

**Mohegan Lake Improvement District Meeting –Minutes  
9 December 2020  
Meeting conducted via Zoom platform**

In attendance:

Ken Belfer, president—Mohegan Colony  
Laura Kosbar, vice president—Lake  
Mohegan Park  
Shelley Reid, secretary—MHPOA

Patrick Byrne, treasurer—Mohegan Beach  
Park  
Stacy Williams-Kerr—Mohegan Beach Park  
Katherine Jewell—Lake Mohegan Park  
Felicity Arengo—Mohegan Beach Park

**I. Minutes**

The minutes for the previous meeting were reviewed and approved with one amendment.

**II. Mohegan Avenue Stormwater Catch Basin Retrofits**

Ken reported that the Fabco crew had installed most of the inserts; some requiring cutting to fit properly. Two could not be installed due to silt and leaf accumulation; Dave Paganelli said he would send a crew the following week to clean out the storm drains. The filters will only work if they are cleaned out regularly; MLID will need to make sure that the town carries out that maintenance. Ken proposed that MLID send a memorandum to the town outlining a proposed schedule. A. J. Reyes (Northeast Aquatic Research--NEAR) has recommended that we test the outflow from the catchbasins to determine their efficacy; this could be part of the 9-Element Plan MLID needs to formulate.

**III. Biological Treatment Alternatives**

Ken has researched other sources of biological treatments to obtain pricing information. He contacted the company Precision Labs, whose product costs approx. \$40,000 for materials only. This gives us a point of comparison for Clean Flow, at approx. \$55,000 product cost and EverBlue's roughly \$36,000. SOLitude works with the product MD Pellets; Glenn Sullivan reports that that product has demonstrated powerful efficacy in muck removal. In its initial quotes, EverBlue has provided a leasing option and performance benchmarks. Ken believes that, with this information about multiple products in this field, we can produce a competitive bid for a combination of aeration and treatment; he would like to submit an RFP by January. Ken proposes that MLID also proceed with the permitting process for copper treatments, as biologics are a big-ticket item and funding them may take a longer time frame. We should also approach the DEC for a possible pilot program for biologics, since they already have ample data about Lake Mohegan as a potential starting point.

EverBlue treated the Tarrytown lakes this past season; perhaps we can get data from Tarrytown re the effectiveness.

A different product is biochar, charcoal produced at a slow burn with reduced oxygen, which has been used historically as a soil amendment for retaining nutrients. In lake management it is sometimes used to fill sock-like tubes and placed strategically to filter out

and retain nutrients. This material might be appropriate for sites that feed into Lake Mohegan, such as the streams on both sides of Dale Avenue.

#### **IV. Guest Speaker: A. J. Reyes, NEAR**

A. J. recommends that MLID purchase its own dissolved oxygen meter, preferably an optical probe type, which doesn't need as frequent calibration and is more user-friendly.

A. J. reviewed his reports from testing water quality over the season. The lake experienced a low-oxygen event in August, along with a spike in ammonia, a preferred nutrient for cyanobacteria. The August test was conducted 24 hours after a copper treatment; there is a hypothesis that the lake went anoxic overnight, as treated dying algae released nutrients and no photosynthesis was occurring. The as-yet-unseen treatment-day testing data from SOLitude will shed more light on what occurred.

A. J. recommends that MLID conduct more robust monitoring, including a dissolved oxygen (DO) profile, either taking DO at multiple levels in the water column, or placing a continuous DO logger for approximately five days surrounding a treatment event. He also recommended obtaining cyanobacteria counts, lake bottom readings, and other data collection. He would also like to compile CSLAP data over the past seven years to compare it to the copper treatment history, and also examine the photos taken of the water, such as Ken's photos of the same location over time. The goal would be determining whether the copper treatments are indeed improving the water quality.

NEAR monitored Lake Pocotopaug in Connecticut while it was treated by EverBlue; the treatment "didn't really improve clarity," but achieved good mixing.

#### **V. Proposed Environmental Center**

Laura had the opportunity to look at the site. It is in need of work, and is not winterized. There are two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a large common room that might be broken into two smaller spaces. Currently there are No Parking signs on the cul-de-sac to discourage littering and vandalism in the park. Teatown Reservation is very interested in a cooperative venture involving the site, and the potential donor of funds for rehab is happy with an environmental focus for the building, as long as a portion is devoted to historic information about the former synagogue.

#### **V. Miscellaneous**

- Ken is working on RFPs to get before the board; we would like to apply for permits for copper sulfate, Cutrine Ultra, and Earth Tec, to allow greatest flexibility.
- Glenn Sullivan will relay to upper management MLID's dissatisfaction with SOLitude's job this season on the specific points of delivering treatment notice flyers in a timely fashion and providing MLID with gathered test data.
- Shelley Reid reported on the crash of the MLID website due to hacking, and it was resolved that she be given authorization to pay for the website hosting service's security services to protect the site.

- Given the disappointing outcome of the alum treatment, it is feared that the DEC might abandon alum as a permitted treatment option in New York State. A. J. Reyes recommended limnologist Ken Wagner as a candidate to conduct a study on the alum treatment to present an argument in favor of at least continuing the investigation into alum use.

## **VI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting date was set for 27 January.