# Milfoil Advisory Group Meeting Minutes
# November 11, 2020 4 p.m.
# Remote/Zoom

Ken Trester called the meeting to order.

Present: Ken Trester, Garnet Lewis, Bob Shuchman, Patrick Burroughs, Tim Straker,
Staff Present: Karen Doyle Homan, Erin Wilkinson
Also Present: Scott Dean, Dan Callum

Introductions:

- Ken Trester, City Council, resident on harbor
- Pat Burroughs, resident on harbor, member of Harbor Authority, practiced Environmental Law, Civil Engineering degree from Michigan Technological University
- Bob Shuchman: Resident, boater, co-director of Michigan Technological Research Institute, working on DNR grant researching environmental & water quality contaminated sediments of entire harbor area
- Garnet Lewis: City Council Mayor Pro-Tem, resident on harbor
- Tim Straker: Resident, Chairman of Historic District Commission, boater, passionate about the health of the harbor and its role in vitality of the community
- Scott Dean: City Council, resident, boater, paddle boater, executive with Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy
- Dan Callum, Greenway Manager, Outdoor Discovery Center

**First Task: Evaluate best approach**

**Herbicide:** The Kaiser & Associates study, completed two years ago, recommend proceeding with herbicide treatment. There was negative reaction from Outdoor Discovery Center and others regarding the effectiveness and consequences of using herbicides in the lake. Using algaecide with flow may be an issue.

**Cutting or harvesting** will send fragments to root elsewhere. Perhaps the flow of the water will take fragments to deeper water where it can't take root.

**Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH)** reduces the problem of drifting milfoil. It is labor intensive and costlier.

**Weevils** eat the milfoil but the company that provided weevils no longer offers the service.

**Dredging**. Eurasian milfoil likes 5' or shallower water but it has been found in 7' of water. Transparency of the water is an issue in that if light gets further down milfoil can take root in deeper water. If dredging is possible would need to dredge to 10' depth.

**Discussion**

Duckweed and Milfoil-are they connected? Duckweed floats, milfoil grows from the bottom. Milfoil is acting as a collection device; duckweed gets caught up in the milfoil. Some of the floating milfoil/duckweed pods are a result of milfoil getting cut upstream—usually from boaters. It is coming from Blue Star and then hooking a right into the harbor but is not seen further up river. If we had better circulation if would float out to the big lake as it used to do. The docks sitting on high water are also acting as surface barriers decreasing the natural cleaning out that would normally occur with lower water levels.

Silting is occurring and will continue to be an issue. When the water goes down more of the harbor will be subject to the milfoil. Even with the high water there are a lot of areas under 10' of depth.

Pat Burroughs shared his experience with the milfoil problem while living on Lake Columbia. They tried harvesting; it was just an expensive problem every year. The Homeowners Association went to chemical treatment and it is keeping the weeds under control. They're not having problems with the riparian owners objecting. The treatment lasts three years before it has to be treated again. Pat will get the details of the algaecide used and the company that treated it.

The smell? It is duckweed.

**Next Step**

Find out what our neighbors have done. Learn from them so as to not repeat a costly mistake. For example, Port Sheldon. The difference between last year and this year is remarkable. They conquered their Eurasian Milfoil problem.

Interim City Manager will contact Grand Haven, South Haven, Whitehall and other communities.

Our timeline is ambitious. We must decide on our approach, do cost benefit analysis, get riparian owners to agree, and decide how to pay for it.

The next meeting will be November 25, 2020 at 4 pm.

Advisory group adjourned at 5:48