



## *Lee Lake Association*

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### Association Meeting Minutes

**September 18, 2023**

1. The meeting was called to order by Kathy Doud at 6:38 p.m. 16 persons were in attendance per sign-in sheet signatures filed with the minutes. Pledge of Allegiance was performed.
2. Approval of August 21, 2023 minutes: The minutes were available as a handout and were attached to the emailed meeting notice. There were no changes voiced. Larry Vitale made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Jack Pyle. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer's Report: As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, Pat Pejakovich reported the Association has an available balance of \$2,715.35 for operations and \$4,396.06 for weed management. The net profit from the sale of Lee Lake Gear was 716.07. Richard Doud made a motion to accept the report; seconded by Janie Evans. Motion carried.
4. Guest Speaker: Matt Diana, a 6-year employee within the Fisheries Division of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He stated the other divisions of DNR are Park & Recreation who oversee the public accesses, Wildlife, Law Enforcement and Marketing. He thanked the Association for the invitation so he could meet persons with a vested interest in Lee Lake. Matt is responsible for the southwest region of Michigan beginning with the headwaters in Jackson to Lake Michigan. He presented the following information:
  - a. His staff assess what fish are present in four to five randomly selected lakes per year. A Lake Association may request an assessment; occurrence will depend on the exiting issues and DNR staffing.
  - b. Fish population surveys occur in different months dependent on the type of fish being assessed; pike and walleye in the spring and bass in the fall. Nets are placed as a "swim in" method for bass, perch and walleye. There is also a "night" method where age rings on fish scales and the growing size are assessed.
  - c. This DNR division also assists in habitat protection of fish and investigation of fish kills.
  - d. DNR Fisheries assist the Environment, Great Lakes and Energy of Michigan (EGLE) in assessing the affect on fish when sea wall and marina permits are requested by lake property owners. Past studies show the cumulative effect on fish population when shoreline development occurs. Such permits are scrutinized carefully by EGLE and DNR.
  - e. Permits for replacing existing sea walls are easier to obtain but installing a new sea wall is difficult because such a wall stops turtles from nesting on land, especially box turtles.
  - f. Wake boats have presented a problem with erosion of lake shores. DNR has recently released a position paper regarding management practices for wake boat owners. DNR does not have authority to implement rules regarding wake boats; State legislation is needed to limit wake boat practices. The July, 2023, DNR position paper may be found at this Web address: [Fisheries-Report-37-Wake-Boat-Study-Official-Version-Released-on-7.28.2023.pdf](https://www.dnr.state.mi.us/publications/Fisheries-Report-37-Wake-Boat-Study-Official-Version-Released-on-7.28.2023.pdf) ([mymlsa.org](http://mymlsa.org))



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- g. DNR also provides an opinion on invasive species control. Products containing copper are not to be utilized before July 1 to avoid an impact to fish spawning. The use of phosphorus, especially in fertilizers, creates an increase in algae blooms. Lake Associations should advocate for the use of phosphorus free fertilizers to avoid runoff into lakes. A moderate approach to invasive treatment is recommended to avoid upsetting the nutrient balance that naturally exists within lake waters.
  - h. Harmful algae blooms are a different species and are blue/green in color. They tend to grow in nutrient rich areas and in farmland runoff. If you suspect the presence of harmful algae blooms, EGLE will perform testing. Suspicious-looking algae can be reported to EGLE by calling the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 or sending an e-mail to [AlgaeBloom@Michigan.gov](mailto:AlgaeBloom@Michigan.gov).
  - i. White foam often seen on lake shores is most often from proteins and oils released during the natural die-off of aquatic plants. The brown tinge is most likely from wood tannins. The foam tends to increase with high winds.
5. Questions, Answers and Comments:
- a. Is a permit required to place a muck mat in the lake? Yes, because it affects the natural vegetation on the lake bottom. It would be considered a general permit as defined by EGLE as it is not very impactable to lake water.
  - b. A question regarding boat washes was raised. Matt indicated grant monies were again available through the Michigan Lakes and Stream Association. He will also provide Kathy Doud with additional information regarding grants.
  - c. Mike Kile reported an incident of boaters shooting arrows into turtles resulting in a slow suffering death. The arrows have an end barb that causes fatal damage. Observation of this behavior should be reported to the local Sherrif and the Law Enforcement Division of DNR.
6. Committee Reports:
- a. Roads: It was reported Calhoun County has established the cost of blacktop at \$400,000 per mile. To save dollars, Newton Township opted out of supporting the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County. The Township is also trying to opt out of the 2-mil support of Williard Library and utilize the dollars for roads. The cost of a library card is less than the assessed 2-mils. Road millage will be on the February ballot.
  - b. Lake Quality: There were sufficient signatures obtained for PLM to apply for a permit to spray for phragmites and purple loosestrife; currently awaiting issuance of the permit. The Committee will meet again on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Gallagher's house.
  - c. Events: Theresa Humphries-Oswalt announced the annual meeting and potluck will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the Newton Township Hall. Meat and tableware will be provided. Please bring a dish-to-pass and your own beverage. Susie Frey and Carol Brooks are assisting with the event. Flyers will be distributed by road reps for those persons who do not have email or use Facebook. A sign-up sheet was circulated for noting a dish-to-pass contribution.



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7. Draft Bylaws: A copy was attached to the meeting notice and additional copies were provided at the meeting. A suggestion to change “residence” to “property owner” was suggested as several properties do not include houses. A question regarding what are the suggested changes was answered as these are the first bylaws for the Association.
8. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Larry Vitale and seconded by Curtis Roberts. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Lee Lake  
Surface Acres: 141.6  
County: Calhoun Co  
Township: Newton Twp  
T3S, R7W, Secs 27,28



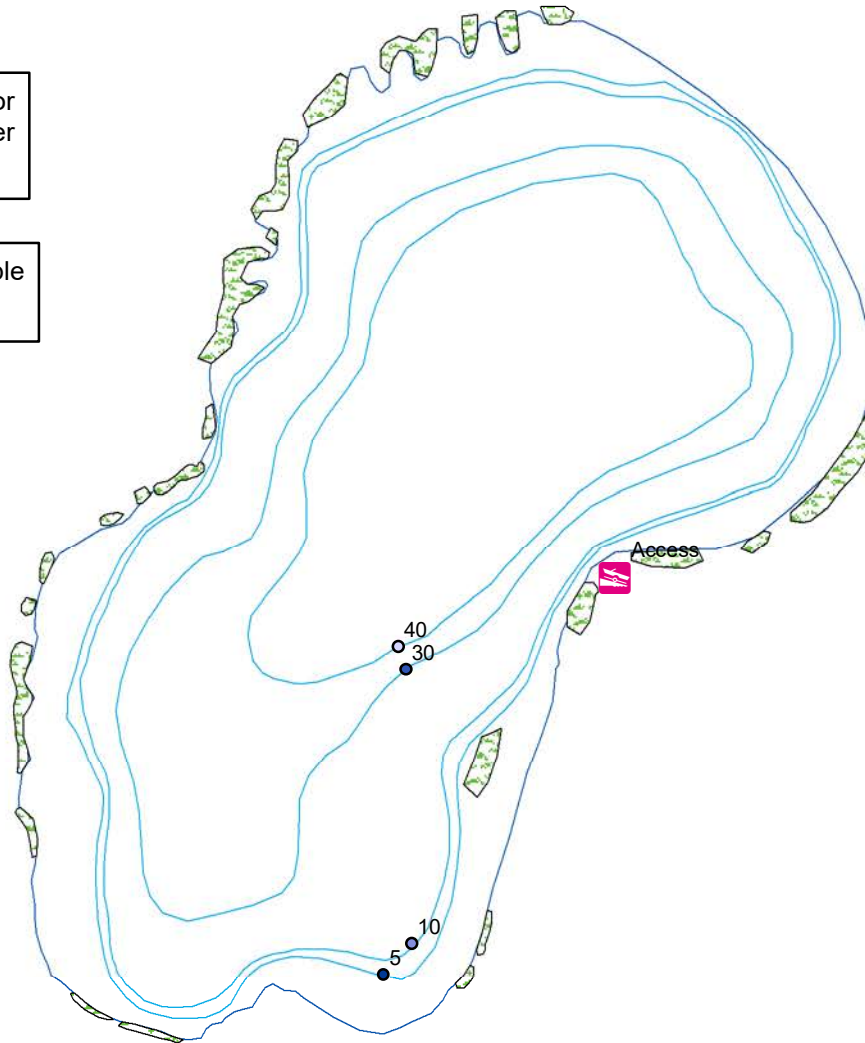
Weed & Algae Treatment Area = 17.14



Exotic plant treatment area using systemic and/or low dose contact herbicides as well as copper based products for Starry stonewort = 17.4 Acres



Flexible treatment area for Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife = 5.03 Acres



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0 275 550 1,100 Feet