

MOHEGAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
MOHEGAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes -- July 14, 1993

Present:

Bob Potemski (chairman).....Mohegan Highlands
David Wright (secretary).....Mohegan Colony Assn
Hy Zanger.....Amazon Beach
Jim O'Gara.....Mohegan Colony Assn
Mike Merchant.....Mohegan Highlands
Carol Colberg.....Mohegan Highlands
Charles Combs.....Mohegan Beach Park
Wendy Wells.....Mohegan Colony Assn.
Keith Gordon.....Mogul Park
John Grimm (guest)

The meeting was held at the Mohegan Colony Schoolhouse and began at 8:00 p.m. Minutes of the June meeting were read and no changes were made.

Grass Carp

John Grimm, an expert and vendor of grass carp, came and discussed the stocking and cost of grass carp. They are to stocked at 10". Don't see impact right away; after a few years, they will reduce weeds and filamentous algae. Cost \$12 each for up to 50; then 10% reduction in price for more. Should stock 15 per weeded acre. 100 would cost \$1,080.

If it's over five acres, need EAF and, usually, a full EIS. Need to check the fish population, measure lake parameters. We have most of this done. Mr. Grimm has degree from Cornell in aquatic biology, and can prepare environmental forms for us. He has done EIS for Lake Isle and for Lake Peekskill. He will design a new outlet structure, to prevent the fish from escaping. Could also consider putting the screen in the outlet stream, but it may be private property. Would use 1.5" mesh, 2" piping. Wire should be stainless. Feels total cost of environmental paperwork could be under \$500 if we already have all the data.

Examples of grass carp success. Walton Lake, Orange County. Stocked 1987, looks great today. Pine Plains 1991 -- Twin Island Lake. The carp generally prefer pondweed, but will eat milfoil as a secondary source of food. Our main problem milfoil. They also may eat lilies, but not a favorite. Yum yum.

Carol: Concern whether they will be caught and removed from the lake by fishermen. But most people aren't interested in keeping a carp. Grimm notes the fish are very sensitive, and even die when collected at the fish hatchery. Keith concern for mortality when fishermen catch them, even if toss them back. Grimm notes they replace for free the ones which die right away.

Negative factors. In smaller lakes, it can increase algae blooms. Also, by not removing the weeds, but simply recycling the nutrients through the fish -- which remain in the system -- we do not remove nutrients from the lake. When he harvest weeds, we are removing nutrients. DEC won't allow stocking of so many as to remove all the weeds in the lake; we don't want this result anyway; fish need some weeds for cover, etc.

Grass carp have no teeth; they grow big, but not a danger to swimmers. Different from regular carp; sterile and don't reproduce, so they won't take over the lake.

After Grimm leaves, discussion. Concern for impact of dredging on the carp; if we are able to dredge within a year or two, it could kill these sensitive fish. General sense is to try to stock some. Concern for leaving nutrients in the lake; we remove nutrients and help maintain lake depth by doing the harvesting, and we are well ahead of the weed growth. Problem is that weed harvesting program costs us most of our budget every year, perhaps \$20,000 or more. If grass carp can eat the weeds, we may save money which can be applied to other purposes, e.g. water sampling, dredging.

Water Quality

Water is terrible. Slimy surface algae apparent. Copper treatment called for. Water very green with algae. Secchi disk about 20" or less. Reports of higher than normal number of dead fish. Aeration system not yet turned on, as we are trying to determine if it has an impact and when the lake stratifies.

County Water Tests

Dave noted County water tester was here. He agreed they should stop sending their data to dead people, but can't do anything about it. Suggests, again, that we write to John Corporale. (He is the one who refused to give us the data last time, even after we filed Freedom of Information request).

Horiba

The long-awaited new probe is on its way.

Water Samples

We still haven't got back from the lab the water samples taken months ago. They had promised 48 hour turn-around. 48 hours after the next total eclipse of the sun. Jim will harass them.

Sparkle Lake

Jim reported we are now helping the Town harvest weeds at Sparkle Lake. They were over there and have generated a bill reflecting our cost factors.

Harvester

Possible oil leaks.

Speeding MLIDers

It was noted that people have complained about MLID speeding around the lake in the lake district boat. It was suggested we try to limit ourselves to 5 mph, even if on lake district business.

The MLID meeting concluded at 9:30 p.m. There was an informal discussion thereafter concerning the proposed AIM project at 3230 Lexington Avenue. Keith felt Dave and Jim has misrepresented facts concerning the project, and that it was best way to bring sewers to West side of lake. There was lengthy discussion of the project, and debate over its positive and negative impacts.

The next meeting will be held on September 8, 1993 at the Mohegan Colony Schoolhouse at 8:00p.m.

David O. Wright