

Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2023

LGWG members in attendance: Greg Carnese, Richard Jaffe, Kyle Pierce, Mike Germain. Steve Synder, Trevor Hurst, Dennis Lynch. There being a quorum, the meeting was commenced at 7:06 pm.

Agenda Items Discussed:

1) The minutes of both the July 13th and July 21st, 2023 meetings were reviewed and approved for town website posting.

2 & 3) Drawdown/DASH Update: Due a lack of quorum, the Monterey Conservation Commission rescheduled their August 14, 2023 meeting to a yet to be determined date during the week of August 21st. As a result of the rescheduling, both the DASH extension request and the approval of the "bundled" Notice of Intent (NOI) for both the seasonal drawdown of Lake Garfield and the continuance of DASH work was postponed until further notice from the conservation commission. Approval of the DASH extension enables the scuba divers to commence their work during September. Greg indicated the importance of receiving the DASH extension to insure Eurasian watermilfoil removal in the Fall and to reduce weed regrowth. Dennis was asked to forward the initial NOI comments from Mark Stinson, DEP Circuit Rider, to the LGWG.

4) Mike reported that Cyanobacteria concentrations in the lake were at low levels and similar to the same sampling period during 2022. He also noted that lake water was very clear and without any floating patches especially in the larger basin of Lake Garfield.

Steve indicated that during July the Housatonic Valley Association, the weekly water quality sampling contractor for the Monterey Parks Commission, informed him concerning high concentrations of *E.Coli* bacteria at the Monterey Town Beach located along Tyringham Road. To protect the public, the beach was closed for two days while additional water quality samples were conducted until the *E. Coli* concentrations were low enough to reopen the beach to swimmers. Mike added that Shannon Poulin, Cyanobacteria Researcher, suggested that the high *E. Coli* readings may be due to the presence of Canada geese. Richard also noted that Canada geese may not migrate and that may support the idea that geese are the source of high *E.Coli*. Kyle asked if *E.Coli* readings were taken during cyanobacteria sampling. Mike noted such sampling was conducted in the past near the small island off the town beach. Greg noted that a swimmer was hospitalized during high bacterial concentrations in the larger lake basin.

5) Regarding the 319 grant update, Courtney Morehouse, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, stated that project design changes have been proposed to further reduce phosphorus loading into Lake Garfield from Hupi Road. The LGWG decided to discuss the changes with Courteny during the September meeting. Dennis will forward Courteny's email for review prior to the September meeting.

6) The LGWG scheduled the next Zoom monthly meeting on September 19, 2023 at 7pm.