

Crockery Lake Association Minutes
2470 Crockery Shores Street
July 20, 2022

1. Call Meeting to Order 7:15 pm

2. Roll Call

Present: President Betsy Ludwick, Vice President Pat Wolters, Secretary Susan McClure, Treasurer Greg Slater, Past President Bob Blauwkamp, Mollie Gaggin, Carl Elliott, Paula Humphrey, John DeGeneres

Audience: Gary Meerman Chester Township Supervisor, Nanita Sammons Chester Township Treasurer, Kate Alvarez Ottawa County Park Supervisor, Melanie Manion Ottawa County Parks, Lesha Gustin, John Otterbein, Chuck Lane, Chip Sammons, Jerome Rogalski, Theresa Rogalski, Barb Strayer, Brian Strayer, Tom Ludwick, Casey Jones, Gay Groggel, Larry Groggel.

3. Approval of Agenda

Greg Slater moved to accept the Agenda, Paula Humphrey seconded. Passed.

4. Call to Audience

5. Report and Discussion on EnBiorganic Technologies for Algae Control

Betsy Ludwick provided the scheduled 2022 algae treatment dates: 5/25 and 6/21 Chelated Copper (Captain XTR), and 7/8 Copper Sulfate (Se/ckear).

Betsy Ludwick gave background on the quality of the lake water, referring to decreased clarity and dissolved oxygen. She presented information about EnBiorganics Technology, which had contacted her about cleaning up the lake with microbes instead of chemicals. See Attached Handout which Betsy prepared for attendees.

EnBiorganics Technology treats for cyanobacteria. Pat Wolters interjected cyanobacteria has not been found in Crockery Lake for 28 years. EnBiorganics Technology is offering two months of free treatment to control algae in Crockery Lake. EnBiorganics would test the lake to see what is out of balance and would use native bacteria to remove the algae.

EnBiorganics is offering a two month free trial to control algae in Crockery Lake. Nobody has seen a contract to know how the two month free trial would be ended or continued. EGLE, Ottawa County Parks, and Chester Township would be involved with contracts, permits, and payments. During the free trial, local expenses would be the electricity to run the pump and the outbuilding to house the pump.

The CLA Board thinks to have a trial in late summer/early fall would give misleading information about algae control because as the lake cools to under 60 degrees, there is less algae.

Audience responses:

1. John Otterbein: Mona Lake uses alum. Chuck Lane said treating 150 acres of Mona Lake, a 314 acre lake, cost \$126,000. He doesn't know the cost of the next two treatments.

2. Chuck Lane: He is not overly confident that using only bacteria to clean up the lake will work. Minnesota is unable to clear up algae with just one product. Best results come from a combination of moving water (aeration), sunlight, a depth of less than ten feet, and water temperatures above 60 degrees. EnBiorganics Technology's process relies on air flow to keep the water moving.

He questioned the company's experience. While the companies have been making bacteria for thirty years, EnBiorganics Technology has been in business three years. At this point EnBiorganics Technology has not provided data to either support or negate the effectiveness of its process in other

than waste water systems. Betsy Ludwick said the best data is for sewer systems. Sewer systems are installed and businesses see improvements in water quality.

A "Notice of Intent" would probably have to drawn up before the two month, free trial period begins. Chuck explained that a "Notice of Intent" is a legal document. The CLA or Chester Township needs to be very careful. The signer needs to understand the language in the "Notice of Intent."

With Betsy's permission, Chuck read a copy of the letter he sent Betsy. See Attachment Letter.

Chuck recommended a Chester Township Ordinance requiring Crockery Lake residents to have septic systems tested on a regular basis. Susan McClure added that the ordinance should include having drain fields checked for percolating at the same time. Pat Wolters asked if the zoning administrator was writing an ordinance for having septic systems inspected. There was no answer. Carl Elliott said that the CLA has non-profit status and cannot lobby for zoning laws or any other kind of legislation.

3. Melanie Manion, Ottawa County Parks: She said people working in conservancies are interested in the biological approach. Betsy Ludwick said that people in the water resource program at Grand Valley State University are interested in following what happens at Crockery Lake.

Melanie named Houghton Lake which has the same problems as Crockery Lake--farm runoff and failing septic systems. She said there is no good solution.

4. Brian Strayer: He said CLA should find experts who can evaluate EnBiorganics Technology's methodology. EnBiorganics Technology hasn't proven its success.

5. Casey Jones: Is EnBiorganics Technonlogy the only company in the United States using its process? Betsy said yes. Chuck Lane said he found a website looking at a process comparing using bacteria with enzymes but the authors did not draw a conclusion. He referenced the website in a letter sent to Betsy Ludwick. See Letter Attachment.

6. Gary Meerman, Chester Township Supervisor: Meerman's concerns were that there should be no conflict with Professional Lake Management, that EGLE's approval is needed, and that the Special Assessment District budget can not be raised more than 10% annually. The cost for EnBiorganics Technology's microbe process has been estimated by EnBiorganics Technology to be as high as \$95,000 annually. The monthly charge after the two month free trial would range from \$2000 to \$8,000 monthly for five months of the year, plus electricity and storage unit rental. A new Special Assessment District would need to be created. Paula Humphrey suggested grants may be available.

7. Nanita Sammons, Chester Township Treasurer: Sammons recommended the CLA do a twenty year financial projection using "multiple lanes." If residents lose the lake, they will lose value in their homes. In doing a projection we need to look at all treatments. What will the costs be now and in 20 years. She asked how a trial will be paid for, are people willing to pay for it, how do we not delay. Whatever we choose, it will be more than we are paying now.

8. Jerome Rogalski: For three years clarity in Crockery Lake has been decreasing. We need to do something.

Betsy Ludwick thanked everyone for coming and offering ideas.

6. Secretary's Report

Susan McClure asked that Board members get back to her with corrections in a timely fashion. Bob Blauwkamp suggested that people respond within a week. After that Susan should send an amended copy to all members. Bob moved to accept the June minutes, Paula Humphrey seconded. Passed.

7. Treasurer's Report

Greg Slater has the dues and fireworks donations collected by Bob Blauwkamp, Carl Elliott, Susan McClure, Paula Humphrey, and himself. There are 37 memberships. We need 64 to meet our budget. There are 117 homes on the lake. There is \$6703.88 in the Fireworks Fund.

Pat Wolters moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Bob Blauwkamp seconded. Passed.

8. Correspondence

Mollie Gaggin suggested a golf outing to pay for the fireworks. Greg Slater heard from a non-CLA member suggesting a golf outing and added running a golf outing is a lot of work. John DeGeneres will contact a local golf course.

9. Fireworks 2022

Carl Elliott asked if the CLA wanted to have fireworks on July 3. The response was yes. Bob Blauwkamp suggested Carl use his list of the fireworks used in the past when he talks to vendors. Pat Wolters said that post pandemic Wolverine is only doing bigger shows. Pat had information from Great Lakes Fireworks which she passed to Carl. Greg Slater said that Casey Jones had spoken to him about a friend who could hold July 2, 2023 open for a Crockery Lake fireworks display and that the cost would be \$6000. Carl would need to verify with Casey's friend the fireworks to be used so we would know it is what we are looking for.

Susan McClure moved and Paula Humphrey seconded that Carl plan for a fireworks display on July 3, 2023 with a budget up to \$7000, putting 50% down at time of signing the contract. Passed.

10. Lake and Inlet Testing: Testing Results

Susan McClure reported that the Lake Health Committee has not received the analysis from PLM's testing of two inlets on April 19. Pat Wolters said that the time lag is typical and we should expect the results at the end of the season in October. The two inlets tested were at the Park on the northeast end and at Scott's property on the southeast side. Greg Slater said he has been calling PLM because he hadn't received a bill and because he wanted to see the PLM report.

Melanie Manion, Ottawa County Parks, was surprised to hear that PLM had been told not to spray at Grose Park. She noted that the Parks Commission pays 5% of the PLM bill.

Paula Humphrey reminded Board members that laboratories will test samples we collect for \$50. Pat Wolters said she would send a list of what we test for. Paula recommended we test all five inlets. In September Chuck and Linda Lane will send the sample Dennis Arms had collected before his death to Grand Rapids where Michigan Lakes and Streams picks it up. Chuck and Linda are testing for algae and phosphorous. They have the specialized equipment from CLMP, an arm of Michigan Lakes & Streams.

Mollie Gaggin asked why can't we do the two month free trial with EnBiorganics Technology. Bob Blauwkamp said we can't continue without funding. Funding is not in place for 2023. Pat Wolters said we need to "get it right." We need proof that the results are good. Betsy Ludwick gave a breakdown of the estimated costs: two units at \$12,107 per month for five months (\$60,535). There is a one time cost of the mobilization fee of \$16,083; on-going costs are electricity, and storage unit. Carl Elliott said for May and June the pump could be placed inside his little cottage which has a 220 amp electric line.

Betsy read an email from EnBiorganics Technology which provided three names from Tennessee State University as references.

Greg Slater asked for a show of hands to support having a free trial in the Spring, that we would go forward with a free trial and due diligence. Betsy, Pat, Greg, John DeGeneres, Carl Elliott, Bob, Paula, and Mollie raised their hands in support. Susan did not.

Meeting Adjourned

Carl Elliott moved.

9:45 pm

Next Meeting August 17, 2022, 7 pm, 2470 Crockery Shores Street