

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

Updated Questions 8/20/15

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: The siltation survey we completed identifies how much silt has built up over the years. It also identifies where that silt is located. When we are ready, dredging companies will be asked to place bids based on which silt we identify as critical, and every attempt will be made to remove that silt. Limitations on how close to shore we can dredge will be based on ability of the dredging machines, available water depth, and dock structures.

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

A: At this time, our plan is to dredge every cove possible. Dredging order will have to be worked out with dredging companies because of equipment layout, distance silt will be

moved, time of year, depth of water etc.....The Hydrographic and Sediment Survey list areas in size of priority for both lakes. These are the sign at the both entrances.

3. What is the cost of dredging?

A: The actual cost of dredging our lakes will take a lot of planning to come up with specific numbers. Per the Illinois EPA website, hydraulic dredging averages between \$8 and \$15 a cubic yard, and mechanical averages between \$15 and \$30 a yard. This does not include site prep, silt storage, consulting and engineering costs. We are months away from identifying our actual costs.

4. Is erosion control a special assessment?

A: Part of the job of the committee is to identify which areas are causing erosion and siltation problems. Once identified, we will have to come up with necessary repairs and get bids on these projects. We are going to try to include these projects as part of the entire project, and decide how to pay for them after all data is brought to the board and a decision is made.

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

A: This will be one of our areas we will be investigating. Peoria Soil and Water had some suggestions on this area as a siltation catch area. It will be further investigated.

6. Will dredging reduce the algae in the lakes?

A: Dredging will help reduce algae in the lake by removing some of the fertile silt that is growing the algae. Dredging is one of many parts we are currently identifying to work on as a committee to increase water quality and reduce all types of algae and foreign materials.

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

A: Yes we have identified this as part of the equation to increase water quality. The committee will focus on numerous projects like fertilizer, goose poop, etc...and ultimately form a lake management plan.

8. Should the community use aerators on the lakes?

A: This is a project we will be investigating in time. We will need to work with consultants and biologist to identify water quality, oxygen content etc. This will help us determine if it is going to help or hinder water quality.

9. Lots 638 and 637 silt – check dam?

A: still being researched

10. Will dredging destabilize community property?

A: still being researched. We are looking at using professionals whose expertise is dredging so that all processes will be done correctly and safely.

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: We as a committee will be researching how it is affecting other lakes and bring those findings to the board to make decisions on raising and lowering the lakes.

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. We will be investigating building a lake management plan which many lakes already have. More to come soon.

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.