

VILLAGE OF PAW PAW

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Drawdown Permit #: 15-80-0005-P
Maple Lake Drawdown

Response: 3. The Village of Paw Paw shall submit a determination of coordinating a volunteer mussel rescue and relocation during Fall drawdowns.

The Village of Paw Paw takes seriously the concern of the MDEQ to rescue mussels that may be stranded in exposed shoreline during the fall drawdown. Therefore, in the first year, the Village will solicit and coordinate volunteers who will assist in the rescue effort by walking the shoreline during the drawdown looking for mussels and throwing them into deeper water.

The Village will make effort to recruit volunteers from the following:

- General Appeal
- Riparian Property Owners
- Two Rivers Coalition
- Van Buren Conservation District
- PNC Community Service Days
- Maple Lake Association
- Natural Resources and Environment Committee
- Bethany Christian Services and Van Buren County Juvenile Services
- Ackley Lake Association

The individual and general appeal will be made to each individuals and groups above. In particular the effort will include the following:

General Appeal. The Village posted an appeal on the Village's Facebook page, the Village's website and in the Village's "Did You Know" news publication. The message – "The winter drawdown for Maple Lake will begin October 5, 2015. The drawdown also lowers the Ackley Lake. Please spread the word to your neighbors. As the lake is drawdown, turtles and frogs and other will find new places to hibernate. Clams (mussels) cannot move in time and need your help. Please volunteer to walk lake shoreline and rescue clams (mussels). If you find any, please throw them into deep water. Thank you and we thank you."

Further, the verbal general appeal was made at Village Council meetings in September.

Riparian Property Owners. The Village has a few direct contacts to Maple Lake riparian property owners. Direct appeals were made to them via email. All were advised of the drawdown starting date and made an appeal for help in rescuing clams (mussels). This appeal asked the

property owner to patrol their own shoreline rescuing mussels. The Message – “HELP: As the lake level lowers, please walk your shoreline and look for clams (mussels). Frogs, turtles and the like will find deeper water before hibernating. Clams cannot. If you find any, please throw them into deep water. Thank you.”

Two Rivers Coalition, Van Buren Conservation District, PNC Bank (Community Service Days), Maple Lake Association and Paw Paw’s Natural Resources and Environment Committee. All were advised of the drawdown starting date and made an appeal for help in rescuing clams (mussels). “HELP: As the lake level lowers, please walk your shoreline and look for clams (mussels). Frogs, turtles and the like will find deeper water before hibernating. Clams cannot. If you find any, please throw them into deep water. Thank you.”

Bethany Christian Services and Van Buren County Juvenile Court Services. These groups work together and regularly provide persons for a variety of Village projects. As the drawdown occurs, persons from these groups will be walking the shoreline to rescue mussels.

Ackley Lake Association. We have been advised the Ackley Lake Association has no mail box for direct contact. However, we have advised Ackley Lake Association members associated with the leadership of the association. The message to these persons was the same.

Village Department of Public Service Employees. The Village is committing its paid staff to walk shorelines during work day hours of the fall drawdown.

While these efforts are feasible the outcomes can only be determined after the fact.

This volunteer effort will be evaluated after year one.

Larry Nielsen, Manager
Village of Paw Paw