

Henderson Lake Milfoil Control Committee

May 2013 Update

Over the long winter of 2012/13 the Henderson Lake Milfoil Committee (HLMC) has been quite busy. The first efforts were in negotiating a three year Milfoil treatment contract with Savin Lake Services which locks-in the per acre pricing for systemic treatment of Milfoil (using 2-4d product) for 2013/14/15. This is a big help to the Committee in that it saves us the time and effort of competitively bidding the contract each fall, like we've done since the fall of 2010.

The Committee has also conducted many teleconferences this winter to discuss the long-term future of what's proving to be an ongoing weed control need. The funds we generated in 2010/11/12 were by voluntary donation. We are fortunate that many folks have been willing to donate, however...

About 50% participation in our weed control program after three years

There are about 184 unique property owners within the Lake's four subdivisions (people who own multiple lots are counted only once). Since 2010, voluntary donations have come from 92 of those property owners, or 50% participation over the three year period. The Committee believes this is not a sustainable financial model for long-term, reliable management of weeds on Henderson Lake.

Special Assessment District recommended for funding of a total lake weed control program, including shoreline treatments for lakefront owners

The Committee has been researching, and is now working on creation of a Special Assessment District for funding the weed control efforts on Henderson Lake. The State of Michigan Public Act 188 of 1954 provides for creation of "Special Assessment Districts to provide for payment of an improvement by special assessment against the property to be benefited by the improvement".

In our case, Henderson Lake requires a plan for long term aquatic weed control to protect the lake from overpopulating weed growth. The Committee believes that no one person or multiple persons should be solely responsible for this weed control endeavor. All property owners should be equal participants in control of aquatic weeds and overall preservation of our beautiful lake.

Hill & Cumming Township Boards → Permission to circulate Petitions

Representatives of the Committee have met with both Cumming and Hill Township Boards in recent weeks. (Portions of Henderson Lake and its subdivisions sit in both Townships.) Both Township Boards have agreed to allow the Committee to begin circulation of Petitions, which if successful will create a Special Assessment District for control of invasive weed species and also to control any type of weed on developed shoreline to a water depth of five feet and less.

Shoreline management and Eurasian Water Milfoil control

This Special Assessment District, if approved by 51% of property owners will provide funding for five years (2014/15/16/17/18), for control of any weed species along all developed shoreline to a depth of five feet, and treatment of invasive weed species found anywhere in the lake, while still maintaining the lake within guidelines set by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

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Cost to Property Owners – About the same or less than voluntary program

The amount requested in the S.A.D. Petition is \$160 per year for lake-front property owners and \$60 per year for owners of property not on the lake (back-lots). Owners of multiple lots will pay only once per year for five years. (For 2011 & 12 the HLMC requested voluntary donations of \$150 per tax payer.)

Example: An owner(s) of a lake front lot and who also own multiple back-lots is requested to pay \$160/year for five years only on the lake-front property, nothing on the back-lots. (\$160/yr. total)

Example: An owner(s) of multiple lake-front lots is requested to pay \$160/year for five years, and NOT \$160 for each lake-front lot. (\$160/yr. total)

Example: An owner(s) of multiple back-lots is requested to pay \$60/year for five years, and NOT \$60/yr. for each back-lot. (\$60/yr. total)

Duration: This Special Assessment will last for five years after which time it can either be renewed if needed or ceased. Underspent funds will be rolled-into the possible future S.A.D. and calculation of its funding.

Next Steps → If you agree with this action, provide the required information on the Petition and be sure that all owners sign

Both townships are required to announce by US Mail and conduct Public Hearings on these requests (Hill & Cumming Twps.) once 51% of the approved Petitions are presented to them by this Committee. The target for having 51% of the petitions signed is July 15, 2013. The hearing will be announced by US Mail and conducted in the weeks following, likely sometime in August 2013.

Progress and hearing dates will also be posted on HendersonLake.org as they become available.

The Henderson Lake Milfoil Control Committee (HLMC), who have been managing invasive species weed control since 2010, strongly believe that approving and creating this Special Assessment District for weed control is best for long-term health of the lake. Please consider the future.

Visit www.HendersonLake.org for additional information and links to other useful websites.

Contact members of the HLMC for question & clarifications.

| Location / Subdivision | Volunteer | Email | Phone |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------|
| South End / Henderson Beach | Bill Olsen, Chair | BillOlsen3@gmail.com | (248) 644-7219 |
| South End / Henderson Beach | Al Johnston | ajohnsto@wowway.com | |
| South End / Henderson Beach | Connie Malecek | LetMeOutside@yahoo.com | (989) 254-3054 |
| South End / Henderson Beach | Barb Losee | Losees1@core.com | (989) 345-7455 |
| South End / Henderson Beach | Ron Hildner | RDHildner@gmail.com | (989) 345-2725 |
| Henderson Heights | Jim Degroot | | |
| Henderson Heights | Ken Degroot | Degroot24@comcast.net | |
| Henderson Heights | Gary Stancato | StanFam13@gmail.com | |
| Allen Sub | Need a volunteer! | | |
| North End / Henderson Lake Sub #1 | Rick Masticola | | |
| North End / Henderson Lake Sub #1 | Randy Wallace | HPVRider@yahoo.com | (989) 751-5647 |