

Water Quality Update from The Hidden Lakes Board of Directors

June 6th 2023

Dear Hidden Lakes / Center Lakes Homeowners,

It's been a few weeks since our May 18th message on water quality and we want to update you on our progress.

The results of our May testing have been analyzed and you can find the complete report in the Documents section of the CAMS portal in the "Lakes and Canals" folder. The report is titled "Hidden Lakes Water Quality Sampling 2023".

As expected, elevated phosphorous levels, specifically in the main lake, starting in the summer of 2022 and sustained through the winter and this spring led to a significant algae bloom. On May 20th Quality Lakes returned to treat our lakes with a copper-based algacide which helps mitigate the specific strain of algae that bloomed in our water. This is only the 3rd time in the last 5 years that the threshold for algae treatment was reached. Since then, the clarity has improved, and we're continuing to work and make it better.

Treatment for algae is tricky. Increasing treatments improve clarity but too much algacide changes the chemistry of our waterways which has adverse effects. We need a balanced and systematic approach to our treatment plan moving forward.

To this end, we're going to test for algae on a monthly basis. Previously, we only tested algae on a quarterly basis. Differing algae strains call for differing treatments so understanding our monthly variations and the strain specific algae blooms will guide us towards a more effective and comprehensive treatment plan.

Emerging technologies for treatment and mitigation of algae, such as aeration systems that disperses Phoslock over longer periods of time, are proving useful to help stop algae blooms before they happen. Quality Lakes will be sharing more information to the Board on such technologies in the coming weeks.

Quality Lakes is still trying to identify why the snails are dying and why we've seen an increase in the amount of dead fish. Currently, they don't have an answer though the change in our salinity is an area of focus.

We're still gathering quotes for end cap cleaning, and we hope to start the cleaning process soon.

Yesterday we had a meeting with two officials from the Town of Mt. Pleasant, one of which was an individual from their environmental team. The owner and operator of Quality Lakes met with us and together we toured our neighborhood and waterways. We voiced our concerns and discussed the various entities and elements, both public and private, that affect our marine ecosystem. We also shared our current testing methods, results, and treatment plan with the Town. It was a productive and informative meeting and will help guide our action plan moving forward.

We appreciate your support and patience as we work through this process and will have additional notifications in the coming weeks. As always, feel free to reach out to us with questions, comments, and concerns.

Many thanks,

The Board of Directors
