

MEETING SUMMARY
LAKE CADILLAC ASSOCIATION SUB-COMMITTEE
SUNSET SHORES RESORT CLUBHOUSE
MAY 23, 2006
3:00 P.M.

Present:

Members (Voting and Non-Voting):

Bill Tencza, Kurt Schindler, Ruth Ann French, Bob Stuber, Wade Rosted, Pete Stalker, Jerry Adams, and Peter O'Grady.

Others:

Tony Groves, Aquatic Specialist, Progressive A/E

Purpose of Meeting:

Update sub-committee members on the progress of the 2006 milfoil treatment program.

Items Discussed/Reviewed:

- 1) **Treatment Permit and Notices** - Tony updated the sub-committee on the 2006 milfoil treatment program. He informed members the chemical treatment permit has been approved by the MDNR. The primary chemical, and possibly the only chemical to be used, is 2-4D. He noted the MDNR permit and public notices regarding the treatment program list virtually all of the possible chemical types that potentially could be used for treatment purposes. Generally, this is done to avoid the times delays associated with amending a permit should it be determined that additional chemical types are needed to manage a particular, unforeseen, problem. Unfortunately, the general public is not aware of that and the information can create apprehension among some.
- 2) **Survey Treatment Schedule** - June 8th has been set as the date on which the lake will be surveyed to determine the presence and location of milfoil for mapping and treatment purposes. The survey is estimated to require 4 to 5 hours. Tony stated the boat could handle a few volunteers if anyone wishes to accompany the survey team. Several committee members indicated a desire to do so. A copy of the milfoil survey map will be provided to the city.
- 3) **Chemical Treatment Schedule** - Approximately one week after the milfoil survey Professional Lake Management, the chemical treatment contractor, will apply 2-4D in granular form. Tony stated the application normally requires several weeks before there is a noticeable impact on the milfoil. Generally, during the first week or so after treatment the lake may actually experience an increase in the noxious weed resulting in possible complaints by the public that the chemical is not working. The increase is due to the plants rather vigorous natural growth during the beginning of the warm months and the fact that it requires several weeks before the chemical is fully absorbed by the plant's root system and transferred to the plant column, wherein it destroys the plant. Subsequent to the initial treatment and if necessary, Professional Lake Management will spot treat areas that may have been overlooked or did not take.

- 4) **Treatment Schedule Timeframe** - When questioned why the chemical may not be applied at this time in order to reduce the presence of the plant during the peak summer period Tony stated that it is important to apply the chemical during optimal weather conditions, when lake temperatures are above 50 degrees, and when the plant is in a stage of vigorous growth. Generally, these factors do not occur in Northern Michigan until around the first or second week of June.
- 5) **Irrigation Restrictions** - After the 2-4D application Tony stated swimming would be curtailed for about 24 hours, fishing may continue as is, and lawns irrigated by lake water should not be affected. He did caution that an approximate two week timeframe should be exercised during which gardens and ornamental plants are not irrigated with lake water. He stated that 2-4D is the same chemical applied to lawns for dandelions and other weeds and has the potential to impact garden plants and ornamentals if applied too quickly.
- 6) **Treatment Costs and Consultants/Applicators** - Pete reviewed the contracts for the treatment program. The contract for the chemical treatment effort is with Professional Lake Management, the low bidder, at a cost not to exceed of \$80,255. The biological treatment component is with EnviroScience at a total cost of \$17,272. EnviroScience is the only commercial firm propagating the weevil. Progressive A/E will perform the initial aquatic survey and handle project oversight at a cost of \$7,000 per year for the three year treatment program period. Pete noted the Cadillac City Council approved the contracts for the treatment efforts. Pete signed the contracts and returned the executed agreements to Tony.
- 7) **Weevil Application** - Tony stated that the EnviroScience fee calls for the application of 12,000 weevils.
- 8) **Biological Treatment** – Tony stated the biological treatment component, slated for the westerly portion of the lake and possibly the small area west of US-115, would occur sometime after the lake has been treated with 2-4D. When asked about identifying and marking the weevil treatment area(s), Tony questioned the benefits of using buoys or other such features to mark the limits of the weevil treatment area. He stated similar efforts in other lakes generally prove futile as people remove and/or relocate the buoys or simply do not heed them.
- 9) **Local Fund Raising Efforts** – Bill and Pete updated the members on local fund raising initiatives and possible uses for the monies. Pete mentioned the effort to obtain MDNR funds. Bill mentioned the fund raising committee headed by Katie Huckle.
- 10) **Mitchell State Park** – Jerry mentioned that he and Pete had recently visited Larry Solce, Unit Supervisor, Mitchell State Park, to bring him up to date on the treatment program and answer questions he might have regarding the effort. Pete mentioned Larry expressed interest in being informed of the program’s progress and participating in a future lake management committee. Larry stated he would be glad to distribute educational brochures at the park regarding the milfoil and related lake management needs. Several members expressed concern that informing people of the weevil treatment effort might actually result in additional boat traffic in the treatment area due to the inquisitive nature of people.
- 11) **Watercraft Washing Station** – Members discussed the pros and cons of installing a washing station at the city launch ramp. While the idea is considered

a positive step there was concern regarding the likely extent of use, drainage concerns, equipment maintenance needs and costs, potential to disrupt (slow) the efficient launching or removal of watercraft, and other such factors. Tony mentioned that Glen Lake had used a portable system and that we may want to contact them to learn of their experiences. He was not aware of any other systems in the state. Jerry mentioned that an Internet search indicated the presence of cleaning stations at public launch ramps in several New England states such as New Hampshire. These stations were fairly complex costing in the range of \$50,000 and above. Several members suggested we post a sign or distribute a brochure at the launch ramps conveying the importance of controlling the spread of the plant and listing nearby auto washes should someone wish to clean their boat. Others suggested it might be beneficial to hire and station one or two seasonal employees at the ramp to oversee the washing program. It was suggested a washing station also include a fish cleaning station.

- 12) **Educational Efforts** – Kurt distributed a sign-up form prepared for distribution to people wishing to participate in future lake management subcommittees. Kurt mentioned that the recent lake management mailing (distributed by his office) and newspaper article had generated only a very limited rate of response by those interested in additional lake management information or wishing to participate in a future lake management committee.
- 13) **Cadillac News Update** – Jerry will contact Matt Whetstone at the Cadillac News to update him on the treatment program and ask him to do an article for publication.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m. A future meeting date was not set.

The above represents a general synopsis of items discussed and/or reviewed by the Lake Cadillac Association (Milfoil) Sub-Committee as understood by the writer. The information does not represent official minutes of the meeting nor does it provide a complete summary of all items discussed.

By: Jerry Adams
May 24, 2006