



## Minutes of the Lake Oversight Committee

June 20, 2023

**Attendees:** Sam Spratlin, Cari Robertson (Chair), Bob Kamay, Dawn Kamay, Peter Frei, James Whalen, Christine Huijing

**Attendees Remote:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests:** None

The meeting was called to order in the Community Room at 7:05pm by the Chair.

A discussion ensued regarding the Hamilton Reservoir survey and proposal done and submitted by Water and Wetlands for the treatment of invasive aquatic plants and nuisance native plants in swimming and boating areas of the lake.

Bob Kamay had copied members with both documents and asked if there were questions. None, he continued to summarize the results and options. There are far more dense areas of problem plants in the north basin than the south. Speculation is that it is due to the public boat launch enabling contamination from other lakes and ponds. One of the invasives prevalent there is fanwort, a particularly difficult one to control or eradicate. Diquat is a contact herbicide that kills it but not to the root. A permanent control of fanwort is possible, but cost prohibitive. Bob suggested to continue, as in the past, using Diquat combined with Clipper on this weed. Diquat alone will eliminate all other nuisance aquatic plants.

The north basin also has phragmites. Those will not be treated until later in the season as they need to be further along in growth in order to be treated effectively.

Discussion of milfoil was begun. It is only located at present in the north side of the reservoir near the boat launch and in an area of environmental concern to at least one resident. Christine Huijing suggested that only that area be treated with chemical that specifically targets milfoil but does not harm native species, ProcellaCOR. All agreed on this and Bob will discuss this option with Water and Wetlands.

To treat everything on the north basin (not including phragmites) will cost approximately \$6K. The later phragmites treatment (using glyphosate) will be approximately an additional \$3000.00.

The south basin was then considered. It still has a heavy concentration of milfoil, predominantly in the Union section. Water and Wetlands should have a permit in the next week in order to treat the Connecticut portion for milfoil. In the past Union was treated with ProcellaCOR both in the pond that feeds into the lake and the Union section of the reservoir. The pond treatment appears to have been effective, however, the Union lake portion not so. Water and Wetlands is wondering if that area was actually not treated with this chemical. As the chemical had become difficult to procure, it is wondered if the Union lake area was only treated with Diquat. Cost to treat the south basin with Diquat will be approximately \$3k. Using will be approximately \$11k, but we would see a return over the next 3 years of treating only nuisance weeds other than milfoil. Total cost for weed treatment 2023 would be approximately \$25k using ProcellaCOR and Diquat and Clipper. The budget for 2023 (expires the end of June) is \$28k. The 3 chemical combination (only on the milfoil sections) is suggested by Water and Wetlands. In order to have a date held by the supplier a treatment date is presently scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> and notice has been sent to FHRA members and posted on the Hamilton Reservoir Facebook page. Bob will get notices for posting to Sam Spratlin on Monday who will manage the posting of signage around town as in years prior.

Bob Kamay made a motion to approve the treatment of the lake as proposed by Water and Wetlands with the exception of treating the area of environmental concern in the north basin only with ProcellaCOR to preserve all but the milfoil. Christine Huijing seconded, all approved. James Whalen will present the proposal to the BOS on behalf of the LOC.

Dawn Kamay reminded the membership that the Order of Conditions from Conservation for the weed treatment and annual lake drawdown would expire the end of August 2023 and an application for extension needs to be submitted and approved 30 days prior to expiration. Dawn will prepare this on behalf of the LOC and BOS for them to submit to Conservation.

As in the past, a second treatment for weed control may need to be done at the end of the summer. It was noted we should try to avoid treatment near holiday periods, such as Labor Day. There is a chance that we can avoid this second treatment this year, with the exception of the phragmites which, as

mentioned, should be treated later in the season once it's more mature. A survey to determine this will be done mid-July.

Bob Kamay briefed the committee on the progress of the dam inspection required this year by law. McClure Engineering has been hired to perform the inspection very soon, but a firm date has not yet been set. It is anticipated that it will be done before the end of June so that the cost will come out of the current fiscal year's budget. Clearing of the vegetation would be favorable prior to the inspection but would not prevent the inspection. The vegetative growth would be noted as a deficiency but that in and of itself would not cause the dam to fail the inspection. Cari Robertson and Bob Kamay, at a minimum, will be accompanying the engineer(s) during the inspection.

Cari Robertson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for May 2 2023, seconded by Christine Huijing, all in favor, motion passed and Dawn will send them to the Town Hall for posting to the website.

James Whalen made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sam Spratlin, all in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

The next meeting of the LOC will be in August.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Kamay, Acting Secretary