

LAKE COLUMBIA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (LCPOA)
CHARTER
Watershed and Lake Management Committee

MISSION:

The Watershed and Lake Management Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors to ensure the lasting health of Lake Columbia as a body of water with appropriate water quality, sediment, and nutrient levels which support human recreational uses and a diverse population of fish, wildlife, and native plants, for the Lake Columbia Property Owners Association (LCPOA). Work of the Committee shall be data driven and consistent with the LCPOA Deeded Restrictions and Bylaws.

GUIDELINES:

Watershed issues based on the Watershed and Lake Management Plan may need to be implemented first to ameliorate nutrient and/or sediment loading from further impairing the lake. Once these steps have begun or have been completed, restoration projects in the Lake Management Plan will have a better opportunity to be successful. Identify potential stakeholders. Stakeholders are not just the Lake Columbia Property Owners. The best lake management plans include all sorts of interests connected to a lake such as: township/county/state organizations, State of Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Drain Commission, River Raisin Watershed Council, other agencies, and agricultural interests in the watershed.

AUTHORITY:

The Board of Directors has established by resolution a Watershed and Lake Management Committee with oversight responsibilities as directed by the Charter or as additionally by the Board. The Charter is to be reviewed annually, and revised as necessary by the Committee, and presented to the Board, in response to the LCPOA needs.

REPORTING AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The Watershed and Lake Management Committee Chairperson shall report the Committee's activities to the Board each quarter and as needed as circumstances require. The Committee shall have prompt and unrestricted access to management and all relevant information and data.

COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF APPOINTMENT:

The Watershed and Lake Management Committee shall consist of a Board Member, designated as Chairperson, a second Board Member, designated as Board Liaison, and nine Committee Members in "Good Standing" (as defined in the LCPOA Bylaws) from each respective shore, approved by majority of a quorum of the Board. Committee Members may not participate in any more than two (2) Committees at a time. The appointed terms for the Committee Members will be for three-years, to coincide with the elections at the Annual Meeting in May, and staggered in the beginning so at least two Members carry over to the next election when a vacancy occurs to maintain continuity and fresh perspective. Quorum will require the attendance of six members (with call in/and or virtual being acceptable as present per LCPOA Bylaws). The non-voting Watershed and Lake Management Consultant shall be by three-year contract to maintain continuity. All Committee Members must sign the LCPOA Board and Committee Code of Conduct Policy.

MEETINGS:

The Watershed and Lake Management Committee shall meet at least once each quarter and additionally as circumstances require. The Chairperson will manage the meeting using the agenda and summary templates provided.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Watershed and Lake Management Committee shall be responsible for developing and overseeing the long-term and annual Watershed and Lake Management planning, recommending matters to the full Board. These matters shall include:

1. Keep the LCPOA Members and community informed and seek input. Written or oral surveys can be used to help identify what users consider to be problems. Seek information from various sources when gathering data to characterize the water body. Hold meetings at which information is gathered and answer questions. Solicit input from all your contacts.
2. Keep in touch with relevant agencies for information about any necessary applications, permits, zoning issues, to be used for a prerequisite for grant funding from natural resources agencies for a Watershed and Lake Management Plan.
3. Identify the problems. Assume that everyone's perception of a problem has merit. When a problem is identified, consider its impact, location, and timing, as well as known contributing factors.
4. Prioritize the problems. Recognizing that perhaps all problems can't be tackled at once.
5. Look for goals and actions related to the prioritized issues.
6. Choose site-specific goals and strategies that address those goals. There may be several ways to address a problem, but success usually comes from the most site-specific actions and problem-specific actions being performed.
7. Determine a timetable for the goals and actions, as well as how control actions will be measured. This should allow efforts and activities to be coordinated, especially in the instance of seasonal actions, such as fish stocking or chemical treatment of invasive plants, etc.
8. Determine leadership and fiscal responsibility. Dividing responsibilities, while having accountability, will increase chances of success.
9. Set methods and times for suggesting changes and modifying the plan as needed. Setting up a regular time for review (annual, bi-annual, etc.), as well as methods by which suggestions for change are made, will help ensure that results get reviewed in a timely manner.
10. Work closely with the Finance Committee to ensure financial planning supports Watershed and Lake Management Planning for operating budget and capital budget.
11. Estimate the economic costs. Enhance awareness of grants or other funding that may be available.
12. Investigating and recommending proactive measures, if necessary, regarding emerging problematic Watershed and Lake Management issues, that may come to the Committee's attention.
13. Coordinating with LCPOA Office Staff on all communications regarding Watershed and Lake Management.
14. Ensuring that the Board receives accurate and complete Watershed and Lake Management-related information.
15. Performing any other oversight function as requested by the LCPOA Board.
16. Consensus of the Committee making recommendations to the LCPOA Board.
17. All Committees receiving a copy of the LCPOA Deeded Restrictions and Bylaws for reference.

Dated: 8-23-2022