

## OUR OPINION:

As adopted at the May 22, 2014 HLA Board Meeting

### Background:

- The lake is healthy, with no evident problems.
- Fishing, boating, swimming, etc. are as good as ever.
- The only predictable complaints would be that several lake front owners find their dock surrounded by vegetation of some sort, not necessarily EWM. This is a condition which can be controlled by the dock owner.
- Some rake at their dock, some have used mats. See [www.lakemat.com](http://www.lakemat.com) In 2013, two owners pulled permits and had A&T Co. apply herbicide.
- We have had three full vegetation surveys, the last in 2013.
- We have had yearly water quality monitoring by WSCC at two sites, five months each year.
- Weevils have been planted since 2004.
- Those who spend many hours on the lake each year have an accurate knowledge of the vegetation conditions. We see where the vegetation is, the type, and concentration.
- In the years in which weevils have been planted, less than \$10,000/year (tax \$) has been spent.
- It would be easy to spend \$50 k/yr on a lake of similar size. (ref. Pleasant Lake, Washtenaw Co.)
- The literature on the weevil is mixed; effective on some lakes, not very effective on others. There are a number of variables. It would be faulty thinking to conclude “the weevils work”, or “the weevils don’t work”. It is irrelevant if the weevils “worked” on a Wisconsin lake, and “did not work” on a Minnesota lake. All that matters is: have the weevils worked on Hackert Lake ?
- In the opinion of Hackert Lake Association, the weevils have worked on Hackert Lake.
- The data from EnviroScience is supportive of our direct observation.
- Investigation into the world of herbicides opens up a whole new arena of debate.

Approximately \$14,000. is in the LIB account. It was appropriated primarily for weevils. Let’s spend it wisely.

### Suggestions:

1. Continue the annual water quality monitoring by WSCC. It is relatively cheap (\$500), credible, and would detect any harmful trend(s). The program is consistent with the standard.
2. Postpone any more “data gathering” for at least 2014, and 2015. It is not only expensive, but, for the most part, tells us what we can see with our own eyes. It is not justifiable to spend taxpayer money on consultants to tell us what we can see for ourselves. Expensive data gathering might be justified in the future if a perceived problem develops.
3. The LIB should invite experienced consultants such as Doug Pullman, Tony Groves, and Cortney Marquette of EnviroScience to present. Invite one or two experienced herbicide applicators to present. Mike McKinney of WSCC should be invited, or requested to submit a written description of the water quality monitoring program. There are a great many questions to be addressed regarding consultants, herbicide applicators, and an effective lake management program for Hackert Lake.
4. The LIB members should visit Hackert Lake at least one, or more, times this year to have a

personal knowledge of the lake.

5. If weevils are available, plant 5,000 in 2015, and 5,000 in 2016.
6. Continue to educate ourselves with lake management knowledge.
7. For now, “do nothing” is a viable option.