

UPDATE ON LAKE RESTORATION INITIATIVE - September 2009

More Good News! We have taken a major step forward in our efforts to improve Paw Paw Lake.

Both the Coloma and Watervliet Township Boards voted to split the cost (\$45,000) for the necessary comprehensive studies that will provide decision making data. This action on the part of the boards signals their willingness to work cooperatively toward the goals of cleaning up the lake. As one board member put it, "This lake is the economic engine for this community and we need to take care of it."

The two companies teaming up to provide the data are Spicer and J.F. New. Following the townships' vote to provide funding, they got to work and completed all of the data collection as listed below.

The study is comprised of four parts. The first is a bottom sediment characterization. With the results of this part they will be able to prepare bottom characterization map and discuss the bottom of the lake and begin to develop the dredging and vegetation control plan. (Dredging is still a "maybe." We are still asking: Would dredging result in a sufficient nutrient reduction to impact water quality based on the cost of dredging? Put another way "Would it be worth it?")

The second is a bottom sediment water quality analysis and assessment. Laboratory analysis of bottom samples will be collected to determine the level of total phosphorus within the sediment.

The third is a late summer aquatic vegetation assessment. This will measure the effectiveness of the herbicide treatments performed this year.

The fourth and final area of analysis is to determine water quality and vegetation management of the lake.

All of the above studies have been completed. Spicer and J. F. New will analyze the results and will submit their recommendations to the committee in September.

A third informational meeting was held on August 29th where we discussed the studies and answered questions.

The next informational meeting will be September 26th, 9:00 – 10:00 am at Watervliet Township Hall. We should have some concrete data at this time. You will have an opportunity to review the material and ask questions. Please join us.

These updates are being sent to you because of your expressed interest in Paw Paw Lake. If you know of others who may be interested in receiving the updates, please have them contact me and I will place them on the list. (mspessard@comcast.net)

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