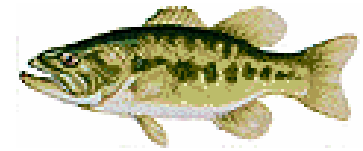




**Lakes Commission Meeting  
September 21, 2021  
7:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom**



<b>Ken Funk</b>	Lake Waterford	<b>Jim Stout</b>	Park District Liaison
<b>Tom Heinrich</b>	Lake Springledge	Brad Winter	Lake Potomac
<b>P.J. Hilbert</b>	Village at Large	Caly Winter	Village at Large
<b>Dave Kraft</b>	Chair & Village at Large	<b>Pat Dickson</b>	Village Trustee
Kevin Lowry	Village at Large	Clay Johnson	Village Administrator
<b>Fritz Meyer</b>	Village at Large	Kevin Klahs	Director of Operations
Carlos Menor Salazar	Lake Linden	<b>Dominic Marturano</b>	Mayor
<b>bold = present</b>			

- I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm
- II. Roll Call - Members of the Lakes Commission were present as indicated in **bold** above.
- III. Approval of Minutes  
A motion was made by P.J. and seconded by Ken to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 20, 2021. The motion carried.

**IV. Commissioner Reports**

A. Chairperson Report – Dave began by reporting that everything he has heard suggests that the conditions on the lakes have been favorable. He did point out that there have been reports of blue green algae on Waterford, but this is not uncommon for the time of year. Dave went on to say that as the meeting progresses, he plans to have P.J. report on fish stocking and have Alana Bartolai of the Lake County Health Department report on writing lakes management plans and the possibility of collecting water samples from our lakes.

B. Individual Lakes Commissioner Reports –

**Waterford Lake Report** – Ken reported that the surface temperature of Lake Waterford has dropped quickly to 70 degrees. The water level is the lowest since the 1999 draw down. The gunnel of his boat, which is usually about even with his dock, is now 16 inches below his dock. The 2 to 3 feet of exposed shoreline has become Grand Central for the foxes, muskrats and racoons at night, and squirrels, ducks, and cranes during the day. The severe harmful algal blooms/blue green algae were treated successfully for the most part. Residual blue green algae remain over the surface of the entire lake and may or may not be responsible for the low water clarity. If it is not blue green algae in the water column, it must be general phytoplankton blooms which may begin to turn over.

The amount of floating peat is massive this season, more than has been seen in many years. Much of the entire east end of the main body of water has huge navigational obstacles that surely limit pontoon boats to the central and western end of the main lake. Some venture through the channel, but the sago pond weed and the chara beds quickly choke the trolling motor propellers because the water is much shallower than normal.

Fishing in August and September is always slow, and this year is no exception. The large mouth bass that are being caught are a larger and healthier variety in the 12-to-16-inch class. The younger bass of spring are surprising absent. Muskies continue to be scarce although a few large ones remain. Ken reported that he fishes almost every morning and has had only one under 24-inch muskie on this line all season, and only 3 in the 36-inch class. Crappies continue to grow and be aggressive. The bass are not big enough to control the adult crappies anymore. Their increasing numbers also point to too few large muskies remaining. He reported that our management philosophy has been the use of bass and muskie as the apex predators. Muskies need to be added or a change of management philosophy should be considered. There are a few good-sized channel cats being caught and released. No frog activity and little turtle activity has been observed.

Ken went on to report that one fisherman was flagged for trailer launching his boat. He was back the day after but has not been seen since.

Fritz added that he has been out on the lake quite a bit and confirmed Ken's report that there were more peat bogs than he has ever seen before. He estimated about 25. Fritz and Dave commented that the numerous bogs were likely due to a combination of low water levels and warm weather.

**Potomac Lake Report** – No report.

**Springledge Lake Report** – Tom reported that since our last meeting, in July, conditions on Springledge have been good. Filamentous algae have been controlled well and there is a healthy amount of native vegetation. Fortunately, there have been no sightings of blue green algae. He went on to report that lake levels continue to be abnormally low, showing off the erosion on the shorelines. Fishing activity has been quiet on the lake and kayaking seems to have leveled off a bit too.

As a final part of his report, Tom shared an odd observation that occurred on Springledge this very day. He reported that he and his wife observed a muskrat behaving erratically and abnormally by swimming repetitively and constantly in small concentric circles. After observing the muskrat swimming in this unusual way for over an hour, Tom reported that he searched the internet to learn what this behavior might mean. Tom said that some of the searches mentioned this behavior as being associated with viral or bacterial infections or even rabies. Tom went on to say that he contacted Lake County Animal Control to see if they could provide some counsel or help. Ultimately, a representative of Lake County

Animal Control said they really could not do anything about it, but that the incident should be reported to the Village. After a period, Tom observed the muskrat swim in increasingly tighter circles until he thrust his head out of the water and expired.

Dave surmised that the muskrat could have been injured by another animal or perhaps injured by a car, but the situation is something to look out for. Ken suggested that the behavior may have been attributable to racoon roundworm.

### **Linden Lake Report** – No report.

- C. Trustee Report – Trustee Dixon began his report by sharing some information on the conditions of Lake Linden. He said that the overall conditions were fine, and the beaches were typically crowded because of the weather. He added that the water clarity was fine and there were no problematic blooms. He went on to say that residents have difficulty taking out their boats on the lake because the water has receded so much.

With respect to his actual Trustee Report, Pat said that the minutes of the LLC meetings were absent from the web and should rightfully be posted there. He offered his help in getting this done, if needed. In response, Dave said that the minutes are readily available and that he would speak with Kevin K. to see how to get the minutes posted on the website.

Finally, Pat said that a member of the public, residing in Harvest Hill, was present to see if she could get some information on managing their ponds.

- D. Village Report – No report.

### **V. Old Business: None**

### **VI. New Business:**

- A. Lake Potomac Stocking and Aeration Discussion.

In Brad's absence, Dave began a discussion of possible actions to be taken on Lake Potomac. Dave said that it is fairly obvious that Potomac has experienced a near 100% fish kill over the winter. Dave and the Winters have been monitoring the situation and P.J. has developed some recommendations for restocking Potomac with bluegills and fatheads. Along with the restocking recommendation, however, there is a recommendation that aeration solutions be explored to avoid the need for continual restocking. To this end, Kevin K. and Dave have been looking into the possibility of getting power out to the lake for aeration. There is a Village pump station on the south side of Potomac near the church. P.J. added that a representative from Keystone Fisheries recommended a restocking plan that included about 2,000 2-to-4-inch bluegills and about 70 pounds of fatheads. In addition, the representative recommended that Potomac be aerated to avoid having continual fish kills. Based on P.J.'s conversation with the Keystone representative, the aeration proposal would include 3 aerators at a cost of \$560 to \$580 apiece.

Dave clarified with P.J. that the quote for restocking with the bluegills and fatheads was \$2,400.

Ken suggested the possibility of talking with Frank Jakubicek of the IDNR about electro fishing in Waterford. Ken said that, since there is an abundance of bluegill in Waterford, perhaps some could be relocated to Potomac after electrofishing. In addition, Ken asked if there were any numbers to show how well the aerators actually worked insofar as increasing oxygen is concerned.

Dave responded by saying that he has been in communication with Frank, but they have been very busy and behind schedule with some projects due to Covid. In addition, P.J. and Dave said that the recommendation to add aeration is to simply help get the fish to survive the winter in such a shallow lake. P.J. added that although there is some validity to transporting bluegill from Waterford to Potomac, some of the bluegill may be near the end of their life cycle and there would be a need to at least supplement with younger fish. Dave opined that he would be worried about “upsetting the apple cart” with large scale movement of fish from one lake to another. Ken added that the relocation worked well in 1991 and 1999. Dave said that is something that we could keep on the docket.

After the discussion, Fritz made a motion to approve bringing power to Lake Potomac for aeration and to authorize an expenditure of \$5,000 for aeration costs and fish restocking on Potomac. The motion was seconded by P.J. and approved unanimously.

It was understood that if the aeration project could not be completed before the winter of 2021, then the restocking should not take place until spring 2022.

#### B. Lake Waterford Harmful Algae Bloom Discussion

Dave reminded members of the LLC that there having been postings made about Waterford’s blue green algae conditions this year. He said that given the low water levels and the heat, harmful algal blooms are likely widespread this season. Dave added that McCloud has made some aggressive aeration suggestions his year that will likely have to be discussed over the winter. Tom expressed a concern about how well the warnings about blue green algae have been posted to adequately inform residents about the potential dangers. He brought up the possibility of signage or notices being posted on the beaches or sites such as Teal Landing, etc. P.J. brought up the possibility of asking McCloud whether they could post appropriate signage. Dave suggested a QR code be added to the existing signage suggesting that users check the current lake conditions so that the physical signs would not have to be changed so frequently.

Fritz supported the idea of QR codes and added that an article be included in the Village Voice recommending that lake users check the lake conditions before use. Dave added that Village legal counsel may have recommendations on this issue, as it is usually not wise to overcommit in advising the public. Use of the lakes has always been at your own risk.

Subsequent discussion centered around the fine line of notification and unnecessarily worrying people about the conditions. Alana shared that according to the IEPA a microcystin rating of over 8 micrograms per liter is a risk for swimming and mentioned that the Lake County Health Department had signage that could be shared with us for possible use. In addition, Alana shared that the Lake County Health Department can analyze hab samples, and she can be contacted if blue green algae are sighted.

At the end of the discussion, Trustee Dixon suggested that more discussion needs to take place on how to share crucial lake information to homeowners who may not physically see the signs on the beaches and landings. Alana shared that the Lake County Health Department has a beach advisory web page for E.coli levels that could be communicated to residents.

- C. Lake County Health Department Lake Management Plan and Sampling Presentation  
Alana Bartolai, Ecological Services Program Coordinator, with the Lake County Health Department presented on how lakes management plans can be written. She advised that the Lake County Health Department website had a variety of templates and option tables that could be used. In addition, she reminded members of the LLC that representatives of the Health Department have visited the Village Lakes over the past years and have already prepared reports in the past that have some lake recommendations. In addition, she offered to provide more counsel if members of the LLC wanted to work on this endeavor.

In terms of lake monitoring, Alana informed members of the LLC that the former VLMP (Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program) remains unfunded. However, she mentioned that individuals with a Secchi Disk can continue to take Secchi readings and report the information to the Lake County Health Department. In addition, some lake associations in the County are continuing to take water samples to the Lake County Health Department for testing, but these associations pay for the samples to be analyzed.

Dave said that he would keep the idea of water sampling on the agenda in the future. Alana suggested common measures to track would be phosphorous, nitrogen, total suspended solids, and chlorides.

In addition, Dave said that, at a future meeting, he would like to revisit where we are with the goals that have already been discussed, and whether they have already been approved by the Village Board.

- VII.** Public Participation: A representative of the Harvest Hill HOA shared that their retention pond has been negatively affected by problems with algal blooms, erosion, goose droppings and muskrats. Because of these issues, she asked for advice about what could be done to improve the health and appearance of the pond. Dave suggested that, rather than take up the time of the other commissioners, he would be happy to discuss her specific issues after the LLC meeting was adjourned.

- VIII.** Adjournment:  
There was a motion made by Tom to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ken.  
The meeting ended at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Heinrich  
Recording Secretary

LLC Public Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Rosina Vega	Harvest Hills Subdivision

**Reminder: Next Meeting Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**

