

Update on ARPA Grant Application through Luzerne County

In the fall of 2022, NLIA submitted a grant proposal to Luzerne County for American Rescue funds that were being made available to municipalities, nonprofits, and other businesses. We are very pleased to report that we have been officially notified that the North Lake Improvement Association has been awarded a grant of \$88,890 to support a lake water quality improvement project.

The funded grant project was based on a proposal requested from Clean Flo International who have been engaged with North Lake over the past number of years. Clean-Flo has periodically been on the lake to observe algae bloom events and have conducted sonar scans to document organic sediment buildup on the bottom of the lake. They have also reviewed water quality data showing high nutrient levels in the lake and very high nutrient levels entering the lake from the watershed. When nutrient levels increase, nuisance algae and even weed growth can dominate a body of water, making it unattractive, odorous and a poor environment for a healthy aquatic life. The goal of this treatment plan is to address the nutrient buildup, to reduce nutrient availability in the water column, reduce organic sediment (muck) at the bottom, and in turn improve overall water quality.

The plan includes aggressive treatments using Bio Booster and Clean and Clear enzymes that will be applied to the lake by Clean Flo over several treatments through this year and into 2024. These treatments are aimed at reducing nutrients and organic sediment in the lake. In addition, Clean Flo will also be deploying 100 Nutrient Sponge bags over the next 2 years in and about the lake at the various stormwater runoff areas. These bags are designed to absorb nutrients before they ever reach the water. Finally, Clean Flo will be conducting water quality monitoring/reporting and will perform a sonar scan in the fall of this year to measure the effectiveness of the treatment plan.

We are now working through the actual performance portion of the grant process which includes additional documentation, ongoing submission of progress of the project as well of request for release of the funds to pay for the treatments. The funds will be released to NLIA only when we make a request to cover the actual expenses on a quarterly basis.

The first two treatments were already completed by the Clean Flo team in May and June and there will be another treatment later this summer in August. The actual timing for treatments for next year will be determined based on results from this year and the recommendation of Clean Flo.

The Board is very appreciative to have been selected to receive this grant and we are confident this treatment plan will have a significant impact on the water quality and overall conditions of North Lake.

We will continue to provide additional updates at our regular membership meetings.

In the meantime, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thanks,
Ken Price
NLIA President