agency responsible for monitoring water quality in the lakes, although MDEQ could be requested to test water quality if there was a concern. In some places, volunteers either self-form or work through a Lake Association to hire a qualified entity to do sampling and/or attempt measures to address swimmer’s itch.
- 26) Who is responsible for managing weed control of lawn management laws?
- A. Individual property rights generally govern in most of the USA, although in Michigan, a 2012 law banned phosphorous fertilization unless a property owner had a soil analysis (MSU Extension can perform these). As noted above, this project could include educational messaging and programs if desired by the Associations, but does not include additional enforcement or interpretation of existing laws.
- 27) What has changed with the Baseline Lake analysis done 5 years ago?
- A. We have not been provided with this analysis. As noted above, our process includes analysis and field evaluation multiple times each year because the environment is dynamic – things grow, die, multiply, recede, and shift in location over time. Each application will be based on Association representatives’ assessment of the nuisance level of problem areas along with scientific opinion.
- 28) Will lawn watering be impacted and for how long?
- A. Signage will indicate that watering and swimming should not take place for 24 hours. These restrictions are not from EPA or MDEQ, they are from the industry, to minimize any reduction in effectiveness of the herbicide due to sediment or water disturbance.
- 29) What are the effects on Eurasian, Ebrid (or other invasive) milfoil and starry stonewort -- private application in canals have not impacted these invasives?
- A. As noted above, different herbicides target different plants. We do not have information on what has been done before. This program will include methods to address these plants, as they are two of the three most significant invasive biomasses.
- 30) What are the pros/cons/effectiveness in the applications?
- A. See other responses above.

31) Will the SAD double dip on rear lots that are owned by the same owners that have lake front property?

A. No

32) Will matted algae be treated?

A. As noted above, where nuisance areas are a concern by either Association representatives or Dr. Pullman, they will be treated appropriately, through either mechanical means or herbicide. Starry stonewort can mat so thickly that herbicides cannot penetrate through the entire mat, so thicker mats may be mechanically harvested, particularly in earlier years of the program

33) Is the sole purpose water treatment? Can Public Works change the project in the future?

A. It is our opinion that any technique to address the goals of the project could be paid for with the funds collected. Our current budget primarily included harvesting and herbicides as noted above, but there is room for flexibility after the first year or two of applications if desired by Association representatives and appropriate for the budget.

34) When/How would property owners be will notified how they will be assessed?

A. Assessments will be on winter tax bills, and as noted above as far as notification prior to application of herbicides.

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35) Was the river included in the assessment, and how would treatment occur on the river if needed?

A. The river was assessed and no treatment is currently proposed, although it may be needed in certain areas at some point. See above for additional information on treatment in flowing water.

36) Are the canals going to see treatment for surface algae? Currently needed 3x per year in some canals

A. As noted in other responses, every application is preceded by a boat tour with Association representatives and Dr. Pullman to ensure input on areas needing treatment. Dr. Pullman is also aware of typical nuisance weed concerns of residents on canals and will address even if residents of a particular canal are not present.

37) Will there be anything done to stop the incoming fertilizer from properties and especially from upstream?

A. This project would not have the legal right to require any specific approach for either. The PBWOA has hosted and will continue to host "Best Practices" educational seminars, and there is potential if this project is approved to assist with any gaps in educational messaging and technical resources if that desire is expressed in an annual meeting

setting that is envisioned for this project. Other lakes have moved in that direction. The State of Michigan enacted a phosphorous fertilizer ban in 2012, so residents can only legally use phosphorous fertilizer if they have soils analyzed and a phosphorous deficiency is found. In general, Michigan soils have plenty of phosphorous. The issue of upstream practices is generally addressed in a response below which describes the Middle Huron Initiative facilitated by the Huron River Watershed Council.

38) Will anything be done at the MDNR and other boat launches?

- A. As noted in other responses, none of the agencies involved in this project have regulatory authority over MDNR. The launch will be assessed to pay a share of the project.

39) What will the assessments be?

- A. These are available online, lakefront residential parcels will be assessed no more than \$173 per year for a period of 5 years, while residential parcels with lake access will be assessed no more than \$98 annually. To date, no Washtenaw County projects have resulted in the full assessment for all 5 years. The detailed commercial schedule is also online.

40) Why is no multiplier used for some of the commercial properties that are either on or off the lake?

- A. There is a multiplier for parcels that have lake uses such as boat slips or launches. Commercial parcels that do not use/impact the lake are charged at the base rate of \$750.

41) The milfoil is a big problem. Why aren't non-residents charged somehow?

- A. There is no legal mechanism to charge non-residents. Fortunately, due to the large lake area, large number of parcels, and catching this early while only about 5% of the lake is affected allows the assessments to be less per parcel than some of our other projects.

42) Why isn't the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) present at this hearing?

- A. DPW Director Pratt noted that he had met with the HRWC Executive Director Laura Rubin regarding the pending project. We cannot speak for HRWC or to the number of issues and hearings HRWC would like to comment on. It is notable that the overall project for the Chain is expected to replace the large number of herbicide applications that are not being overseen by a scientist or public agency that is focused on goals related to an improved ecosystem. Where lake residents are interested in a more environmental approach, our office has introduced HRWC representatives to offer ideas for a la carte services that could also improve the nuisance weed situation. Washtenaw County did provide informational packets prepared by HRWC at the sign in desk at both public hearings. We would be pleased to work together if possible. In comment later, Mark Teicher of PBWOA indicated that they have worked with HRWC on educational

and other programming, and had previously contacted HRWC about the project. Washtenaw County will ensure that HRWC is included in all future project mailings.

43) Why can't commercial assessments be based on actual number of slips vs. the proposed tiered structure?

A. We recognize that there are many ways to determine who pays how much. In this case the decision was that due to the small number of commercial properties, the administrative cost of tracking the exact number of slips would be a challenge. In addition, the assessment needs to be predictable to some degree on the revenue side.

44) Why is swimming seen as disruptive to herbicide effectiveness but not boating? It will be a major problem if there are boating restrictions

A. Boating is also disruptive, but the challenges raised in the hearing of mandating no boat use for 24 hours are why it is not the industry standard. It was noted by Dr. Pullman that applications under this program will not be allowed Friday through Sunday which minimizes boat and other impacts.

45) What happens to the die off? We already have mucky canals, will this make the bottom sediment worse?

A. As noted in another response, aquatic plants are 98% water by mass – the biomass is small. Additionally, nuisance weed areas are only approximately 5% of the collective lake surface area(s). Particularly in these lakes, the biomass contributed by leaves from land based trees is substantially greater.

46) Have there been public bids to do this work? Some people already have contracted with applicators

A. This project team has committed to work with existing applicators who are under contract where necessary in 2017, but those applicators will be expected to work under the direction of Dr. Pullman, and several have already been in contact with him about the project. Any existing contractual arrangements will be evaluated on a case by case basis, but thus far the majority of the application would be under the publicly bid contract. In general, work is publicly bid, and beginning in 2018 we anticipate only allowing the one winning bidder.

47) Will there be an extra cost for return applications or other spot applications?

A. No

48) Will there be treatments on holiday weekends?

A. No, treatments in our programs are limited to Monday through Thursday, so no weekends either. This is a benefit recreationally, but also is much more cost effective due to less disturbance than applications done on busier days.

49) Won't the plants/lakes end up becoming immune to the herbicides? Will we need another multi-year program?

A. As noted at the first public hearing, once invasives are present to the point where residents are willing to pay for vegetation management, the "horse is out of the barn", and the most realistic goal is to keep the invasives to a minimal nuisance level – complete eradication would be prohibitively expensive and inconsistent with environmental goals of this program. While "immunity" is not exactly an issue, it is true that different hybrids are evolving at all times. As noted elsewhere, different nuisance weeds can show up in different places at different times for different reasons, which is a primary reason that a wide range of herbicides are permitted but typically a small number (3-6) are used in a given year of applications.

50) Will private and public boat launches be assessed a greater amount? These are a major concern.

A. Commercial parcels with boat launches will be assessed substantially more than residential parcels, with a minimum of \$750. More intensive commercial uses of the lake (i.e. more boat slips) will be charged a higher rate than regular commercial parcels.

51) How can people find out about their assessments? Will contiguous parcels owned by the same person all be charged individually?

A. Staff can answer that immediately tonight on a case by case basis. Others can call the office any time. After the prior meeting, staff also held office hours twice at Hamburg Township.

52) What is the success rate of these types of programs? What works and what doesn't?

A. All of our past projects have written reports demonstrating progress toward ecological diversity, nuisance biomass, and other relevant goals. Current reports for all other projects showing actual results are available on our website for resident review.

53) Are swimming restrictions only for the application areas or lake-wide?

A. Posted signs will indicate the limits of application and no swimming within 100'. We will work with Associations to provide schedule information about lake surveys and herbicide applications. These are all subject to rescheduling on short notice due to inclement weather, so keep an eye on the most reliable Association website.

54) I do not want to pay for this problem, I believe it is caused by outsiders who do not own property.

A. We understand that there will be people who feel that way. Peer reviewed science indicates that there are multiple causes that all contribute to invasives, with the primary cause being human disturbance, e.g. development around the lakes. We understand that not all people agree with this peer reviewed science.

55) Won't the weed problem continue after the program?

- A. As stated by others providing testimony, the weed problem is likely permanent. The difference is a well-founded concern that failure to address the issue will cause it to snowball into an extremely costly program. Several people noted that applications have been ongoing for a very long time already. The other Washtenaw County programs have found that after 3-4 years, the annual area of application (and total herbicide or harvesting costs) are typically lower than the first year due to stabilizing the system through strategic targeted application. In other words, in our experience, our program approach results in less effort to get the same result by the end of the program. As a result, most lakes choose to continue the program after the initial 5 years. Some choose to continue to work with Washtenaw County, some choose to work through their Townships (Public Act 188 vs 185), and some lake associations take up the work themselves. Many lakes do move toward more environmental education, Board members attending programs hosted by HRWC, Michigan Lakes and Streams, and other non-profits with a focus on sustainable water quality. Washtenaw County is pleased to facilitate any transition away from our program, we only become involved when asked.

56) When will the applications start if the project is approved? This summer?

- A. Yes, if possible prior to Memorial Day. Normally the first application will be in May.

57) I object to chemicals in the lake. There have been years of applications and we still have weeds. Are you using the same chemicals? Will there be application on native species also? What does it mean in the online Report that "other work may be included"?

- A. We understand that some people do not want any herbicide use. We do want to share that all herbicides used are EPA and MDEQ tested and approved, and have been studied by toxicologists extensively over decades of use. Further, as Dr. Pullman pointed out, herbicides, by definition are developed for use on plants, and those recommended for this project are only taken in through the photosynthesis process, so humans, fish, and animals cannot absorb.

We do not have information about past applications, or the practices of past applicators, or the goals and measurement of past applications. In general, our experience has been that a for-profit applicator on a single lake or canal may not bring the holistic goal approach of our program, or have our consistent track record of reducing annual herbicide use over time while reducing nuisance vegetation.

As noted elsewhere, there are a limited number of approved herbicides and they have all been on the market for decades. It is likely that we will be using similar products in some cases but our application philosophy differs.

The "other work" referenced in the Report and official language describing the project is intended to allow for flexibility of non-herbicide practices, such as harvesting and the

educational or technical support for adjusting behaviors of residents and non-residents if needed to supplement Association efforts, or to allow Associations to move in this direction with any remaining funds after the 5 year assessment is completed.

Although there are native invasives in the water and on land that would be considered non-native invasives in other ranges, the current Report and management opinion do not propose nor see a need to treat native invasives. Conversely, the non-native invasives are often native invasives in their own range.

58) A representative of White Lodge indicated that the majority of their residents oppose the project and also do not believe they should be charged.

A. We understand the concern but have found that the property owned by White Lodge legally has lake access, which is the determinant for inclusion. Subsequent to the meeting, staff determined that it may be possible for a property owner to place a deed restriction no longer allowing lake access if they do not wish to be charged for the benefit of a lake improvement project.

59) What is the difference between a lake management plan and a weed management plan?

A. Any planning document is case specific, unless there is a statutory or other legal requirement for specific elements to include. In this situation, a lake management plan is a broader definition than weed management, which allows us flexibility to include some level of educational or other behavior-based efforts where desired and budget allows.

60) Wasn't the Hamburg Township resolution voted on without the item being posted publicly on their agenda? Is that legal?

A. The County does not prepare those agendas or manage Township meetings, but we can check on this.

61) Is there a published list of the chemicals proposed to be used?

A. As noted elsewhere, there is a range of EPA and MDEQ approved herbicides that are permitted and could be used, actual use depends on what plants are targeted. Dr. Pullman identified 4 of the most commonly used products for the Eurasian milfoil, starry stonewort and Ebrid milfoil

62) Why is everyone taxed (assessed) if only 5% of the lake area is the problem?

A. The basis of assessment is lake access, and the determination of benefit to a parcel is that the overall lake is improved for everyone's use.

63) I do not have contact information for any of the Lake Associations, how can I get this?

- A. We are aware of 16 Associations and contact information is available by contacting Washtenaw County staff (publicworks@ewashtenaw.org). Please let us know if there are others or if you would like your name added to the list.

64) It was noted that several people did not receive their mailings – some people present for this hearing did not receive the prior mailing, and some present either did not receive the current mailing or were aware of other residents who did not receive a mailing.

- A. We apologize that all affected property owners did not receive a mailing. We agree that this is an excellent and highly desired step. Although a mailing is not required by the legal process, posting in the local newspaper is, which we did provide with MLive and Livingston Daily. Additionally, we were aware that WHMI broadcast information about the first hearing and also sent a reporter to that March 15, 2017 hearing.

The first mailing was sent to 2,908 addresses with 61 (2%) returned. Because we heard of several additional people not receiving their mailing in a timely manner, we did confirm that the mailing service we used shipped the notices 10 days prior to the hearing. Unfortunately, what we have found this year is that the US Mail has become much less reliable than in the past, with some neighbors receiving their notices several days apart, some stating they did not receive a notice when we had not received a return, some not receiving notice until after the meeting, and even some “summer residents” who did receive forwarded mail as far away as Florida within 4-5 days of the mailing going out.

Because our goal is to attempt to contact everyone, we changed our approach of mailing to mail to parcel addresses (vs property owner of record) for the second hearing. Unfortunately, this resulted in approximately 400 mailings returned (16%). Our list was reduced to 2,461 property owners based on lake accessibility researched allowing us to reduce the number of impacted property owners. The majority of the returns were for “no such address” or “no mail receptacle” -- parcels that either were undeveloped or did not have a mailbox. Again, we are sorry that everyone did not receive a mailer.

65) What problem is being solved? The Report indicates that the level of severity is small to moderate.

- A. As noted above, and as stated by some property owners, it is a valid concern that nuisance weed growth will continue if not managed when small to moderate. This project is being done by request and as also noted in other responses herein, Association representatives are offered the opportunity to assist in each pre-application determination of scope.

66) Why is Whitmore Lake being done again (i.e. another 5-year project is being requested there, why)?

- A. We have not yet received a request for another 5-year project there but believe we will. Residents of the lake would like to continue managing nuisance growth to keep it from expanding. The other ecological metrics have improved and can be viewed at the Washtenaw County website, as generally noted above. If a majority of property owners were unsatisfied, we would not expect to receive a request to continue the program.

67) A request was made to close the MDNR boat launch

- A. This body does not have that regulatory authority.

68) Why aren't the issues from the Brighton sewer plant or other upstream problems being addressed?

- A. As noted in the question about Brighton from the first public hearing, other than Phosphorous, we are not aware of any discharges that would promote plant growth. We do not have legal authority to go beyond the lakes and lake access property owners. MDEQ has regulatory authority over the treatment plant discharge. The Huron River Watershed facilitates meetings of the Middle Huron Initiative (the section from Kent Lake to Ford Lake), which is a group of communities working together to address water quality issues in the Middle Huron.

69) Can a citizen review committee be part of the project, so there is citizen oversight?

- A. Dr. Pullman normally works directly with the Association(s), as noted elsewhere offering them the opportunity to join in the decision-making and outcome for each application. He and County staff normally attend 1-2 annual Association meetings, and we will work with PBWOA to have them host an Annual Meeting to evaluate the program performance.