

Dredging Meeting April 6, 2019

Attendees: Jim Fell, Dawn Longo, Mike Petersen, Chris Ankuda, Gerry Dixon, Terri Freeland, Fred Jenkin, Rick Brothers, Dan Mullins, Jack McMillin, Jim Swartz, Louise Lisac, Chris Lisas.

Howard Tuttle, Denny Crandall and Teresa Ankuda were not present.

Aqua Doc came in to give a presentation on what would be considered lake management once dredging is addressed. There were a few Shores residents in attendance for this part of the meeting. This may be an option in the future. This does not mean we are hiring Aqua Doc for anything at this point – please do not be confused by their attendance. It was an informational session.

Jim Fell took notes on the Aqua Doc presentation as follow:

1. The process of lake management must be wholistic, meaning, dredging alone will not solve the problem nor will weed management done in isolation. Have to have a combination of interventions in a master plan.
2. In-flow must be managed with nutrients and sediment coming into the lake from poor upstream farming practices, failed septic tanks, etc. Need to work with government agencies such as Soil and Water Conservation to foster good erosion control and farming practices.
3. Grass-eating carp are not the solution. Once they are introduced in the lake, you can't control where they will eat weeds, nor what they eat. Aqua Doc noted that these carp are selective as to what weeds they will consume and can eat the native, "good" weeds and ignoring the bad-tasting invasives. Additionally, carp do not remove nutrients, they just recycle them (like geese) when they poop. When they die, their bodies add to the release of nutrients. (Note: Carp have been tried in the past on the lake and obviously did not work, but it was attractive because it was cheaper than other, more effective interventions.)
4. Weed harvesting is like mowing a lawn and must be done repeatedly during the season. It can be OK to keep canals open but the cutting can actually spread the weed problem. (Note: Plus it ties up manpower than can be used for other interventions, like dredging. Harvester needs to be maintained.)
5. Selective aquatic herbicide application can be done for \$1500 per acre at 4 applications per year. The entire lake does not need to be treated, only the weed infested areas. Need to apply EPA-approved herbicides by certified companies/individuals. The type of weeds to be controlled determine what herbicides to use. This could be started as early as this summer. (Note: I think the matter of again allowing individual lot owners to pay for this service through a company such as Aqua Doc should be recommended to the Association Board. Sally and I would be glad to pay for this so we can again swim and fish in our cove. I have observed a marked decline in aquatic life such as fresh water mussels because of the cove is choked with weeds that die, decompose, cover the bottom with muck, and deplete the oxygen. Same with fish. The cove used to be great for fishing. Could catch unlimited pan fish. Now I spend entire evenings without even a bite. The water was clear and I could look down to the bottom and see large numbers of pan fish nests in the spring. Last year I saw next to nothing because the weeds did not allow for the fish to scoop out a

nest. Yes, some weeds are necessary for fish production and a balanced ecosystem, but the current situation is not balanced, plus invasives have taken over. Additionally, the weeds reduce property values. Difficult to sell a lot or house when the lake in front is a mass of matted weeds on the surface.)

The next part of the meeting was preparing a presentation for the Annual Meeting. This was a committee only meeting.

Work was done on the presentation that will be presented at the annual meeting. Dawn and Dan will present.

Gerry Dixon also dropped off some estimates that he had done regarding how much sediment needs to be removed in each section of the lake. Discussion ensued as to what numbers are accurate. The May meeting must decide how to determine a starting point for the dredging numbers.

Dan Mullins stated they are taking summer applications. Looking for general landscape maintenance workers. Looking for ambitious teenagers, With a clean driving record willing to work. We will guarantee 40 hours a week which does include working weekends. Please spread the word. These seasonal workers will free up regular staff to do the dredging.

The next committee only meeting is Saturday, May 18th at 10 a.m. at the club house.