

NLIA General Membership Meeting  
Saturday, Jun 29, 2024

UPDATE: Ken Price, President: Grant is going as planned. As voted on, we employed Aqualink and they came out Thursday to test. Tyler (of Aqualink) remarked conversationally that he would swim in our lake. Tyler later texted that the oxygen level was very good, which indicates the aeration system is working perfectly. The temperature of the lake was high, which we expected.

Tyler noted a green algal bloom at North Lake. This is separate from the filamentous algae we are currently seeing. Both are now present at NL. Both are common in eutrophic lakes and both generally pose no health risk, but they are not the same thing. Filamentous algae levels are actually about 1/10th of last year's level, as evidenced by photographs Preston took at the shared dock on Oliver Road.

Regarding non/use of copper sulfate (CS) -

- AquaLink has proposed CS treatments, as well as other treatments, for North Lake. CleanFlo has advised against any algaecide or herbicide treatments (not just CS) at North Lake while they are performing bio-dredging, as the resulting dead plants would serve to increase bottom sedimentation, which would be counterproductive to their ongoing bio-dredging activities under our ARPA grant.
- CS does not "only affect the appearance of the water." As it is an algaecide, it can, in fact, serve to eliminate an algal bloom. It does not preclude subsequent algal blooms. However, it is a temporary "band aid" address to a larger problem.
- The only recent decision regarding use of CS at North Lake was last season's membership vote to NOT utilize CS to address a blue-green algal bloom.
- More recently, the board has decided not to apply any treatment (CS or other) which could be counter-productive to the grant-funded activities until those activities have concluded this summer.
- CleanFlo's case study from Lake Rogerene (NJ) reported use of an herbicide (CS was not mentioned) which killed off surface plants but increased bottom sedimentation.

All bodies of water in PA are "swim at your own risk."

Once we have results from Aqualink we will disseminate info to the membership via email and on the website.

We will be proactive to get results and get information out to members.

Question from floor: if we have a bloom, will we not treat? Not with copper. (Decided by board)

Reminder to membership: We have employed a lake manager and that entity will offer recommendations with regards to treatments necessary.

Question from floor: Where are phosphates coming from and how do we get rid of them? When we use CS sulfate, the residual algae goes into the muck, expelling methane and CO2.

Comment from floor: The concern last year was that the lake looked bad and perhaps was harmful (Note: There were no water tests done during the time that the lake “looked bad” and therefore, we cannot accurately refer to the lake water as “harmful”. Again, ALL bodies of water in PA are “swim at your own risk.”

The board is exploring alternative treatments in the event of a harmful algal bloom. Aqualink’s recommendation is 3 bacteria treatments - biologics - this specifically targets nutrient reduction. Membership rejected this treatment idea until such time as Aqualink can address membership to explain the plan more fully.

NOTE: Some treatments pull diatoms from the lake and we need those in the lake. We will send out info as it is received and will call a special meeting if necessary.

Reminder that: NLIA Membership has voted on a course of action and the NLIA Board is following this course of action.

The Board has not been as communicative as it could have been of late. We apologize and we will fix that issue.

Ken Price is working with Aqualink to obtain an Algaecide permit.

#### **Treasurer’s Report:**

Membership is currently at 53 members - dues income is higher than expected. However, donations are lower. We do have some larger bills coming in. We are forecasting a shortfall of \$2000 (even with end of year fundraising)  
\$10k in reserve; \$15k in checking.

Preston: update on HAB Committee - they have met and have discussed various information. We are awaiting results from Aqualink. We have discussed metal and nonmetal treatments. We are considering a wide range of treatments in the event we need them. We are getting close to an HAB situation and we are working to have a plan in place. Every lake right now is in the high level of cyanobacteria.

Bob Ochs mentioned an EPA website (<https://qed.epa.gov/cyanweb>) which appears to show high levels of cyanobacteria at North Lake. Preston noted that the website additionally shows that other lakes in our area also have levels of cyanobacteria above recommended levels for recreation, and urged that we need to look more closely at that site and the related information. Note: This website is "an experimental web application and should be considered a research tool."

Ken met with the Fish Commission who pointed out that algaecides are a band-aid and they do not fix anything. They recommend a sewer system. We will need to explore this going forward as it seems to be our only way out of the constant struggle with HAB. Fluency system is just for fluids (solids would stay within each household). We would have to go through Ross Township.

Preston met with John Levitski - conservation district Luzerne county - who advocates strong sewage management and discussed the benefits of newer technologies. He understands there are obstacles to achieving centralized sewage management. Suggestion that the plant would have to be on the hillside. This is a long term plan that we should be looking into.

An additional issue is Road runoff. It was suggested that we need some catch basins.

Brian Thomas volunteered to look into the possibility of a sewage treatment plant at NL. There are ways to get such a thing funded with grants and/or federal monies.

CF shared a study from a lake in NJ where they were able to diminish muck but then vegetation grew. They sprayed the lake with CS. The vegetation cleared but then went to the bottom of the lake (adding to the muck).

New Business: Preston

Recommendation:

1. Lake monitoring program - that is IN PLACE
2. Bio-augmentation - \$7K for 3 treatments
  - a. 50 lbs per treatment spread over surface of the lake - should remove some nutrients (ammonia, phosphorus) noxious odors
  - a. Should not interfere with grant parameters
  - a. Questions: Can we get references from other lakes who have used?
  - a. Plan: Expedite a meeting with Ed Molesky with membership
3. We ask at this time that no member contact Aqualink directly. If there is a question, please come to our board members with questions. We are working on setting this up.

John Zloteck called CF 3 times in May with questions; they would not answer.

Events: Potluck tonight at 6:00pm

Labor Day - Saturday, Aug 31, 2024 basket raffle and potluck

Meghan Thomas and Karen Lucas will head up the basket raffle - if anyone has donations, please reach out to one of them.

Brian T. has had individual conversations with several neighbors and is confident that he could come up \$5000 in no time. Suggestion to revise the by-laws to include a provision for virtual (or, by-proxy) vote.

Motion to Adjourn

Minutes submitted by

[Carmen Paternoster](#)

Vice President, NLIA