

New Lake Manager FAQ's

1. How many Lake Manager Candidates were interviewed for the LLPOA Lake Manager Position?

- The committee reviewed five lake management firms for this position: Aquatic Control, Barr Engineering, Kaiser & Associates, PLM Lake & Land Management, and Progressive Companies.

2. Why did we choose Aquatic Control and Barr Engineering to be our new Lake Management Team?

- From our very first conversation, Aquatic Control + Barr Engineering demonstrated a broader and deeper understanding of lake management than any other team we interviewed.
- While others focused narrowly on common carp and vegetation impacts, Aquatic Control expanded the discussion to the entire lake ecosystem — fish population dynamics, biodiversity, and how partnering together we can build a more resilient, balanced fishery over time.

1. What distinguishing qualifications, services, and capabilities do Aquatic Control and Barr Engineering offer compared to our previous provider?

- They translated complex lake science into language we could understand. They walked us through our historical data and clearly explained why past efforts — aeration, Bio-Blast, Timber Char — did not deliver the promised results. Their message was simple and powerful

2. What will Aquatic Control and Barr Engineering do differently to enhance water quality, including any new strategies, technologies, monitoring protocols, or management practices that will be implemented?

- In-water treatments alone are not enough. Real progress requires balancing internal management with controlling external nutrient inputs — storm water, tributaries, drain pipes, culverts, and septic systems.
- Most importantly, they advocated for a science-based foundation:
- *“The best first step for a lake experiencing algae issues is to develop a Nutrient Budget to fully understand the sources driving water quality impairment.”*
- Rather than offering quick fixes, they proposed assembling a custom team of specialists in watershed and nutrient management, water quality and harmful algal blooms, fisheries science, and aquatic vegetation management. This integrated expertise will allow us to evaluate past and current data and guide targeted, effective nutrient remediation.
- They have already shown a willingness to educate and partner with us — from simple at-home cyanobacteria jar tests to detailed discussions on phosphorus fractionation.
- By August, we will have a completed Nutrient Budget.
- For the first time, we will have data-driven, science-based answers identifying the exact sources fueling our algae blooms and murky green water — and a clear roadmap for fixing them.

3. What references were contacted for both Aquatic Control and Barr Engineering, and who did they talk to?

- Barr Engineering:
 - Indian Lake Association, Angelo Ippilito

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- Purgatory Bluff Creek, Terry Jeffery Riely
- Rice Creek Watershed District, Matt Kocian
- Aquatic Control:
 - Lake Santee, Gina Julien
 - Koontz Lake, Ron Milford

4. How many lakes does Aquatic Control and Barr Engineering currently manage in Michigan?

- Barr Engineering:
 - Joe Bischoff manages Indian Lake in Michigan and specializes in Nutrient Budgets and Lake Response Modeling to guide nutrient reduction strategies. He works across Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Colorado and has successfully helped remove lakes from the impaired waters list.
- Aquatic Control:
 - Aquatic Control does not currently manage any lakes in Michigan. They previously operated under a non-compete agreement limiting them to ponds in Michigan; that agreement has since expired. They have an established working relationship with EGLE through projects including Lake George (Indiana/Michigan) and pond management work within Michigan.

5. What is their direction on how much vegetation should remain in the lake to keep a balanced eco system?

- Recommendations vary by lake use, but for private lakes a minimum of 30% littoral coverage of native aquatic vegetation is typically advised to maintain ecological balance.

6. Timeline for the final Lake Response Model & 5-Year Implementation Plan

- The original timeline assumed a March 1 approval. If approved April 1, completion dates shift by approximately one month. This delay will allow for us to capture more summer data and strengthen the model before final conclusions for the 5-Year Implementation Plan.

7. Who is going to be our EutroSORB G applicator?

- PLM will continue to be our EutroSORB G applicator for 2026

8. Why are they only sampling 2 locations on each lake, what about the bays?

- Rather than sampling 10 locations three times per year, Barr recommends fewer sites sampled more frequently (5 times per season) to better understand growth-season dynamics and lake response to changing conditions.
- With regards to only 2 locations per basin limnologists traditionally focus on deep-water “anchor” sites because:
 - The surface layer is generally well-mixed in summer.
 - Deep-hole profiles provide the clearest picture of stratification, oxygen depletion, and phosphorus release.
 - These sites act as early indicators of overall lake health.

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- That does not exclude bays or coves. As data develops, specific problem areas can be targeted. A low-cost interim solution is to have volunteers collect Secchi readings in coves, allowing comparison to deep-water sites with minimal expense.

9. How many sampling events i.e. (April, July, September)?

- Five sampling events - May, June, July, August & September providing stronger seasonal coverage and a more robust dataset.

10. What are they sampling in the Main Lake?

- Secchi depth will be measured at each site.
- Vertical profiles at 1-meter intervals of: Dissolved Oxygen (DO), temperature, pH, conductivity, and phycocyanin.
- Surface water samples analyzed: Total Phosphorus (TP), Total Nitrogen (TN), Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) and Chlorophyll-a.
- Bottom water analyzed for: Total Phosphorus (TP) and Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP).

11. What are they sampling at the CSAs?

- We are proposing:
 - 10 locations total (8 CSAs + 2 dam outflows)
 - Sampled during 3 rain events (≥ 1 inch) between May–August
 - Conducted by MICORPs trained Lake LeAnn
 - Measurements include: Total Phosphorus (TP) and Flow Rate.