

**LAKE HELEN PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
2021 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Monday December 6, 2021 via Zoom**

The Lake Helen Protection & Rehabilitation District meeting was called to order at 1:07pm. Special meeting with Portage County, DNR, and Lake Helen P.R.D. commissioners to discuss Lake Helen Water Quality Monitoring and Diagnostics.

Commissioners Present: Keith Hoffman, Tyne Hoffman, Glen Bersie, Tom Gerlikovski, & Bill Pingel
Commissioners Absent: Mildred Neville

Guests: Tracy Arnold (Portage County Planning & Zoning), Scott Provost (DNR Biologist), Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands), Raymond Oksuita (Town of Alban Chairman), Tracy Glodowski (Town of Alban Clerk), Dan O'Connell (Portage County), Pat Oldenburg (DNR), Jeff Hartman (Portage County).

BLUE GREEN ALGAE ISSUE: Scott & Keith reviewed our findings and studies of the lake to the group. Lake Helen is a polymictic lake, meaning it turns over multiple times a year. Each turn over brings nitrates & nutrients from the bottom to the top which is what Blue Green Algae feed on. Water samples were taken from the lake near the culvert that drains into the lake and also from the culvert that is located on the North side of West Lake Helen Drive and given to UWSP. The North side culvert sample was shown to have very high nitrogen & phosphorous levels, similar to what you would find at a manure spill. This sample comes from a wetland complex that drains into the lake. Ray discussed that about 5 years ago a culvert on Lake Helen Rd had collapsed and he was opposed to putting a new culvert in but it was voted to put in a new culvert. The objection is to see if we can divert the wetland complex away from the lake or stop it from flowing into the lake. Discussion held that it would be beneficial to cap off or plug culvert under Lake Helen Road. This portion was raised up 2 years ago after some major flooding when that culvert collapsed.

Keith and Scott discussed continuous running of the aerators which would add enough air to keep the lake from continuous stratification. Recommended to talk this option over with Tim Parks. Glen stated that it is roughly \$250 a month to run aerators and not in our budget. Running for 9 months would cost roughly \$2,250.00

In Summary; Scott said to talk to the Town of Alban & State Highway Department regarding plugging the culvert under Lake Helen Road North to divert water away from Lake. Scott stated also to continue proper aeration, continue lake profiles, and if needed sample total nitrogen and total phosphorous.

Tracy added to continue to improve shorelines, buffer plantings, and add more if you can. Keith will contact Nathan Check from the Portage County Highway Department regarding culvert. Ray will invite property owners from North of Highway 49 to a special meeting with the Town of Alban.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING: A special meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2022 6pm at the Town of Alban Garage for culvert capping / plugging discussion.

ADJOURNEMENT: 2:21pm meeting adjourned.