

TLPOA Membership Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2022

Meeting called to order at 9:00am by President Tom Conquest who then led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Board Attendance:

Tom Conquest, Wendy Huston, Pat Kish, Bill Siegrist, John Jackson, Judd Wellard, Pete Stephens, Tom Page

Board Introductions:

Each Board member introduced themselves and stated which lake they resided on as well as their responsibilities on the TLPOA Executive Board.

Opening Remarks:

Tom Conquest reviewed the meeting agenda. Tom then announced that Dominic Manzi had elected to step down from the Board and recognized Dominic for his services to the Board.

Treasurer Report:

Wendy Huston reviewed the June 2022 financial statement, a copy of which can be accessed in the TLPOA website.

Membership:

Tom Page stated that we currently have 281 TLPOA members out of a total of 609 lakefront property owners or 46%. Of the 281 members there are 146 family members, 131 Lake Stewards and 4 others.

East Twin Aeration and West Twin EWM Treatment Programs:

Tom Conguest discussed the Aeration and EWM treatment programs.

The TLPOA has been using aeration in East Twin since 2004 to reduce muck levels with positive results to date. We will continue to have the bottom of the lake scanned each year to help measure the effectiveness of aeration. Tom stated the TLPOA also contracted with PLM this year to apply Phoslock to the East Twin canal to help reduce phosphorus entering the lake from the canal.

We continue to contract with PLM to conduct vegetation surveys on both lakes each year to help locate the presence of EWM "Eurasian Water Milfoil". PLM applies systemic chemicals twice each year to the areas that have EWM to control it. Currently only West Twin has EWM.

Barger Creek Tower:

The Township has instructed Barger Creek to relocate their internet tower from its current location on the south shore of West Twin to a different site approved by the Township. The current location is not in compliance with the Township's greenbelt ordinance. The ordinance does not allow for any structures to be erected within 35 feet of the high watermark on the lake.

Social Events:

Pete and Sue Stephens hosted this year's Wine & Cheese party on August 19th. A good time was had by all attendees.

Board of Directors:

The members present at the meeting voted to retain the current Board and Officers.

Tom discussed the need to fill open Board positions. He handed out cards and asked anyone who is interested to fill out a card and leave it at the conclusion of the meeting.

Water Clarity:

John Jackson went through a presentation on the Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP). A copy of the presentation will be added to the TLPOA website.

The TLPOA has participated in the CLMP for the past 29 years. CLMP is part of the MiCorps and is responsible for collecting water samples from all lakes in Michigan and monitoring the water quality of the lakes. TLPOA volunteers currently monitor 3 critical lake parameters in East and West Twin, Secchi Disk, Summer Phosphorous and Chlorophyll A. Readings are taken in May and August each year. The information gathered is used to determine each lake's Trophic Status which represents the amount of plant and animal life the lake can support and describes the life cycle stage the lake is in.

There are 4 trophic stages that all lakes fall within, Oligotrophic, Mesotrophic, Eutrophic and Hypereutrophic. Oligotrophic lakes have the least aquatic plant and algae growth and have the best water clarity. Hypereutrophic lakes have the greatest plant and algae growth and the lowest clarity. Mesotrophic and Eutrophic lakes fall in between.

West Twin is considered an Oligotrophic lake and East Twin is a Mesotrophic lake. Recent readings have shown that phosphorous levels are twice as high in East Twin than West Twin. And East Twin flows into West Twin which impacts the water clarity of West Twin.

Water running into East Twin from both the East Twin wetlands canal and the storm water retention pond near Buttles Road add to the lake's phosphorous levels thereby reducing water clarity. To address this the TLPOA contracted with PLM this year to apply Phoslock to the East Twin canal to reduce phosphorous entering the lake from the canal. We plan to continue this next year and monitor the results. Phoslock has been used in many Michigan lakes including Houghton Lake to successfully reduce phosphorous.

Pending the State's approval of a product called Eutrosorb, we will contract with PLM to place Eutrosorb Filters at critical source areas around East Twin to further reduce phosphorous entering the lake.

The TLPOA will also continue to work with the Township and County Road Commission to get the Road Commission to make changes to the Buttles Road retention pond to improve its performance in filtering out phosphorous from storm water before it enters the East Twin.

Awards:

Tom presented this year's Green Belt Award to Greg and Cecilia Bator. This award is given to property owners that demonstrate good lakeshore management practices.

Tom presented the Chickadee award to Jerry Beatie. This award is given to property owners that best exemplify the purposes and objectives of the TLPOA.

Camp Grayling Expansion:

Board Member Pat Kish discussed the proposed expansion:

The camp has proposed adding approximately 160,000 acres which would more than double its size. Area #6 of the expansion representing 32,000 acres would place the camp's northeastern boundary very close to West and East Twin Lakes.

The proposal is still in the early stages of development and the DNR is in the process of evaluating it and getting input from the surrounding communities before it makes a final decision.

The proposal includes a landing strip near Lovells.

The TLPOA has already written a letter to Albert Township opposing the expansion and will send another letter to the DNR. Numerous other organizations, townships, communities and individuals have also expressed their concern and opposition to the proposal. Pat asked that everyone who opposes the expansion contact the DNR Director at "DNR-Director@Michigan.gov". She stated the proposed expansion is in conflict with the DNR's Mission Statement.

Jim Knight from Bear Lake Township joined the meeting and discussed the proposed expansion:

- Jim and others from his township and surrounding areas have organized a group opposing the expansion. The group has created a website "230isenough.com" which anyone can access to learn more about the proposed expansion, add comments, and sign a petition of opposition.
- Their opposition is not anti-military.
- They feel the Camp Grayling Director is not always being fully transparent or truthful about the proposed expansion.
- The practicing of Electronic Warfare which the proposed expansion includes will impact the lives of people living in the areas surrounding the camp.
- Why can't the camp utilize its current land to conduct these types of activities?
- Could impact our health and quality of life.
- The proposal includes a 20-year lease on the additional property from the DNR, which could become forever.
- Asked that we join them in opposing the expansion.
- Asked us to contact our state representatives, county commissioners and the DNR Director to express our opposition and request their help.

- The DNR's original July deadline to obtain feedback has been extended indefinitely because of the opposition they have already received. A final decision will not be made until the end of 2023 or later.

Olivia Lehr who lives in Lewiston also joined our meeting and spoke about the expansion, expressed her concerns, and asked everyone to join in the opposition.

Open Forum / Q&A:

Mike Dombrowski spoke about the proposed Camp Grayling expansion and stated that impacts to our ground water from the existing camp are already a concern and would worsen if the expansion is approved. Private and public wells, lakes, and streams could be impacted.

A member of Trout Unlimited expressed concern over the camp expansion and stated their opposition to it. Their group has a website for use by fishermen and would like to see a smaller expansion than what is currently being proposed.

A question was asked about whether the TLPOA could reduce the amount of lily pads that grow near the southwest shore of West Twin Lake. Tom Conquest replied that the TLPOA would look into it.

Tom Conquest adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:30am.

Minutes prepared by Bill Siegrist