

Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2013
Little Elkhart Lake – Aquatic Plant Management Plan – Planning Meeting

Meeting called to order at 9:30AM.

13 people in attendance

James Scharl, representing Stantec, to report on preliminary findings for Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan.

This meeting was used to present data collected, gauge preliminary input, align the questionnaire/survey questions to desired issues, and begin guiding APM plan creation and outline how the process is completed.

Plan will be used to better manage aquatic plant on the lake, highlight issues unique to the lake, manage AIS and other aquatic plant issues, gauge public opinion on these issues and management, and set recommendations for management going forward.

2012 aquatic plant survey data presented and compared to previous surveys completed. Plant community is high quality and diverse, though dense at times. Both EWM and CLP present – EWM more so, but down from highs in 2002 with a bit over 5 acres present during spring, 2012 survey. CLP is currently sporadic, but potentially increasing with a discussion over how to proceed and where it's been noted on the lake by residents.

Plant community, though high quality is dense in locations and can cause navigation issues. This was brought up by attendees and how to pay for it – not all potential navigational management benefits all users. It was decided more input on this required in the public survey. Possible to treat individual piers?

Plan will take all data into account, along with input from this meeting, public questionnaire, and District review of draft to finalize & submit to DNR for approval. Questionnaire will be available online and mailed to District members. Draft plan expected for review in late 2013.

Meeting adjourned.