Dredging Committee Update: April 21st, 2023.

Judge David Clabuesch of Pointe West HOA applied for and received the dredging permit for our shared north side lake access this year (We believe he has always done so based on our conversations with him). He had to apply twice as the first permit was for only 1,000 cubic yards, and we needed more than that moved. The Judge did not receive this permit back until the end of March.  Additionally, the DNR has restrictions on when dredging is permitted due to fish spawning season. Our permit states that no dredging shall occur between April 15th, and June 30th due to spawning fish season.

Huron County had weight load restrictions on roads until April 1st. Because of this restriction our dredging company could not bring their equipment out and start setting up until just a few weeks ago.

Given the April 15th cut of date the dredging had stopped. The dredge was running for several days prior to this cutoff date but also suffered several significant breakdowns. We do have the option of dredging more come July 1st if need be.

With all of that said, even with the low water, we believe enough dredging was completed to give us a 3-foot-deep navigable channel out of the north canal that ties into a natural east to west channel.  Although this is not ideal it is a good outcome considering the obstacles, we faced this year, including:

1. Historically low water levels
2. Load restrictions on county roads ended early April, forcing our dredging company to start late.
3. Fish spawning season and DNR restrictions
4. Mechanical breakdowns on the dredge itself
5. Water levels, water levels, water levels…

Let’s keep in mind that a significant windstorm can change a channel overnight.  Fighting Mother Nature is no easy task…but she may give us some good news with the expected 6-8 inch rise in lake levels from now until July that is expected.

Looking forward, this is a constant issue. Pointe West and some members of the board have had very preliminary discussions about building a breakwater jetty off of the north canal.  This would clearly be a more permanent solution and would also offer our HOA’s significant annual savings.  A jetty of some sort (poured concrete or concrete block/rock debris) would be expensive upfront but could be financed through a bond.  The annual payment on a bond would likely be lower than the cost of our annual dredging. This should be discussed further if the PSPA board supports further exploration.

Thus, the unfortunate news is that we did not get as much dredging done as we had hoped to within our allowed **TWO - WEEK** window (Again could not haul dredger on roads until April 1, and had to stop dredging by April 15th), and at the current time have nothing planned for the South Channel. The good news: we did get what the dredge company feels is a navigable channel, and we also can continue work on July 1st if needed, and if not, we are expected to pay a smaller expense.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

PSPA Dock Committee, and Board.