

Papakeechee Protective Association

LAPSI Team Meeting 9/12/14, 7:00pm

Minutes

Attendees (Alphabetically): Kendall Floyd, John & Georganna Hart, Jodi Hedges, Mark Laurent, Anthony Serianni, Diane Tulloh

Old Business:

Anthony's update: The interns have submitted data but it has not yet been vetted. They still need to complete the SOPs for N & P testing. Another part of the mission was to partner with WACF.

Summer Testing Project Funds Summary:

- WACF contributed \$1,000.
- \$4,000 from 2014 grant split between two students (as salary/stipend)
- ~\$2,500 remaining from last year split between two students (as salary/stipend)
- \$1,000 donated from Anthony

This translates into about \$3,500 stipend for each student. Half of their time was spent with WACF with Heather Harwood & Diana mainly on lake shore management, weeds, and plants. They were generally satisfied.

Students also made connections at tri-county and tested several water bodies, mainly for N & P. (Also noted was that we should have one of the Tri-county people attend our meeting, not necessary as a presenter, at least not initially).

On Papakeechee we reduced the total quantity of test sites to 25 and adjusted locations to focus toward shore (esp. for E. coli).

The students also had a prior commitment to university during the day which made performing Secchi tests difficult. A lot of time was spent at the beginning of summer just trying to get them set up and trained. Therefore, in the future we should identify one student in the fall for the following summer. Then in the spring Anthony can sign them up for the spring for research credit working in the lab so that they have some experience prior to starting with us.

There was discussion about how efficient it is to continue using students for our testing. Note that in 2013 Hannah looked at our project as full time, yet this year's students were part-time. This year's cost vs. benefit was high in relation to last year.

Reminder: The Da Vinci grant does not allow for spending money on equipment, supplies, etc... It is only for room & board, rent, food, and other expenses incurred while in pursuit of the project.

Conclusion: the student we choose is critical in maximizing outcome.

Hannah is back from Australia and this year is the capstone for her Sustainability Minor. She is planning on doing her capstone based on the work she did on Papakeechee. The capstone finishes in the spring when she graduates. She is also planning on further working with us toward this capstone. (Brian & Matt are not going to use their data freeing it up for Hannah to use it all.)

Hanna will assemble the data from this year and last year. She is also going to use this year's survey. Hannah may also follow up on the northern IN lake counsel (which is made up of a rep from each lake so we know what each other are doing).

Data collected: test more this fall? Probably.

Interns - Lessons learned: They should have worked more closely with residents & LaPSI. Next year: stress students working closely with LaPSI & residents.

John stressed the need for more involvement by residents as citizen scientist rather than relying solely on interns and grants. ...and we all agreed.

It may become more difficult to recruit students since Anthony is no longer teaching the ND Sustainability class ...although he still has access to the teachers & classes.

Some questions arose surrounding the appropriate level of collaboration between LaPSI and the board. John expressed that he feels we let the board down in the wetland mitigation; specifically identifying and treating plants. More discussion was made regarding specifically where the responsibility for the mitigation lies; esp. invasive plants. Some discuss was made of the ultimate responsibility of the success of the wetland. Some recalled that this was brought before LaPSI but we deferred as a group due to the lack of experience in the area of wetland mitigation.

Funding Eligibility: We should explore this year. Anthony spoke with LARE. They said we are not eligible because we are private. Anthony distributed a list of LARE projects which was diverse. However, one strategy would be to partner with other groups that is eligible for funding.

Anthony bought another P test device which registers lower levels of dissolved P. With that test kit they did detect P in Tri-county. However, a different test is necessary to get total P which includes insoluble P. (Google this for a better definition.)

Nate Bosch has been confirmed as a speaker November 1st at the Syracuse Community Center at 10:00am. The topic is general lake health. Anthony will speak with Nate regarding what he has in mind.

We again discussed the need for documenting the treatment of weeds. Some board members seemed interested, but it still isn't happening. Some concern may be that too specific of records could be a liability. However, lack of specific records could also be liability. Again, there are problems with long term use of fluridone because of weeds becoming resistant. Perhaps a written recommendation needs to go to the board from LaPSI.

Get tri-county involved, or other DNR parties. Share test results with them (but not interpret the results).

Anthony stressed, we should spend our resources where we can add the most value. Ex: elimination of purple loose strife? Anybody can do that. We should focus on activities which other lake organizations are not, such as specific water quality.

Diane to reach out to Tri-county to attend our next meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: Yes.

Review of action items:

Other old business, etc...

New Business:

Next meeting: 7:00pm on 10/10/14 at PPA (or John & Georganna)