

Update from the Dredging Committee July 25, 2015 11AM- 1:45PM

Many of you have seen the signs at the entrance to our community explaining silt build up in the lakes. The Lake Camelot Board paid \$16,000 last year to have a study done. The study revealed that our lakes have more than 51,000 cubic yards of silt that need to be removed. In response to this study, a committee to investigate dredging and erosion control was formed. On Saturday July 25, 2015, the dredging committee held its first formal meeting.

You may ask “why do we need to dredge?” The basic reasons are: 1) to retain the value of the lakes and the community. 2) dredging improves the safety of boaters navigating the lakes. 3) dredging removes sediment which promotes excessive algae growth. 4) dredging removes possible toxic ground contaminates. 5) dredging improves fish habitat and fish survivability by removing oxygen depleting weeds and algae.

Several members of the public were there to ask questions and express their concerns. As a result of that meeting, many questions were presented to the committee. They are as follows:

1. How close to the shoreline will the dredging go?

A: still being researched

2. Who decides which cove gets dredged first, or in what order?

A: the various government agencies will advise based on the 2014 study

3. What is the cost of dredging?

A: the committee has a lot of work to do before it knows the answer

4. Is erosion control a special assessment?

A: still being researched

5. Is the committee considering a silt pond by the water tower?

A: still being researched

6. Will dredging reduce the algae in the lakes?

A: yes, it will help the fish population also

7. Should the community use a special fertilizer (15-0-15) to reduce contaminants in the lake?

A: yes, we are learning that this is advisable, but we don't have final answer

8. Should the community use aerators on the lakes?

A: still being researched

9. Lots 638 and 637 silt – check dam?

A: still being researched

10. Will dredging destabilize community property?

A: still being researched

11. Will the dredging meetings be open to the community?

A: yes, and there will be updates on the website and the monthly newsletter

12. Does raising and lowering the water affect the silt in the lakes?

A: yes, research being done to determine if this can be done every other year

13. Would increased boat traffic on the upper lakes remove some of the traffic from the lower lake and would this contribute to erosion?

A: this committee is not investigating boats on the upper lake

14. Can the community be further education on erosion control in the bluebook (2020)?

A: a good way to educate the community

15. How will all the information be communicated?

A: By three methods: attending committee meetings, reading the posts on the website, and reading the inserts in the monthly newsletters

Many volunteers have already spent a number of hours in investigating this process, but unfortunately, all the answers to the above-listed questions are not known. First, we know that this process will take anywhere from two to five years because of the time required to accomplish all the goals. Second, we learned that in addition to the dredging, erosion control is an absolute must and must be addressed before we spend the time and money to dredge.

At this time, the committee is investigating the various types of dredging best suited for our lakes. The cost of this project is not going to be determined until all the agencies have been contacted and have told us what their requirements are. This process involves the Army Corps of Engineers, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the EPA, and Peoria County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Various committee members have contacted other lake communities to find out how often they dredge, the cost, and the process used by them. Some committee members have also had a meeting with the Peoria Soil and Water Conservation Division. This committee is moving methodically to gain all information available, so we make the best decision for our community. Our next steps are to further interview like lakes, interview dredging consultants, and continue to work with Peoria Soil and Water on erosion control.