

Baldwin Lake Association Meeting August 1, 2020 Meeting minutes

BLA meeting had one item on the agenda. That item was a presentation by Jim Donohue of Aquatic Weed Control out of Syracuse, In. The highlights of the presentation follow.

Eurasian Watermilfoil (herein after milfoil) is an invasive species. The lake survey completed in 2019 by Restorative Lake Sciences disclosed that Baldwin Lake has 10.8 acres of milfoil in the 266 acres of the lake.

Milfoil is an invasive weed. It lives over winter under the ice. Appears that milfoil can hybridize itself with the native milfoil. The 10.8 acres currently infested will only continue to spread. It has no natural enemies. Milfoil does not provide fish cover. It grows in muck in water to a depth of up to 20 feet.

The State of Michigan owns the water in the lake. The surrounding land owners own the land under the water as Riparian owners. The State of Michigan requires express permission of the land owners before a permit to treat milfoil can be issued.

The proposed treatment for milfoil is a chemical called ProcellaCor. It is manufactured by a company named SePro. It is approved for treating milfoil by the EPA and by the State of Michigan.

ProcellaCor treatments would be administered in zones of the lake. The zones would be determined by where the milfoil is concentrated.(Note not all areas of the lake have milfoil.) ProcellaCor needs space to work so permission needs to be granted or the houses for 100 either side of the abstaining property owner would be avoided as well.

The bigger the area of application allows for a more economical approach on the cost and effectiveness. The actual application rate is determined by the surface area and depth of the water being treated. That would be determined by a survey of the lake's weed beds. The map from Restorative Lake Sciences is not detailed enough. We will reach out to Dr. Jones to see if she has greater detail that would assist in the determination.

SePro actually guarantees the results if the treatments are in 10 acre or more of a lake.

Questions and Answers

Are there alternative treatments to ProcellaCor? Yes, Fluridone, 2/4D and Triclodier are alternatives. Some are old treatments that are more detrimental to the native vegetation. ProcellaCor appears to be the latest and best approach.

When is the best time to treat? Either in Spring or Fall. Late Spring, end of May to the middle of June appear to be the best times. Michigan restricts swimming for 24 hours after application, the EPA does not. Michigan's rules apply. The longest restriction is on drawing water out of the lake for lawns. That is 3 to 7 days. The chemicals could possibly affect the grass in the yard since this is a herbicide.

Why not mechanically harvest the milfoil and eliminate that way? Same for Enzyme or Bacteria treatments. Milfoil fragments will root themselves. Harvesting can make the problem worse. Same is true for enzyme or bacteria treatments for the muck. The muck is caused by Nitrogen and Phosphorus. Those leach from the surrounding water shed.

What about a harsh winter with thick ice and heavy snow cover? Yes, that does help to control vegetation. Problem is the last 3 years the ice coverage on the lake has not been long enough or thick enough to assist this way.

How much is the cost of the treatments? How long does it last? Estimate is around \$10,000 for 10 acres. The exact figure would have to be determined by a survey. A treatment lasts up to 3 years. However, there will be spot treatments required each year.

What other costs are there? How much for the survey's? The survey to locate the infestations and plot the depth would be in two parts and would cost around \$2,700.

What if I want to treat weeds on my own and not work with BLA? A treatment for an individual homeowner is about \$300 per application. Note they don't use ProcellaCor on an individual spot. They need more area to apply.

What if I treat the muck myself? The muck eating compounds you buy don't necessarily work. The best solution is a weed roller. It eliminates your weeds and pushes them to your neighbors. The effect of a weed roller is diminished if the muck is over 1 foot in depth.

Does ProcellaCor kill native grass species? No, it is engineered to go after milfoil. When the milfoil is gone native grass will again proliferate as the competitive milfoil will be gone. Most natives are not as tall as milfoil.

What about fish kills like what happened on Eagle Lake. The Eagle lake fish kill was caused by bedding stress not chemicals. The fish kills this spring on many lakes was caused by the fish being caught in areas of limited oxygen. Not chemicals.

How does this all work? The surveys are conducted and permissions are sought by the Riparian owners. There is a form letter that has been used in the past and is acceptable to the State of Michigan. The Advisors would have to go out and get the required signatures.

Who would pay for the treatment? The BLA would pay for the treatment out of general funds. The alternative is a Special Assessment District that would be sought through Porter Township. That would affix a cost per owner on the tax bill. If BLA is paying there would not be a need to seek this assistance.

MOTION: A motion was made to hire Aquatic Weed Control to conduct a visual survey and tier 2 study of the milfoil. Seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Attendees Joe & Kay Commins, Randy and Val Miller, John and Maribeth Ulrich, Dave Dan, Vicki and Tim Osborn, Mary Hansen, Jenna Labash, Mary Kowalski, Jen & Rob Coontz, Mike Thompson, Mike Yates, Len Morreale, Anthony & Dana Svhos, John & Cheryl Walsh and Mike Schirott.

Motion to adjourn seconded and passed.