

# **Onekama Invasive Species Committee**

## **Monthly Meeting**

**April 28, 2023 10:00a**

Members present: Kevin Hughes, Phil Sedelmaier, Gene Lagerquist, Alexis DeGabriele, Chair Doug Barry, Al Taylor. Also present: Heidi Feliczak—Seasonal Environmental Technician, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Bre Grabill—PLM (by telephone).

Meeting called to order at 10:00a.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Taylor, seconded by Lagerquist. AIF, motion carried.

Public comment: DeGabriele introduced the Committee to Heidi Feliczak.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 24, 2023 by Taylor, seconded by Lagerquist. AIF, motion carried.

Old business:

Fish study follow up—Sedelmaier. Proposal was approved. It was decided not to conduct a walleye aging study. Sedelmaier and Taylor to act as a subcommittee to make sure correct information is in the contract to be signed with PLM.

CLMP (Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program) review—Barry. Shared report of results of how the Onekama Lake is doing compared to other lakes in the area.

PLM contract—Taylor has been in contact with Grabill regarding the upcoming contract renewal with PLM. He has requested that PLM split their service into two parts: Lake Manager and Applicator, and that Grabill is to interview bidders (including PLM) for all Applicator services.

Early detection rapid response review—Barry asked the Committee to decide on protocol specifics. After discussion, it was decided that if new problems are found while doing the survey, they are to contact the Committee before doing anything. If new problems are found while doing treatment, treat the problem immediately (if allowed under the permit) and then notify the Committee immediately. Hughes wants photos of work they do to show the value of the work being done, and to be included in next year's report. This information can be used as public outreach to show the value of this group and the work PLM is doing for the lake. DeGabriele wants GPS coordinates of all photos taken. DeGabriele to contact Grabill (PLM) to ask for this information going forward. Barry to send out a group text to alert everyone if something is found.

New business:

Portage Lake Newsletter—what information should be included in this when it's sent out with the new tax bills. Taylor suggested Committee members and their credentials be included. Sedelmaier suggested highlighting the current situation with the lake and what the Committee is planning to do this year, including the fish survey. There was discussion regarding the sewer system problem. Sedelmaier suggested cause and effect facts be included for public information. Hughes suggested information on softening the shoreline. Lagerquist to follow up on getting data analysis from completed drone footage of the shoreline.

Lake Manager interaction—Grabill shared information from Dr. Workman regarding the use of gill netting for the fish study, including concerns of mortality rate and timing based on specific species. He has Onekama on

his schedule for early June. She confirmed that members of the group can go out on the boat during the survey. DeGabriele, Sedelmaier, and Lagerquist expressed interest in doing this. Grabill reminded the Committee that they still need a signed contract with Dr. Workman for the fish survey. Taylor is to address this next week.

Sedelmaier wants to collect fish caught in the gill netting to use as a “feel good” project in the community. Hughes and Sedelmaier will work on finding a project. Taylor will find out from Dr. Workman how to get those fish.

Community Foundation grants—There is no hard deadline for grants under \$5,000 for recreational projects. Lagerquist suggested using the grant for boat washing stations. As the Township would be the recipient of any grants, the Committee would need Board approval to apply. Hughes suggested keeping the boat washing station on the Committee agenda for every meeting so they can continue to study and discuss the best way to approach the issue.

DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) and 2024 options—DeGabriele stated Grabill seems to be open to the program. Sedelmaier suggested to table this discussion for the next meeting pending sharing information he has gathered.

Interactive Map—DeGabriele continues to incorporate data into the map. She has found volunteers to help with data entry.

Score the Shore—this program isn’t being done this year, in favor of spring and fall phosphorus testing.

There was discussion about having a table for sharing information at the Village’s Block Party.

Barry is going to follow up on the possibility of getting a mobile boat washing station set up in July.

Taylor is going to contact Grabill about having wake boats on the lake.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Taylor, seconded by DeGabriele. AIF, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55a.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Recording Secretary

Submitted by Michelle Swanson, Recording Secretary