

Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board (ALGLB) Meeting Minutes DRAFT – 02Mar16

Location: Portage City Hall Conference Room #1
(Publically noticed: City of Portage, Kalamazoo County and austinlakeportage.com)

Call to Order: 7:01 pm by Chairman Brian Johnson

Members present: Brian Johnson, Pat Crowley, Scott McGraw, Nasim Ansari and Jim Pearson. Project consultant Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones (Restorative Lake Sciences) and project contractor John Tucci (Lake Savers) were present as were 25 members of the public.

Minutes of the Dec 16th, 2015 ALGLB meeting were approved by a 4-0 vote. Ansari abstained (attended but was not yet a board member).

Treasurer Pat Crowley updated the Board with the current Financial Statement. Six Consumer's Energy transactions totaling \$918.23 were made in the latest reporting period (Jan1 to March 2, 2016). The Balance Sheet ended with \$129,786.11. Motion by Pearson to receive the Treasurer's report, seconded by Ansari. Approved 5-0.

Chairman Johnson asked project consultant Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones [Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS)] to summarize her 31-page report on the 2015 laminar flow aeration and bioaugmentation season results.

The following summary statements were excerpted from the consultant report:

"In 2015, there was an average gain in sediment in the diffuser areas of approximately 16.9 inches and an average gain in sediment in the control area of 15.5 inches. This surprising result may have been attributed to the intense storm events and rainfall that may have transported sediments into the Basin and re-distributed them throughout the basin. Careful monitoring in 2016 is recommended to see if addition of microbes can compensate by increasing losses of new sediment by the end of the 2016 season."

"The Eurasian Watermilfoil once present in many of the sampling sites at the beginning of the evaluation period was absent throughout the entire South Basin in 2015."

"To date (2012-2015), there has been a total mean gain of approximately 0.93 inches of muck in "diffuser" sampling sites and a mean gain of 3.94 inches of muck in "control" sampling sites."

"An additional pilot study funded by RLS has demonstrated that sediment ammonia (once toxic) in the sediments is now at negligible level as is sediment nitrogen due to the aeration system. This finding...demonstrates the ability of the aeration system

to penetrate into the sediment pore water and alter the biogeochemistry of the lake sediments in a positive manner.”

Following Jennifer’s report Chairman Johnson opened the floor to Board members and the public to ask questions. John Tucci, project contractor (Lake Savers) assisted Jennifer in answering technical questions.

Tucci stated that in his experience lake muck reduction projects usually achieve 6-8” of reduction annually (example: Crooked Lake). He stated that the Austin Lake results were different and the reasons were not clear. Jennifer was not sure where the extra muck was coming from (runoff, other parts of the lake, etc.). Several questions followed with a productive general discussion. Chairman Johnson Brain summarized the discussion with three action items.

1. Measure muck levels in early spring, May and late fall to monitor a possible trend. (In previous years measurements were taken in just early spring and late fall)
2. Take some lake level measurement outside of the south bay to see if muck is moving into the south bay from the outside 800 acres of the lake.
3. Use color-coded diffusers to tabulate possible sub-area muck reductions trends.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Crowley to accept the report as presented and place it on the riparian website (austinlakeportage.com) for the public viewing.
Approved 5-0

Public Comments: None

Closing comments by ALGLB Members: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Submitted by Jim Pearson,
ALGLB Secretary