



PLM
LAKE & LAND
MANAGEMENT CORP

February 26, 2024

Bear Lake Improvement Board
c/o Paul Pek
52 N. Bear Lake Rd
Muskegon, MI 49445

The following proposal is for your review for Bear Lake for the 2024 season. Bear Lake has an excessive amount of phosphorus as outlined in the study conducted by Grand Valley State University. Based on these findings, nutrient mitigation/management is an important part of the long-term management plan for the lake. After much research and consideration for costs and effectiveness, PLM has developed a practical option to strip phosphorus from the lake, using the product Phoslock. This will in turn reduce overall algal production and improve the overall health of the lake.

Bear Lake Phosphorus Mitigation Plan – Deep Hole

The primary goal of the Bear Lake Phosphorus Mitigation Plan is to significantly reduce phosphorus concentrations in the deeper water of the lake on an annual basis. The best method to achieve this reduction is through the use of Phoslock. Phoslock is a bentonite clay product containing lanthanum, a naturally occurring low toxicity earth element. Phoslock has the ability to permanently and rapidly remove, “strip”, phosphorus from the water column. Phoslock is environmentally friendly and is commonly used throughout the United States, Canada and many other countries throughout the world.

The testing from the GVSU study indicates that the average total phosphorus concentration in the water column is ~50 ug/L. A majority of the phosphorus is pooling in the deeper water of the lake (>10 feet). This deeper water will be the primary focus of the proposed mitigation plan. Using the acre feet of the deep water, as well as the accessible pounds of phosphorus, PLM was able to calculate the amount of Phoslock required to bind the available phosphorus in the water column, in addition to some in the sediments.

Phoslock Calculations:

130 ac-ft of water (>10 feet as indicated by GVSU bathymetry map, attached)

50 ug/l of Phosphorus x .00271936 (constant)= .136 lbs/ac-ft

130 ac-ft x .136 lbs/ac-ft= 17.68 lbs of Phosphorus

100 lbs of Phoslock binds 1 lb of Phosphorus

17.68 lbs of Phosphorus x 100 lbs. of Phoslock= 1,768 lbs of Phoslock required to bind the internal water column Phosphorus

Cost of Phoslock Program:

Three treatments would be conducted each season (May, June & August) with 1/3 of the product applied at each application.

Annual Total Cost (>10ft Deep Holes): \$9,282.00

The Phoslock Program will provide significant reduction in phosphorous levels over the duration of the plan. However, it should be stated that elevated phosphorus levels may still exist due to external loading and the significant levels of phosphorus within the sediment. Sediment phosphorus levels may support a considerable higher application rate, if funding was available.

Phosphorus Mitigation Plan – Fenner’s Ditch

An adaptive management approach for Fenner’s Ditch is recommended. Three treatments conducted over the summer months to be applied at the same time as the Deep Hole applications. This plan should be viewed as a long-term management approach, with annual monitoring of water quality parameters such as Total Phosphorus in the canal.

Cost of Phoslock Program Fenner’s Ditch: \$6,525.00

For further clarification or modifications please contact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaimee Desjardins". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Jaimee Desjardins, Environmental Scientist
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