

*Citizens' Committee for Pike Bay Restoration
Chassell, MI 49916*

2016 Report on Pike Bay Remediation Work

1 December 2016

After about a year of planning and organization, a 5-year program was initiated in 2014 by Chassell Township to remove and gain subsequent control of the very serious infestation of Eurasian water milfoil in Pike Bay. The objective was, and continues to be, the restoration of the water body to a pristine condition where only the native vegetation species remain and a robust fishery is maintained. After three years of professional treatment with DEQ-approved herbicides it appears that some considerable success has been achieved. Based on the results of post-treatment surveys in 2016, virtually all of the existing milfoil has been eliminated.

The committee is optimistic that reasonable control will continue to be achieved. At the conclusion of the present program, the Pike Bay waterfront property owners will have assessed themselves the considerable sum of nearly \$100,000 for this effort. The experience accumulated from similar control programs in lakes throughout Michigan suggests that milfoil growth will almost certainly persist to some extent and will need to be dealt with on a continuing basis, albeit at a reduced level of treatment. Clearly, this contingency must be seriously considered and factored into all future Township planning.

We anticipate successful treatments in 2017 and 2018, at which time the present program will be completed. We are pleased to be able to give you this positive report on the work to date, with the sincere hope that we have at least "turned the corner" on this major problem for Pike Bay, our community's primary asset.

The Committee:

*Darrell Smith, Chair
Lloyd Heldt, Vice-Chair
Ed Glowacki
Doug Hamar
Ron Helman
Ryan Kuntze
Bill Leonard
Ross Rinkinen
Joe Youngman*