

Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2023

Members in attendance: Richard Jaffe, Mike Germain, Steve Synder, Dennis Lynch. Guest: Shannon Poulin, Cyanobacteria Researcher; Noel Wicke - Chair, Conservation Commission, Kim Wetherell - Conservation Commission Agent, Jim Hunt - Director of operations, Courteny Morehouse, BRPC. A quorum was reached and the meeting commenced at 7:03 pm.

Agenda Items:

- 1) The September 19, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes of the LGWG were reviewed and approved without comments.
- 2) DASH/Drawdown Update: Kim Wetherell stated that the Conservation Commission received the request and approved the extension of the Order of Conditions (OOC) for the Drawdown of Lake Garfield beginning on November 1, 2023. At the suggestion of the DEP Circuit Rider and the MA Wildlife National Heritage & Endangered Species Program, the previous DASH OOC should be rescinded and bundled with the Drawdown in a new Notice of Intent (NOI) to be prepared by Hillary Kenyon for submission to the Conservation Commission in a timely fashion before DASH work during the Spring of 2024. In response to a question from Greg as to who is the NOI applicant, Dennis responded that the Select Board is the applicant for the NOI submission to the Conservation Commission.
- 3) A brief discussion concerning the Brewer Pond dam noted that the dam flood control gate manual should be updated to include current regulatory requirements and technology advancements. Mike suggested that a six (6) foot drawdown should be conducted at the Brewer Pond dam based on the recommendations from Hillary Kenyon, lake scientist, and recommendations from Jim Hunt concerning flood control. The refilling of Lake Garfield during the Spring is important to support fish populations which are diverse and the lake is very healthy in relation to drawdown impacts. A UMass study which included Lake Garfield supported these recommendations. Mike also offered that drawdown for Eurasian watermilfoil control is secondary to the reduction of flood risk and maintaining fire suppression capability. Richard asked who has regulatory control over the dam. Greg noted that LGWG should reach out to town elected officials to determine if the State coordinates with the town on this issue
- 4) Courteny gave an update as to the 319 grant work along Hupi Road to reduce phosphorus loading into Lake Garfield. In addition to some design changes to the stormwater treatment system, the project goal is to construct a system capable of handling more than a one (1) inch rainfall event and the associated capture of sediment in stormwater runoff. Courteny suggested that if the new NOI is approved by the Conservation Commission in December then project bidding could take place during January or early February followed by a two (2) construction period May 2024. Kim raised a concern about the impact of construction on existing driveways and culverts specifically near Catch Basins 9 and 10 on the project site plan. Jim Hunt reported that existing driveways and culverts would be maintained at the current elevation of Hupi Road.
- 5) Shannon reported that Cyanobacteria monitoring ended during September and the annual report of her findings would be submitted shortly. Shannon informed the LGWG that she plans to attend a LAPA West meeting during late October and to provide an update of the meeting at the November monthly meeting.
- 6) Lake Scientist Hillary Kenyon reported that possible impacts of aged, substandard sanitary systems were observed during her two (2) week field survey of the lake. Mike suggested a follow up to the issue be conducted during the Spring of 2024. It was also noted that no

indication of such impacts were observed during prior lake surveys.

7) Richard raised the issue of shoreline impacts from the use of specially designed “wave boarding” boats. It was suggested that this is an issue for the Harbormaster. Steve further added that he will look into the issue although it may not be under the purview of the LGWG.

8) The next remote meeting of the LGWG was set for November 14, 2023 at 7pm. And, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

Submitted by the Lake Garfield Working Group