

April 8, 2014

Subject: Renewal of Sand Lake Special Tax Assessment District – Treatment of Invasive Weeds

Recently, the SLPOA Board learned of a letter and petition opposing renewal of the Special Tax Assessment District to control invasive weeds in our lake. This letter contained substantial misinformation and baseless accusations/innuendos. Also, many residents may not be aware of this initiative, since the letter/petition was apparently sent selectively to certain residents and not to others.

Consistent with the Board's efforts to conduct our business in a transparent way, this letter will try to explain the reason for seeking renewal of the Special Tax Assessment District.

Background

The Board first became aware our invasive species weed problem in 2008 and we researched the problem and potential solutions extensively. This research led us to the Houghton Lake experience in which the State's largest invasive weed problem was successfully resolved based on a protocol of chemical treatment developed by the DNR, the Corps of Engineers and a number of leading experts. Since the first application in 2001, an independent engineering firm has published an annual water quality report which is published on the Houghton Lake Association web site. Based on this success and continued monitoring, this protocol is considered to be the "gold standard" for treating invasive weed species.

This finding led our Board to select Progressive Lakes Management (PLM), who was a contractor in the successful Houghton Lake application of chemicals. In this way, we are using the successful protocol from the Houghton Lake experience applied by the contractor associated with that success. PLM now services over 500 lakes or bodies of water in Michigan and were selected by Rollin Township when Devils and Round Lakes cancelled their weevil treatments. A key point is that the Board feels that resident's should not be asked to pay taxes for protocols that are not proven.

Since signing the contract with PLM, the Board has continued to monitor alternative treatment protocols, including weevils, harvesting and pumped air systems and has not found any thing that is viable. While at the same time, the PLM treatments have proven to be successful with annual reports posted on our web site for everyone to see. We expect that the amount of chemicals used to treat milfoil will be reduced in the next few years.

It is important to note the current invasive species cannot be completely eradicated with any existing technology and authorities report that new and even worse invasive species are coming to our lakes. So, continued treatment will be required.

Renewal

Since the current protocol has proven to be very successful, the Board is pursuing renewal of the tax district at a May public hearing to be held in a joint meeting of the Franklin Township and Cambridge Township Boards – specific date to be announced. We will send you a notice of the public hearing date as soon as it is available. Please contact your shore delegate or any member of the Board with any questions.

Thank you.

SLPOA Board