

The Eagle Lake Quality Committee Charter

Introduction

Eagle Lake located in Texas Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan is an approximately 250 acre all sports lake. The Eagle Lake Texas Association (ELTA) is comprised of many year-round and seasonal lake residents along with residents who have lake access. The purpose of the association is to protect and improve the environment of Eagle Lake.

Purpose

This charter creates a Lake Quality Committee for ELTA to study and assess the lake quality of Eagle Lake and provide recommendations to the ELTA board of directors on lake quality issues that affect lake residents. The Committee Membership is open and will consist of volunteers who are dues-paying members of ELTA. Scheduled meetings will be arranged by the committee chair who will be elected by the committee members.

Background

Because of the increased population growth around the lake and the recreational popularity of the lake, usage of and traffic on the lake has increased. Understanding the potential impact on lake quality that this growth entails, the goal of the committee is to provide recommendations to the ELTA board of directors that preserve and improve the environment of Eagle Lake for all users. The committee is aware that good lake quality is achieved and governed by consistent and well thought-out policies and innovative procedures that create an optimum and sustained environment for lake residents and recreational users.

Issues

The lake quality issues to be studied and assessed by the committee include concerns that are contained in three broad categories:

- Water quality issues – includes clarity, dissolved oxygen, e-coli, sediments, etc
- Navigation issues – includes lake level, sand bars, weeds, etc
- Nuisance species issues – includes Canadian geese, muskrats, snails, mold, algae, etc

Goals

The goals for the committee are to provide recommendations to the ELTA board of directors on how to implement sustainable yet cost effective actions that mitigate the issues documented above:

- Water quality – includes recommendations for achieving and maintaining a healthy environment including water purity, minimizing silt and sediment accumulation, e-coli prevention, etc
- Navigation – includes recommendations for achieving and maintaining a consistent lake level, controls for sand bars, and measures to remove weeds and lily pads, etc
- Nuisance species – includes recommendations for removal of unwanted animal species, control of desired animal species, lake treatments that control mold, algae and other bacteria, etc

The Eagle Lake Quality Committee Charter

Scope

To meet the above goals, the committee will include the following objectives in their deliberations for determining recommendations:

- Achieving a long-term focus – by creating and establishing a coherent strategy for the long-term with the goal of making the lake environment better for future generations
- Identifying short-term actions – by determining cost efficient actions that implement and fulfill the long-term strategy
- Providing education awareness – by determining activities that educate lake residents and lake users on preserving and maintaining lake quality
- Taking into account stakeholder concerns – by determining beneficial actions that benefit the majority of stakeholders, especially property owners and recreational users
- Taking into account health concerns – by developing overall actions that ensure a healthy lake environment for all users well into the future
- Taking into account environmental concerns – by complying with environmental regulations
- Taking into account regulatory concerns – by being aware of regulations and using state programs and assistance to achieve a better lake environment
- Taking into account safety concerns – by accounting for safety concerns of property owners and lake users as it impacts lake quality
- Applying relevant research – by evaluating successful activities of other lake associations and other relevant bodies for determining new potential programs, policies and procedures
- Creating assessments – by identifying and establishing baselines that can be utilized for monitoring and measuring lake quality
- Being mindful of cost – by identifying solutions that deliver the most bang for the buck, including potential financing options

Potential Solutions

The committee will research the viability of potential solution sets that meet the goals and objectives discussed above to improve lake quality. They may include but are not limited to the following:

- Regulations or guidelines – includes research and study for adoption of new or improved beneficial lake usage policies/procedures/practices
- Water treatment and maintenance – includes a review and study of usage of algaecides, contact herbicides, systemic herbicides, other chemicals, manual harvesting, etc
- Dredging – includes research and study into the feasibility of utilizing either mechanical or hydraulic (suction) dredging
- Aeration – includes research and study for feasibility of utilizing aeration techniques
- Sewage treatment – includes research and study into the potential for public sewage hook-up for septic tanks near the lake
- Lawn fertilization restrictions or advisories – includes research and study into the best methodology to stop unintentional polluting

The Eagle Lake Quality Committee Charter

Next Steps

To ensure that the committee fulfills its charter, the committee will follow the steps in the figure below to build and provide recommendations to the ELTA:

1. Identify issues – the committee will identify and monitor issues and concerns
2. Identify goals – the committee will identify and update goals as required
3. Review scope – the committee will be mindful of scope to ensure they remain within boundaries
4. Research solution sets – the committee will study and research feasibility and cost effectiveness of various solution sets that mitigate or resolve issues and concerns
5. Determine options – the committee will prioritize and rank the most optimum solution sets
6. Provide recommendations – the committee will document its work and present written recommendations to the ELTA Board

