



**INDIAN LAKE WATERSHED PROJECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES
October 19, 2022**

The Annual Meeting of the Indian Lake Watershed Project’s Membership was held Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at the Indian Lake High School Auditorium. The meeting was held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled ILWP Board of Directors Meeting. President Tom Langhals called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., by welcoming all board members, special guests and ILWP members in attendance.

Board Members in Attendance:

Tom Langhals	President
Dustin Wickersham	President-elect
Steve Terrill	Secretary
Sharon DeVault	Treasurer
Brenda Crabtree	Member
Frank Giannola	Member
Frank Phelps	Member
Darlene Shick	Member
Gary Shick	Member

Approval of Minutes

Dustin Wickersham moved to approve the September 7th and September 21st regular board meetings’ minutes as mailed. Gary Shick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Sharon DeVault moved to approve the October 19th Financial Statement as presented. Brenda Crabtree seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

PAID BILLS

PRINTER LEASE/USAGE – US Bank – September	\$ 784.55
ADVERTISING – Elle-A-Design – design work	\$ 275.00
MISC. OPERATING – Vital Signs – Memorial Wall Plaques Don Eggenschwiller and Bob Erwin	\$ 350.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES AND WEED HARVESTER	
Cardmember Services – credit card	\$ 50.81
Office Supplies – QuickBooks for month	\$26.81
Weed Harvester – NEBO Global	\$24.00

SALARIES/CONTRACT SERVICES-STATE OF OHIO-DEPT. OF AG FUNDS
Administrator Hours for Vicky Boots 9-6-22 through 10-12-2022
94.25 hrs. @ \$25/hr. \$2356.25

OFFICE SUPPLIES
Sandy Helgeson-reimbursement for NHM cell phone Sept./Oct. \$ 82.90

CURRENT BILLS

RENT – Logan SWCD – October \$ 273.19

PRINTER LEASE/USAGE - US Bank – October

ADMINISTRATOR MILEAGE – 9/7/2022 – 10/12/2022 \$ 105.31
168.5 miles @ \$.625/mile

Gary Shick moved to approve the list of paid and current bills as presented. Dustin Wickersham seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Brenda Crabtree moved to adjourn the business portion of the board meeting. Sharon DeVault seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

President Tom Langhals recognized the special guests in attendance:

Representatives from Honda of America, Mfg. who have provided monetary support for not only the 2022 Weed Harvesting Operations Project but have supported our fund raising endeavors by providing sponsorship dollars for the past 10 years for our Nashville Hitmakers Concert.

Logan County Commissioners who contributed to the Indian Lake Watershed Project’s 2022 Weed Harvesting Operations Project and has proven invaluable to the economies of the communities of Russells Point and Lakeview.

Shoreline Construction, Ltd. whose endless hours of weed harvesting have literally saved the life of the Indian Lake area the past summer. Without their dedication and time spent harvesting thousands of cubic yards of aquatic weeds, the waters of Indian Lake would still be overrun with vegetation.

Most of all the Members of the Indian Lake Watershed Project whose support for the past 32 years has enabled the project to focus on the water quality of the lake and its impact on the surrounding area.

Without the continued support of individuals from ODNR, ILDC, Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce, Indian Lake Schools, the Indian Lake Advocacy Group and numerous elected officials, the Indian Lake Watershed Project would not have been able to achieve many of the goals that have been accomplished during our existence. It takes a community to work together to tackle the endless task of improving the water quality of Indian Lake.

Special “Thank you” to Rep. Jon Cross for his continued work at the State Level in obtaining funding for our Weed Harvesting Program.

Indian Lake Watershed Project President-Elect Dustin Wickersham introduced Dr. Jennifer Jones, Restorative Lake Sciences, as the evening's featured speaker. Dr. Jones and her scientists spent the past several weeks collecting data to determine the cause and effect of the current extensive aquatic weed growth occurring at Indian Lake. The Eurasian Milfoil species that was found was determined not to be hybridized which was a good sign. Other aquatic weeds identified were duck weed, phytophthora and coontail. The existence of these weeds has greatly impacted the water quality of the lake which impacts the local businesses and the area economy. The 89,000+ acres of the Indian Lake watershed area that drains into the lake has evidence of high ammonia and suspended solids present causing increased nutrients to enter into the lake providing the nutrients to feed the weeds. There must be at least one-third coverage of the lake with vegetation. If there was no vegetation, there would be extensive blue/green algae growth thus allowing no light filtration which would cause dangerous water quality issues.

Treatment of specific aquatic weeds was discussed. The Eurasian Milfoil is best treated with herbicides. It was recommended to keep an eye on smaller polygon areas and not treat all at one time and best done in early April/May. Mechanical removal of the curly-leaved pond weed was recommended instead of the use of herbicide. Herbicide treatments with granular product and not liquid was determined to be best. Specific products were discussed with cost comparisons and effective rates.

Some recommendations to help control future weed growth were discussed. Solar Powered Boat Washing Systems were recommended to be installed at high traffic boat launch ramps. Shoreline surveys; geese reduction strategy which includes a natural buffer area along the shoreline of at least 10 feet; development of a volunteer monitoring program were some of Dr. Jones suggestions for future programs.

Dr. Jones report will be made available on the Indian Lake Watershed Project's website; www.indianlakewatershedproject.com at a later date and will provide more detail of her findings.

ODNR Division of Parks Chief Glen Cobb introduced Ed Kwietniewski, Aqua Doc, who provided the findings from a Procetta Cor treated area of the lake. An aquatic plant survey was conducted during the time of July 5-15, 2022. It was determined that approximately 52% of the lake was covered with Eurasian Milfoil and 39% was covered with Coontail during the survey. Mr. Kwietniewski made recommendations of various types of treatments to address the eradication of the weeds. Those methods ranged from chemical treatment, harvesting, dredging, milfoil weevil, lake draw-downs of which harvesting and chemical treatment are the most beneficial. As was determined by Dr. Jones, the granular method of chemical treatment was determined to be the best chemical usage. It was suggested that a survey of the lake be completed in April 2023 to determine what needs to be done for the control of the weeds for the upcoming recreational season. The goal is to "hit the ground running" to stay ahead of the weeds before the summer begins. Aqua Doc's complete report will be available later this year and will be posted on the Indian Lake Watershed Project's website as well.

PUBLIC QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION

Question: Does the new spillway design have a contributing factor in the increase in aquatic weed growth?

Response: Due to the lack of no "before construction" data research is needed and no designation can be made.

Question: Is the presence of Zebra Mussels a contributing factor to the weed problem?

Response: It is definitely an issue. The mussels ingest the good algae and expel bad algae. However, there is nothing available to control their spread. Their reproduction capacity is very high and very hard to control.

Question: What are the effects of the usage of different herbicides on the fishing?

Response: If recommended rates are used the chemicals do not pose a threat to the fishing. EPA has rigorous usage guidelines that must be followed for herbicide applications. If the recommended rates are utilized there is no harm to the fish. However, copper sulfate is detrimental to the fish. Therefore, it is not a recommended chemical. Too many weeds are bad for fishing; no weeds are bad for fishing as well!!

Question: Details for boat washing control

Response: Boat washing stations should be located away from the shoreline entry into the lake eliminating the potential for runoff into the lake.

Question: How to address the removal of weeds from private boat dock areas where it is difficult to harvest the weeds?

Response: Types of methods that are successful: barriers around the location; herbicide applications; pool noodle techniques; weed roller to pulverize the bottom; weed razor which is a special rake that cuts the weed above the sediment bottom

Question: How can local businesses assist?

Response: Donations to ILWP; participation in volunteer monitoring program

Question: Is harvesting going to be necessary indefinitely?

Response: The harvesting determination will be based on annual survey results in the spring of the year.

Question: What type of funding restrictions are there to implement recommendations provided by the experts?

Response: The results from both plans will need to be prioritized and put together to apply for significant funding to get things done. It will be important to work with the Director of ODNR; the Ohio State General Assembly and legislators to address this issue. Need to get all on board.

Question: Is the current state of the lake safe for recreation i.e. swimming?

Response: Definitely cyanotoxin (microcystin) is a consideration if it is present. Do not want to have skin contact with the water if it is present. However, the chemicals used to treat the aquatic weeds do not affect swimming.

Question: Is the fish kill from mechanical harvesting an issue?

Response: There is no doubt some fish kill attributed to mechanical harvesting. However it is not a serious consideration.

Question: Are zebra mussels transported by other boats?

Response: Most definitely. That is an ongoing problem. That is the purpose of boat washing stations.

Question: Who is monitoring illegal personal applications?

Response: If you observe illegal chemical spraying, contact ODNR immediately. It is not allowed.

Question: What is the projected timeline if not an issue to correct problem?

Response: There is no projected timeline at the present. Depends upon too many conditions and balance of “cure”. There is a lot of data that needs to be collected to develop the proper “cure”. However, it is the desire to show major improvement by the end of the 2023 season.

Question: What is the long-term plan for dredging?

Response: The big problem for the dredging program is material disposal. There is a real need for land to stockpile the dredge material. The northeast corner of the lake is a real problem area for DMRA.

Question: What is a good material for weed mats in boat wells?

Response: Burlap is a good material for that practice. Maintenance is the key to its success.

Question: Draw Down of lake

Response: A lake draw down is a very risky cure. It is successful to the control of milfoil and coontail but very detrimental to the lake. A negative impact on the fishery and a strong possibility the lake may never return to previous state.

Question: Aqua Doc report – where and when?

Response: The report will be posted on ODNR website by the end of 2022 and on ILWP website

Question: Any possibility for federal legislation?

Response: More federal funding may be available. Will need to be addressed after new year.

Thank you to all for your interest and attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

The next regularly scheduled ILWP Board of Directors meeting will be held 6:00 P.M. Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at the Indian Lake State Park Multi-Purpose Building.