

Zoom Meeting with Aqua Link Thursday March 11, 2021

Attendees

Andy Link Aqua Link
Ed Molesky Aqua Link
Pat Dawson
Chet Dawson
Ed Zimmerman
Bill Boehme
Ralph Cozzolino

We had a very good discussion with Andy and Ed that also resolved some issues we have had in the past. The following is a brief summary and the consensus on their proposals by those in attendance. Others on the call should jump in with any thoughts they have. We will speak with Solitude on Monday.

Aqua Link Recommendations and Proposals

Water Quality Monitoring Proposal 7584

We should continue in 2021. We asked that they add one modification which would be to take phosphorous samples from near the bottom of the deepest part of the lake. We will need to obtain this before signing off. This would help us understand what is being released because of the very low oxygen levels. One sticking point we have had in the past is their resistance to including any of the TWCWC data as references in their report. They agreed that this would help our understanding of any trends occurring and will use it in the future. We will send them the TWCWC reports from 2001 up to when Aqua Link began taking data. (We have sent them some of these in the past). We will also send them the 2003 Watershed study by FX Browne that we use as the baseline for the three lakes in our watershed. Ed had another older report that he will also look for. We agreed that some of the TWCWC data may be outliers and should be eliminated and they agreed that their pH data for 2019 was also incorrect.

Aquatic Macrophyte Survey Proposal 7586

We had no issues with this proposal and recommend that we continue.

Algae and Aquatic Plant Management Proposal 7585

We recommend accepting this proposal but have a concern that we are over treating. Over the past two years we have seen almost all of our waterlilies and watershield disappear. These surface plants are necessary for fish habitat (especially small and baby fish), for minnows to lay their eggs and to help remove nutrients from the water. They agreed and thought it may be because of the aggressive treatment for bladderwort over the past couple of years and they expect to have to treat for it again this year. We should again help residents who need surface plants treated near their docks and swimming areas but we asked Aqua Link to try and be careful with over spraying. We also asked that they give us a map where they spray. They resisted this indicating that they need to spray where the bladderwort is found and it moves around. We left it with just asking them to not overspray.

Bacteria Additive Proposal 7588

We do not recommend continuing this in 2021. We remain skeptical that this is helping. They argue for it but that argument has changed each of the years we have used the treatment. It was supposed to be to help with water clarity which is measured with a secchi disc. Those readings have not improved. Then it was to reduce nutrients, algae and phytoplankton. We have seen a possible reduction in nitrogen but not in phosphorous which is the key nutrient nor in chlorophyll A which is how the plankton and algae density is determined. Now they think that the treatments have prevented a harmful algae bloom. It is true that we have not had a harmful algae bloom the last couple of years but harmful algae should have a competitive edge over other algae types so it is difficult to understand why this treatment would pick out one type. We have never had an excessive bloom but have seen blue green paint chip type algae in the past which could be harmful. We have asked other experts about algae treatments and have not had a positive response. Ed Zimmerman asked if the 10 week flush time for our lake would wash out the bacteria before they could help. They said no but it would have to diminish the impact if any. We agreed to go to Fawn lake to see what they are doing but for now recommend discontinuing the treatment.

Fishery Assessment Proposal 7587

We recommend continuing as written. This is an important part of our annual planning. We also recommend stocking this year whether or not we lower the lake. We have not seen fish kills in the past when the lake was lowered and would not expect one this time. We are overdue for stocking and should go ahead. Their recent study agreed with some of our fisherman that we don't have as many of the large bass we had a couple of years ago but they rejected the idea that our otters are the culprit.

Bathymetric Study

We asked for a proposal for this and recommend it. We would use money saved from not doing bacteria treatment. This should be done every 10 years or so to determine any changes in silt build up. The last bathymetric survey was done a while ago by Scott Rando. This survey would provide more detail including any submerged objects. It would include sediment depth analysis at 5 locations: just north of Clubhouse Beach, Sandy Beach, the area around the island at the North end, where Walker Creek enters the lake and the delta between the Dawson's and Fisher's. Bill asked about identifying shallow objects that can damage boat propellers and why the bogs rise in the summer. Aqua Link explained that when the water warms you get gas bubbles that cause the bogs to rise.

Aeration

Aqua Link estimated that an aeration system consisting of a worm device the length of the lake with an enclosed compressor station would cost about \$100,000. They speak very highly of it and we believe it may have some benefit but can't see spending that much money. If we are concerned about fish if or when we lower the lake they have a portable system you can rent to use in the deep part of the lake. You would also need some place to house and power the compressor. We did not ask for a price.

Chet Dawson

March 12, 2021