

Lake Management Study Committee

Minutes of July 7, 2022

Meeting via Zoom

Members present: Laura Russell, Debbie Tatro, Dan Lewenberg, Ken Hyman, Colin Barbera.

Approve the minutes of June 7, 2022 meeting: Motion – Dan, Second – Ken. Approved 5-0-0: Debbie, Colin, Ken, Dan, Laura.

Reports:

FY 2022 Budget:

\$17,700 from reserve fund transfer encumbered for weed harvesting in August/September timeframe. G & L testing: May and June payments encumbered but not yet billed/paid. Leaving \$129 balance for other equipment purchases or additional weed harvesting.

CPC Grant will help cover requested Fluorometer and other equipment; Kiosk poster/printing expenses.

Remote Meetings:

Still to be determined, expect legislation to allow continued remote meetings.

Lake Level Report:

Not enough rain taking a toll. Lake level at 10.1" vs goal/target of 10.5". Flume depth and flow rate low given low lake level and little rainfall. Can opportunistically release warmer/cloudy lake water when strong SW wind present.

Dan asked about historical temperature and rainfall data – Laura said 5 yrs of monthly data compiled & available last year.

Cyanobacteria monitoring:

Debbie has started weekly collections at Deep Hole test site. Carol Abrams letting us use her boat for sampling. Used an integrated tube sampler which collects 3 meter column of water. Was windy during most recent testing. Kit from EPA creates concentrated sample with phytoplankton at the top and zooplankton at the bottom.

Of "dirty dozen" there are 12 potentially toxic cyanobacteria in Southern New England. Josh and Debbie have identified a few, including microcystis which was suspected last year. Hope to verify with EPA expert. Others recently suspected in samples include: coelosphaerium, woronichinia, phablothrix. Learning to identify. Details to work out regarding how to quantify. Goal to assign % of algal/cyano constituents along with fluorometer data.

1st two weeks of testing cyanos driven to EPA for assessment were low; waiting on third weeks' sample and fluorometer availability - sample frozen for now. Ship date on fluorometer July 11th.

Colin asked whether other towns are reporting blooms. Laura answered ~ ½ dozen. Check Bloomwatch App. Laura snapped three photos and posted a tiny scum just east of the swim docks at Lake Massapoag similar to last summer but smaller, dated July 6 on Bloomwatch. Laura had wanted to check in the area of the recent fireworks. Suggested individuals can always snap photos and upload to the app.

Josh has seen a little here and there, not concerning, but need rain to help flush out.

Board of Health swim area reports:

Tested yesterday results not out yet.

June 27th community center E Coli elevated and closed, next day tested below and reopened.

Inflow sites:

Number of sites above phosphate thresholds during June testing which supports algal/cyano growth: Canoe River, 140 East Foxboro, Opp 123 Beach St.

E Coli levels elevated at Sucker Brook and Canoe River.

Not unique this year. But this is the first year doing phosphate testing. More observations will average out. For E Coli could potentially test to identify sources (human, mammal, bird...)

Neponset Watershed testing at Sucker Brook:

Total Phosphorus just below the level of concern for inflow (.0495 vs. .05, note in-lake level of concern is .025). Low Chlorophyll A: might be consistent with moving water. Discussion of thresholds for different stages of lake development.

June results not in yet.

TRC: Deep Hole, Fletchers Cove, South Cove:

Focus on total phosphorus. Will get more detailed results. One inconsistency with testing data for dissolved and total phosphorus. Nitrogen results not concerning at this time.

Need to organize, display & summarize data. Ask Matt to provide sample of final report we can use as a guide to plug our numbers in.

604b grant application:

Good meeting with DEP and follow up with Matt Ladewig, TRC on what they can do to help and provide cost estimates. \$800 to review our application. Call on Monday with Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) regarding this process. Can consider firms other than TRC, but starting with them based on history and responsiveness.

If we get the grant, a number of elements to consider undertaking. Would have competitive bidding. TRC estimates on the following elements:

Watershed based plan: \$3000

QAPP: \$4500

Sediment testing: \$1000-\$15,000 (to decide later, based on experience this summer)
Septic Seepage testing: \$5000
Optional isotope analysis: \$2000
Shoreline wet weather survey: \$5000

Don't need to approve now, still in concept phase, but can discuss/move to approve \$800 to review grant application.

Motion to approve \$800 to move this process forward and prepare and review 604b grant application: Laura moved, Ken Second. Vote unanimous 5-0-0, Debbie, Colin, Ken, Dan, Laura.

The grant range is typically \$25-\$50K in size. There were approximately 10 potential applicants on the webinar call. Modest pool of money available this cycle, but encouraged to apply now as may get the funding, will learn about process and get feedback to help any future applications. Application due August 17. Decision in November. Funding available in January 2023.

There is an online Watershed-Based Plan template for the application to fill in with information pulled from past reports and other data.

604b grant focuses on developing watershed based plan, support future 319 grant implementation, guide watershed protection and management activities, determines water quality problems and necessary pollution load reductions, design and implementation plans to address water quality impairment, and infrastructure projects to manage/restore natural hydrology.

Lake Massapoag has been identified regarding invasive weeds and mercury. Will include data regarding E Coli, Cyanobacteria and related closures.

This grant can help set up framework for future years and help line up outside funds to support. Committee should reach out to various other boards, committees, organizations for input and support. Draft to go around for support. Select Board, ConCom, Rec, BOH, DPW, Planning, Neponset Watershed, Sustainable Sharon, Camps...

Should ask to come before Select Board in early August. Bring update on testing and early indications, grant proposal & communication: 15-30 minutes.

Kiosk posters:

Ken has finalized the design and signage company. Not using DPW plotter in effort to use plastic to make it to last longer. \$70 plus shipping cost. In addition to two kiosk posters Ken designed, poster by the snack stand to replace the old one if WMAC and DPW agree, Ken will ask them.

Recent Neponset watershed mailer is great with similar message which we could use for that poster. Will ask NepRWA remove the item on the flyer regarding the call to action for the survey.

Geese Control:

New Service 1x/day to 10x/week effective at helping to keep geese off the beach. Less geese than before, less geese waste. Lifeguards have pickers for clean-up. Geese waste in the grass and along water's edge still an issue. Coyotes may be getting less effective, could scent be applied?

Longer term, Committee could consider asking support to addle goose eggs in the spring. Would require Con Comm and MassWildlife's National Heritage & Endangered Species Program approval. Might be controversial, but lots of towns get approval given the E. coli health hazard.

Next Meeting: August 1st, 2nd, 9th, 11th at noontime. No word yet on legislative action to extend remote meetings. Will poll and finalize via email.

Voted to Adjourn 1:30 pm.