

Save Black Lake Management Sub-Committee
Meeting Notes
December 12, 2012 6:30 PM

Present: Vernon Bonfield; Deb Wallace; Nita Sell, Gail Schaller
Lake Stintzi, Tim Erickson
Doug Karman from the Lake Management District for Long Lake

Doug Karman discussed the advantages and disadvantages of using the Lake Management District (LMD) model, based on his experience at Long Lake. The County has much more control with an LMD than with a Special Use District, or SUD. Once an LMD has been established, it is very difficult to change it over to an SUD.

In an SUD, each parcel is entitled to 2 votes. This allows non-lakefront homes to affect the way the lake is managed. Owners vote for 3 board members to manage the lake, with a rotating-term arrangement so that one of the three seats is up for election each year.

Doug was asked whether the three board members in an SUD would be able to re-allocate fees to put an undue burden on some property owners. Doug responded that no, the County would have to approve such a change. Also, the documents establishing an SUD can be set up in a way that limits fee increases; for example, Long Lake's fees are limited to 5%.

With either an LMD or an SUD, involved homeowners are needed to drive the process.

When applying for grant funding, there may be a slight unofficial bias toward LMD's, due to greater County control and a preset schedule of goals.

One limitation of Long Lake's LMD has been difficulty in getting the County to allow use of herbicides that (State) Ecology was fine with. Doug advised that we stick to using systemic herbicides that kill both the foliage and the roots of plants so they do not immediately grow back.

We might consider developing an SUD into a sewer district, then working toward getting rid of all septic systems.

It's important that we are very specific about what we plan to do. Will we handle any public safety or education? Deal with beavers blocking up both ends of the lake? Will we be looking for sources of high-phosphate leakage into the lake, or failed septics? Will we set markers on deadheads? Are we liable if signage disappears, Or, should we retain the right to hold agencies accountable who ARE responsible for public safety and so on?

Assuming we focus on just aquatic invasive species, what else can be done? For example, beaver issues? Salmon run issues?

The best time to apply chemicals is in the spring, so the plan was to start the permit process in November. Nita will call Rich at the County to confirm this is underway.

The next meeting of this subcommittee is on January 9th, 2013. We will review budgets for other lakes (Long, Lawrence Lakes). What pre-setup costs should we expect, and what will the ongoing costs be?

The community meeting is tomorrow night at 6:30 at the Black Lake Bible Camp.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.