

PORTER TOWNSHIP
Special Shavehead Lake Weed Control

April 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Russell with the pledge to the flag

Roll Call: Present were Croninger, Wylie, Russell, Harman, with Marlow absent

Attorney Kaufman explained how the assessment works

Croninger made the motion with support from Wylie to open the meeting to the public there were 3 yeas, 1 nay with the yeas having the majority motion carried the meeting was opened at 6:15 p.m. to the public

Charlie Fish 65451 E Peninsula Dr, Cassopolis, MI: Question why the Porter Township assessor or attorney have not been used for this project? Is in favor of this but money is not what is used to be will they get good results? Have they looked into any other options? What chemicals will be used also if there is not enough money then what will be done?

Jamie Thompson 65871 Center St, Cassopolis, MI: Got lies about what is going on not truths, is Bair Lake working? Is Diamond Lake working since when they did theirs they killed off fish. The board should have had more notice, the supervisor should abstain from voting. How did they get in the lake? What is the purpose if you can't kill the weeds and don't have a plan to stop the aquatic life

Ross Gableman 65573 North Drive, Cassopolis, MI: advised the lake association has been testing the waters since 2018 they found that invasive species were found to be spreading and needed to be treated/contained or the cost will go up. They could also choke out the fish beds and limit controllable, they had a majority have signed the petitions and a \$25,000.00 contingency was built in to the amount. He also advised the previous clerk had told them to do this themselves they never had any other options to bring this to the Township for the Township to take it over. They have had MDEQ/DNR approval for the chemicals being used. They have 2% Starry Stonewort that is spreading they have like to keep it from spreading. Started with 2 spots now have 2 more.

Pat Thompson 65871 Center St, Cassopolis, MI: Spot treatment has been done and does not seem to be working what makes you think this will help. A better alternative should be looked into

Al Newvine 15226 Joseph St, Vandalia, MI: Very upset that Cory is not here for this meeting. Brittney Marlow told them cost but never mentioned adding to the property taxes. Should they not have to get at least 3 quotes for this.

Judith Gilman 65544 Lakeview DR, Vandalia, MI: They have not had any transparency with this. They can't get a petition for 51% of the land area. Does not think it is right to have someone that has multiple properties has more votes than someone with only one parcel.

Jim Donahoe from Aquatic Weed Control: has been doing this for 34 years have found Milfoil and Starry Stonewort while Milfoil can be done with spot treatment Starry Stonewort has no roots so they have no control and is expensive to treat need algaecide to control the weeds or they will become overgrown. The weeds came from Grand Rapids and grows due to the phosphorus in the lakes and there is no long-term solution

Julie Paksi 65524 Lakeview Dr, Vandalia, MI: Doesn't think they have had improvements, this will be a minimum of 5 years but will be more like 10 years. People will suffer from putting poison in the lake since they have done this for 4 years already, they should consider a safer way such as stop boats, stop the wake boats, use a water rake take them out and burn them this is a better alternative way

Julie Newvine 15226 Joseph ST, Vandalia, MI: Agree that the chemicals don't seem to be working, once the assessment is put on it will never come off, they were told that this would be a one and done deal.

Brett Johnstone 15280 Joseph ST Vandalia, MI: Advised he is here representing 4 other property owners also has letters written by concerned residents. They have some concerns and would like some questions answered. Some might agree for long-term treatment, what would be the quality of the water after the treatment? What about the native plants and other species and other effects will there be. How else can this be prevented, why is it the homeowners are responsible for this when the lake is open to the public Should do better till all other avenues can be checked

Dawn Johnstone 15280 Joseph ST, Vandalia, MI: Apposed need more information on how this effects the lake

Honna Gableman 65573 North DR, Cassopolis, MI: The boat launch is public so they can't stop people from putting boats in. The lake association has looked into have a boat cleaning station at the launch but would need electricity for this which can't be done unless the neighbors on both sides of the launch would agree to this. If they have to get extra signatures they will not be able to do in a timely manner hope that they board does not vote this down so they can address these concerns, kids do swim in the lake too

Leonard DeYoung 65442 W Peninsula Dr, Cassopolis, Donnell and Birch lakes both filter into Shavehead then goes into Baldwin and Long Lakes this could be a problem

Brett Johnstone 15280 Joseph ST, Vandalia, MI: If the chemicals are put in the lake and does not work who would be responsible who would then fix the problem

Brittany Marlow 15311 Joseph ST, Vandalia, MI: In 2017 they found invasive weeds testing was then started they went from door to door 100 ft from the treatment area, then another bed was found. The invasive weeds found will kill off the native weeds. The lake association got 4 quotes from 4 companies. Did what was best to pick the best company. In 2017 there was one bed found since then there are now six beds four of which can't be treated since they can't get the signatures of the homeowners they need. The best option is to make it a SAD

Julie Newvine 15226 Joseph ST, Vandalia, MI: Who determines where the beds are at

S Slagagan: Why can't the state pay since they own the water is against the assessment

Judith Gilman 65544 Lakeview DR, Vandalia, MI: Michigan has a grant to be able to pay for this has it been looked into

Ronald Riem 15554 Rutherford CT, Cassopolis, MI: There are 43 invasive species did the lake association board try for a grant? If not, why haven't they doesn't feel they should have to treat the lake or pay for it

Charlie Fish 65451 E Peninsula Dr, Cassopolis, MI: Township Board should take over with transparency with research done also should be spent on the best option and not accept just the Lake Association opinion

Stephen Ciesielski 65840 Lakeshore DR Vandalia, MI: Would like more clarification of the treatment of Starry Wort because once you start treating you can never go back

Jim Donahoe from Aquatic Weed Control: GPS has been done to the lake to find the weeds. Must have in writing to be able to treat, the faster it is treated the faster to get it contained. Works with EGLE getting the proper permits the chemicals they use are approved by the EPA and Michigan has also reviewed. Can't shut down a public access to the lake and at this time nothing takes out Starry Stonewort since it has no roots grows from the phosphorus in the lake they have had 10 ft of weeds in 10 ft of water

Brittany Marlow 15311 Joseph ST, Vandalia, MI: they have had Keiser & Associates out of Kalamazoo has tested the water. They have checks and balances in place for transparency they have sent out letters and talked about this at the lake association meetings. Bubblers weren't involved in getting it, they would like to educate people by putting up signs by the boat launch to wash boats before they go in the water. The lake association has spoke to the Parks Dept for a grant but missed the deadline

Jamie Thompson 65871 Center St, Cassopolis, MI: lake association is losing common sense since there is no way to kill them the ground water is also at risk

Al Newvine 15226 Joseph St, Vandalia, MI: Should get money from the poker run where does that money go

Julie Newvine 15226 Joseph ST Vandalia, MI: Have treatments been done? The weeds are multiplying so the treatments seem to not be working

Honna Gableman 65573 North DR, Cassopolis, MI: There are 4 beds that can't be treated as they don't have permission so they can't get to those beds

Ronald Riem 15554 Rutherford CT, Cassopolis, MI: DNR study shows that swans are a big contributor of the spreading of these weeds due to them eating them. Need to get rid of the swans since they chase off the natural wildlife such as ducks

Ted Smucker 60821 N Peninsula DR, Cassopolis, MI: appreciates the ground work that the lake association has done. Michigan has approved this treatment due to the weeds taking over. Need to get a handle on them they will take over the lake. Is a fan of the wildlife he has kids and grandkids that swim in the lake, needs to be treated to keep it swim able

C Geyer 65983 South DR, Cassopolis, MI: His family has also been here for 3 generations used to not have to treat the weeds. Need to stop the spread if not treated it will choke out the native weeds they have trained professionals which are working with the ok of EGLE/DNR

Phil Plaia 15358 Joseph ST Vandalia, MI: Resents that anyone would imply that someone has something to gain or increase by working on the aquatic problem they went to the company who accepted something has to be done to be maintained if you don't maintain then the lake could choke out no one has anything to gain by this will become worse if not.

Jack Delee 60811 N Peninsula DR Cassopolis, MI: Shavehead 2022 Lake Association Shavehead is an all access all sports lake so there is no closing the public boat launch. If this is not treated it will have an abundance of beds, was secretary but now is the treasurer. 83 families contributed \$19,108 towards treatment, poker run have helped with testing water quality, petitions have circulated since 2018 for a 5-year period that signed to be extended as needed they have had 2 scientific firms have tested the water.

Russell made the motion with support from Croninger to close the public meeting all in favor with Marlow absent motion carried

Public portion was closed and attorney Kaufman answered some of the questions that were presented. Kaufman advised that the petitions that have been turned in that are dated 2018 they are not comfortable accepting something that old. Many have either moved from the area or now have a different opinion on the matter. Her opinion is that most won't go forward. For those that are tax exempt this is not a tax they are not exempt from assessments. This assessment has to be 100% correct all parcels being assessed have to get some benefit from it and it has to be proportioned correctly to all. This seems to have gotten out of hand but can be fixed. 1st thing needed is to check to see if they have the 20% for the blocking petition if they do then they can't proceed. 2nd has to be at least 60% of the land owners then it can't be blocked.

Petitions must be signed correctly IE: if a husband and wife own the property together both must sign the petition for it to be valid, if property is in a trust the person signing must have the authority to sign.

1st thing needs to be done is to figure out the opposition calculation they will need new petitions. Don't rely on the petitions from 2018. Must oppose at the meeting to be able to take this to the MTT.

Questions to Donuhue: Are there any grants? Have you had any that you didn't treat? How are they now? He has not seen any that will treat the lake only to test the lake. They try to get the weeds within 2 days after finding they predicts that it could plug up the channel in 5 years if not treated. Will have to do this annually which I s \$500.00 an acre for Stonewort has done other lakes some 12 years in a row. Ignore the problem in 10 years could choke out the lake and make it not swim able. The better the lake quality causes it to grow more. Once treatment is started must continue there are currently no bugs that will eat this to help with this just spreads when pulled out.

Harman made the motion with support from Wylie to open the discussion for the public to ask Attorney Kaufman questions:

What legal opinion to use the 2018 petitions? Must vet all signatures presented must have more that 50% to move forward and is not comfortable with this.

Want to do what's best and doesn't recommend going forward with the 2018 petitions

Harman made the motion with support from Croninger to close the open meeting all in favor motion carried with Marlow absent

Wylie made the motion with support from Russell to table this till all proper procedures have been followed and if the 20% has been met will accept the list to verify and proceed from there. Will have to review to verify if the meeting is legal and if 20% was reached. All in favor motion carried with Marlow absent.

Public Comments: Paski if you have email and opposed to contact her.

Donahue, they do have some fish kill but to many weeds can also stunt the fish and kill them

Delee how do they move forward need signatures to move forward and must have a special assessment

Wylie added they have a 21-day time limit to get the 20%

Fish Listen to your attorney and talk to your assessor to get this figured out since he represents the township.

Wylie made the motion with support from Croninger to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. all in favor with Marlow absent

Beth Russell
Porter Township Clerk