

Citizens Input Group Meeting
October 11, 2022

In attendance

Joe Baldiga, Chair
John Westerling, DPW Director
Eric Sonnett
Drew Logan
Paula Garland
David Mitchell, Consultant

Guests

Sabine St Pierre
Amy Uliss
John Coutinho
Mary Baldiga
Carol Esler
Don Kaiser
Jaime Goncalves

- Minutes from September 19 were approved with a single revision to correct spelling of Eric Sonnett's name
- John Westerling reported that the Conservation Commission approved the annual 5' drawdown for this season and that the drawdown has already started. The commission will vote on the extended 8' drawdown on Oct 18.
- Joe Baldiga reviewed our discussion from the last meeting about pursuing additional treatment options in the spring
 - Mechanical harvesting and herbicides were discussed.
 - John Westerling contacted Westin Nurseries about taking any weeds from harvesting and they would charge \$4/yard for accepting material, not including transportation
 - David Mitchell spoke to Solitude, a leading vendor.
 - Herbicide: \$425/acre for Diquat/endothal or \$970/acre for endothal alone
 - Harvesting: \$3000 to get harvester in. \$2500/day. \$1500 to demob. \$1500/disposal. – expect to get 1.5-2 acres/day.
 - More questions about mechanical harvesting were discussed
- Public comments were entertained
 - Sabine St Pierre – suggested we consider adding survey location between twin/woody island area
 - Carol Esler – suggests that there are more nutrients going into the lake so we need more educational material to be distributed. Also suggests we slow down and make our decisions carefully.
 - John Coutinho – Commented that nothing has been done since we put together this committee 8 years ago. We need to do something soon and have a sense of urgency.
 - Jaime Goncalves – Reminded us about the potential ecological impact of extended drawdowns which is why it is only approved for every 3 years.

- The Chair attempted to move to a decision about how to move forward.
 - Could we approach ConComm with 2 options (herbicides & mechanical harvesting)?
 - It was agreed to continue the discussion at our next meeting with the goal of determining our strategy and next steps.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct 27 at 5:00 pm
- Adjourned at 6:06 pm