

**Lake Roaming Rock  
Environmental Advocacy Club (EAC) Public Meeting  
August 14, 2021**

Dawn Longo (Chair of the EAC) began the meeting by welcoming all of the residents in attendance. She introduced the members of the EAC – Terri Freeland, Gerry Dixon, Tony DiMarino, Fred Jenkins, Pam Hoover and Chris and Theresa Ankuda. She asked all those in attendance to raise their hand if they felt the lake was looking better than it had during the first meeting in August of 2019. Every hand went up!!! Dawn reminded attendees that this was their meeting as this is their lake and applauded those who have been diligent in keeping up with all the happenings around the lake. She asked them to remain vigilant and to continue to ask questions and rely on facts and not opinion when it comes to matters of the lake.

Dawn began the presentation with a review of the purpose and mission of the EAC and that this club worked in collaboration with both the LMC (Board sanctioned Lake Management Committee) and the RRA Board of Directors.

In conjunction with Slide #3, Dawn explained that the board, the LMC, the EAC and homeowners were in this together! Each has their responsibilities in ensuring our lake becomes the healthiest it can be. While homeowners have the responsibility of paying their dues as finances are needed to maintain the health of the lake there are other things that homeowners can do. Gerry Dixon explained best practices for RRA residents to apply to their specific lots both along and across from the lake. Gerry spoke to proper application of fertilizers, buffer zones and specific methods for erosion control on the association properties. He also explained why no-wake zones are needed and what happens when boats disrupt the sediment. It was pointed out that the LMC has many articles regarding these topics on the Roaming Shores web site. Additionally landscape companies that use low phosphate and nitrogen additives should be preferred along the lake. Both Gerry and Dawn noted that the best practices should be applied by all residents not just those with lake front property. A healthy lake is important to the value of the properties for all who live in the community. For anyone who is interested in determining the value of their home on a healthy lake versus a non-healthy lake, check out lakecalculator.com Additionally Dave Ernes (Chair of LMC) spoke to the coming autumn season, and the falling leaves. He noted that the

leaves should be collected and not blown or thrown into the lake. The decomposition products of the leaves produce additional nutrients which will cause algal blooms and also potentially high levels of algal toxins. Dawn questioned whether there was a fine for those who blew their leaves into the lake. No one was sure so she will follow up. (As a follow-up, there is a fine that can be found in the Shores rules and regulations. The EAC also sent out an e-mail Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup> with the details of the rule.)

Dawn went on to explain the overall timeline of the efforts of the EAC to promote awareness of environmental issues surrounding Lake Roaming Rock. Since the official formation of the EAC in July 2019 the club has worked with the LMC and the RRA Board and “things are getting done”. The biggest evidence of things getting done is the LMC recommended and board approved Aqua Doc weed maintenance program for homeowners in 2020 and the VodaGuard C application done in concert with our EnviroScience lake advisor and Aqua Doc in June/July 2021.

Additional elements of the Lake restoration ‘Short term’ plan developed by the lake advisor EnviroScience were also noted:

- Careful use of the weed harvester to insure that invasive plants are not accidentally transported to other parts of the lake.
- Goose control including lasers at Beach 1 which have reduced the amount of goose ‘poop’ at the beach and helped reduce the amount of cleaning required by RRA maintenance staff.
  - Early in the season, there was discussion of a demo lot that would be a place for residents to learn how to maintain a buffer zone on their property. The board, LMC and EAC met with EnviroScience and it was decided that this particular project was not something to pursue at this time. The lot on Morgan Terrace did not have a goose problem and the cost was much higher than anticipated.
  - Attendees then discussed other goose control methods that they found helpful including ‘flashing disks’, pinwheels, small fences along shoreline and the ‘Dori’ flag.
- Dredging was stopped during the summer months to reduce the amount of nutrients being stirred up from the sediment at the bottom of the lake and allow the VodaGuard C treatment to be as effective as possible. The dredging will restart after Labor Day.

Dawn went on to describe some additional elements of the work being conducted by the lake advisors and monitored by the LMC.

- ‘In-stream’ flow studies are being conducted by EnviroScience to examine the level of contaminants brought into the lake from the very large watershed surrounding Lake Roaming Rock (watershed 86 times the size of Lake Roaming Rock). This information will provide the evidence of which streams contribute the highest levels of nutrients to the lake and which must be controlled in some manner. Plum Creek, Sugar Creek, Fisherman’s Cove and Spanish Cove are being monitored.
- Dawn noted at this point that the EAC had the Ashtabula Soil and Water make a presentation and answer questions at a presentation made in 2020. At that time they said that all of the farmers were operating with guidelines. Dawn said that it was important to work with the farmers. A specific note was made of the local elk farm, and Dawn suggested that the EAC should follow-up with Soil and Water to know that they too were operating within the guidelines.

Dawn continued the presentation by noting that a ‘Long Term’ Plan was beginning to be discussed between RRA and the lake advisors EnviroScience. Dave Ernes noted that the LMC had requested and had received the blueprint of how to move forward to generate then Long Term plan and that there were forthcoming discussions planned with EnviroScience.

Several questions were then taken from residents in attendance:

- 1437 Lake Vue: Applauded the ‘look’ of the lake and asked if the long term plan would include the health of the fish in the lake? This resident noted that the fishing was the ‘worst’ of any of the six years he was on the lake. He noted that he was not catching any large fish. Also he said that ‘expert’ fishermen on the lake were not having a good year. Some discussion included suggesting that it depended upon where you were fishing, and that due to the improved lake condition the fish had relocated and also that some new types of lures and baits were being used by other fishermen.
- A question regarding the effect of copper on the fish was also brought up from the attendees. Dave Ernes noted that Jim Fell had consulted with a local testing company with an expertise in toxin levels in fish. This company

said that copper does NOT bio-accumulate in fish and that the treatment of the lake with VodaGuard C (copper containing additive) would not result in any significant detriment to the fish population in the lake as long as all EPA guidelines were followed. Additionally this testing company noted that the fish population might be even healthier with this VodaGuard treatment as it would reduce the level of algal toxins which do bio-accumulate in fish.

- Dave Ernes added that information is key to the long term plan and that every piece of information and especially pictures regarding fish, algal blooms or any other important lake condition information should be reported by email to the LMC or directly to the RRA Board.

Dawn did report and it was confirmed by the LMC that there will not be another full lake VodaGuard C treatment this year. While the cost \$22,000 is not overwhelming with only a couple of weeks left before Labor Day and the dredging to begin again it would not be a wise investment. Enviroscience and AquaDoc are being contacted regarding issues that individuals homeowners are sending in. If you feel you have an issue, please send a picture along with your lot # to the EAC or the LMC and it will be investigated.

Dawn also reported on the visit from representatives of Lake Latonka in Pennsylvania. The lake is about ½ the size of Lake Roaming Rock and has a much smaller watershed around it. This lake is moving ahead with their recently approved long term lake management plan. This plan includes copper treatments (much larger copper levels introduced) and other chemical treatments to combat their problems of algal blooms. Dawn also noted that their association dues are much larger than Lake Roaming Rock at \$1800/year and a \$5000 initiation fee.

Dawn thanked everyone for coming and hopes that more progress will be made as we continue to strive towards a healthy lake.