



Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes
07/25/2024 10:00-11:00 AM
Lake County Division of Transportation, Conference Room
600 W. Winchester Road Libertyville, IL 60048

1. Call the meeting to order

Alana Bartolai, Lakes Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02.

2. Roll call

Anna Niedzinski, DRWW Coordinator performed role call. Members present: **Alana Bartolai**, Lake County Health Department (LCHD); **Rob Flood**, Northshore Water Reclamation District, Gages Lake Conservation Committee; **Tom Morthorst**, Village of Third Lake; **Nick Huber**, Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD); and **James Bland**, EPS, Inc. A quorum was present. **Brian Valleskey**, Geosyntec entered at 10:16am.

Others present: Anna Niedzinski Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC); with Ashley Strelcheck, Lake County SMC, attending virtually.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. *January 25, 2024 Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes

Flood motioned to approve January 25, 2024 Lakes Committee Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Huber. Morthorst abstained. Motion passed with majority vote.

5. Old Business

a. Update of Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP)

Bartolai provided an update on what has occurred concerning the VLMP since the last meeting. Bland and Bartolai have been establishing connections with different agencies. Illinois Lakes Management Associations (ILMA) was conversing with Illinois Environmental Council (IEC), however the IEC has stopped communicating to ILMA. A meeting with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 5 occurred to talk about importance of the VLMP in addition to the status of lakes. Funding from the USEPA can only be given to the Illinois EPA to reestablish their program. Based on conversations in 2023 the Illinois EPA would like to reestablish the program but does not have the capacity to run the VLMP. Currently the Lakes Committee is looking for an alternative method of funding for this program and another agency to manage this program like Riverwatch. VLMP needs an agency that has greater jurisdiction to manage and store data. If the program is reinstated it is likely to get USEPA financial and technical support provided. LCHD currently collects and stores the data for lakes in Lake County, however they cannot collect and store data for lakes outside LCHD's jurisdiction.

b. DRWW 2024 Lake Education Update

Bartolai provided an update on lakes events. The events that were discussed at the January meeting did not come to fruition. The LCHD will be hosting an event on November 14th in the afternoon, which

would consist of a panel covering three (3) lakes topics directed towards lake homeowners. This would be a good way for the Lakes Committee to talk about lake concerns. There were suggestions to have it in a hybrid format and to have a recording made of the event to distribute. LCHD is looking for assistance from the Lakes Committee to advertise the event and find speakers. Bland presented on the relationship between climate change and lakes at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District that would be a good topic to include.

The committee discussed topics for future lake education events, including Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), lake levels, phosphorus removal technologies, current and completed carp removal projects, and carp mark and recapture projects completed in Lake County. LCFPD did a carp mark and recapture in MacDonald Pond, and the estimate was thousands of carp in the waterbody. LCHD has been monitoring the lakes from their carp removal study and there has been a notable improvement in measurements of total suspended solids (TSS), total phosphorus, and nitrite levels in Slough Lake.

6. New Business

a. NARP Implementation Plan and Schedule Discussion

The Lakes Committee reviewed several NARP Implementation Plan items that were recommended to the Lake Committee from the Monitoring Committee, which include encourage and distribute educational materials focused on the impacts of phosphorus, encourage and distribute educational materials focused on the impacts of hydromodification, and review communal practices in relation to seasonal street sweeping and leaf litter pickup. The committee discussed a study in Madison, Wisconsin of a study of phosphorus loading in lakes that was attributed to leaf litter. Several members of the committee remember a presentation several years ago on this topic and would like to have a similar presentation at the upcoming general membership meeting. After discussion the committee realizes that there is a lack of information on the leaf collection programs within the watershed and it was suggested to draft a survey to distribute at the annual meeting. After the data is collected a workshop/training can be planned for communities about the best management practices for leaf collection like the deicing workshops that the DRWW sponsors. After discussion the survey will be drafted and reviewed at the October lakes meeting and finalized at the January meeting for distribution at the February Annual meeting.

b. Ambient Water Quality Criteria to Address Nutrient Pollution in Lakes and Reservoirs Updated USEPA Guidance Document Discussion

Bland provided an overview of the updated USEPA guidance document. The existing methods used do not match the guidance document, and the new guidance document is difficult to do technically and to apply. The previous guidance was released in April 2000, it was suggested to the committee that to better understand the current guidance to read the previous guidance and be aware of the guidance because there is not a consistent method of grading attainment in Illinois.

7. Member Comments

Bland wanted to notify the Lakes Committee of the H2Oho Technology Assessment Group released a third-party review of several phosphorous removal technologies.

8. Meeting Dates

- a. Next Scheduled Lakes Committee Meeting: 10:00 AM October 24, 2024
LCDOT Conference Room, 600 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, IL 60048

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Morthorst, seconded by Flood. Motion passed with unanimous vote, Bartolai adjourned the meeting at 11:20.