

# Paul's Draft Recommendations for 2024 Newsletter

## Accomplishments

- Continued partnership with GVSU's Annis Water Resource Institute for water quality testing, consulting, and Lake Report. Overall, Bear Lake continues to improve with respect to phosphorus concentrations, but specific sources (isolated deep spots and Fenner's Ditch) require more attention. In addition, additional efforts may be necessary to address algal abundance.
- Added an additional Special project with GVSU for extra monitoring of the two major tributaries into Bear Lake. The data indicates inflows from Bear Creek are excellent and serve to improve the phosphorus concentration in Bear Lake. Whereas inflows from Fenner's Ditch contribute phosphorus.
- Continued contract with PLM for lake management support and invasive plant and algae treatments.
- Conducted two Phoslock treatments in Fenner's Ditch and the isolated deep spots on the lake to bind to Phosphorus and seal it at the lake bottom. Fenner's Ditch continues to see improvements in water quality.
- Conducted the first native plant treatment where native plants were flourishing (due to invasive plants being controlled). This very targeted treatment was supported by GVSU and within EGLE guidelines. This was only at immediate shoreline and dock areas where the plants were creating a severe nuisance. This single treatment was highly successful.
- Darrell Van Fossan stepped down as Chairperson and Riparian Representative after many years of dedication to Bear Lake. Thank you, Darrell!
- Accepted applications for replacement Riparian Representative, and appointed Jim Panici as the new Riparian Representative. Welcome, Jim!
- Completed another year utilizing funds collected during the initial 5-year assessment without the need for additional assessments.
- Made ?? in investing a portion of our unused assessment funds.

## Important Updates 2024

- Renewed contract with GVSU/AWRI for water quality testing, consulting, and annual report.
- Contracted with GVSU for another special project focusing on the Fenner's Ditch area for sediment analysis to determine if high phosphorus is only from inflows, or if it is being stirred up from the lake bottom.
- Phoslock treatments in Fenner's Ditch and the three deep holes on the lake will continue. This will be changed from two to three smaller applications to assess if this performs better.
- Renewed contract with PLM for Lake Management assistance and Lake Treatments
- Board position changes including Paul Pek taking over as Chairperson, with Jim Panici taking over as Vice Chair. Craig Howell continues as Treasurer, and Brenda Moore as Secretary
- Tracking Fenner's Ditch specific expenses separately to better understand costs to keep water quality in this hotspot as high as possible.
- Considering joining the EGLE/MiCorps Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program utilizing volunteers for additional water monitoring
- Bullet on Storm Water impact and mitigation strategies?

### **Lake Board Members**

- Remove Darrell Van Fossan
- Update Paul Pek to Chairperson, Laketon Township Representative, [paul.pek.bllb@gmail.com](mailto:paul.pek.bllb@gmail.com)
- Add Jim Panici, Vice Chair, Riparian Owner Representative, [james.panici.bllb@gmail.com](mailto:james.panici.bllb@gmail.com)

### **Septic Section?**

- We had a large “be septic smart” section in the newsletter last year. Do we repeat? Do we have a small reminder to have your septic systems inspected and cleaned out regularly?

### **GVSU Report Overview?**

- Since this is such a great report, should we include highlights in a section.
- GVSU Summary
- GVSU Recommendations

### **Board Financials**

- We need to finalize our budget!