

Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2023

Members in attendance: Richard Jaffe, Steve Synder, Trevor Hurst. Guests: Courteny Morehouse (Senior Planner, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission) Hillary Kenyon (Lake Scientist), Shannon Poulin (Cyanobacteria Researcher), Kim Wetherell (Conservation Agent) Dennis Lynch

(1) The LGWG April monthly meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm and the minutes for the previous monthly meeting on April 27, 2023 were reviewed. After a word correction and explanation of a scientific term, the minutes were accepted with the suggested changes to be made for filing with the Town.

(2) LGWG appointments. Steve agreed to contact Melissa to assure that the membership is up to date and all members are current with respect to the successful completion of the State required ethics test.

(3) The 2023 Annual Town Meeting - Both the Select Board and the Finance Committee supported Article 22 which proposed to appropriate \$50,000 for diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and survey work of a lake scientist in Lake Garfield. The article was approved by the residents without any objections.

(3) 319 Grant Update - Courteny explained that the stormwater control project to reduce sediment inflow into Lake Garfield is located along Hupi Road and extends approximately 1,000 feet west from the intersection at Elephant Rock Road and Hupi Road. The project engineer, CEI Inc., has recommended changes to the preliminary stormwater treatment train proposed in the initial 319 grant application. The changes included additional deep sump catch basins which may help to increase sediment capture to about 92%. A Notice of Intent NOI is required by the ConComm next Fall after final design is completed. Courteny said that some catch basins may be near driveways but work should not impede access to homeowners properties. Some project funding may be also available for several homeowners who agree to having their properties evaluated for the installation of rain gardens to further prevent pollutants from entering the lake. In response to a question regarding the possibility of fertilizer input to the lake being reduced by the stormwater treatment system, Courteny mentioned that the project is primarily designed to capture phosphorus which is chemically bound to the sediment captured in the treatment train of catch basins and a hydrodynamic separator.

(4) Cyanobacteria Sampling - Shannon stated that the sampling dates for Cyanobacteria are: June 5, June 19, July 10, June 24, August 7 and August 21. The same sampling locations are also being used to compare with data collected during the same time periods in 2022 and 2021. In other ponds, at depths of 15-20 ft. Shannon noticed a "spike" in oxygen concentration at the pond bottoms which may be indicative of the rapid growth of Cyanobacteria. Shannon notified board members of those ponds concerning her observations. Shannon further suggested the need to inform lake residents around the lake. Richard supported the recommendation and indicated that the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) will be sending out information in the FLG newsletter to about 170 homeowners to raise Cyanobacteria awareness.

5) DASH/Drawdown - Kim mentioned that DEP File number 230 -0242 (Drawdown) expired and an extension request was submitted prior to deadline of 5/12/23. Also, the DEP approved the "bundling" of DASH and Drawdown in a new Notice of Intent (NOI) which should be submitted during this June. Kim further indicated that a one year extension may be considered by the ConComm. Since the original drawdown approval was given by ConComm back in 2014, subsequent Con Comm approvals must comply with updated State regulations. Further, a Chapter 91 license application which applies to any structures installed on the lake bottom, must also be submitted to the ConComm and the DEP. Kim is willing to help navigate the regulatory approval process. The Chapter 91 license also applies to a dam which would include Brewer's Pond, the Lake Garfield outflow control point.

In addition, the new NOI must include a National Heritage review for threatened and endangered aquatic plants. Benthic barriers may be added to the NOI whereas the placement of the barriers on private property or the Town beach or boat ramp will be discussed with the LGWG and FLG. Hillary stated that the NOI for DASH is in preparation and will include the Drawdown as well as a discussion of benthic barriers. It was also decided that the applications should be submitted under the Town as the the applicant. Kim also said that he DASH extension letter should be submitted before the July meeting of the Con Comm. Hillary plans to go out on the lake to determine if any EWM remains following the current DASH work and she also needs to survey lake for endangered species. A second visit later in the season is planned by Hillary to determine if EWM regrowth is occurring in the lake at the most recent DASH locations. Finally, Hillary recommended annual EWM surveys to determine the effectiveness of DASH.

There being no further items of interest, the LGWG meeting was closed at 8:12 pm and the next meeting is set at June 15, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Dennis Lynch