

Draft - Regular Meeting of the Five Lakes Association Board of Directors  
October 11, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Five Lakes Association was held at the Farwell Middle School Library/Media Center, 500 E. Ohio Street, Farwell, MI on October 11, 2010. The meeting was called to order by President Dave Southworth at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken:

**Board members present:** President Dave Southworth, Vice-President Cory Gingery, Secretary Chris Butche and Area Representatives, Steve Cohoon, Dick Haynack, and Dave Peterson.

**Board members absent:** Treasurer Karen Wittich and Area Representatives Tim O'Neal and Bob Jeffords.

**Association members present:** Peggy Connelly, Dan Connelly, Pam Cohoon, Ralph Greenfield, Mike Vitale, Mary Vitale, Tom Meskill, and Ed Haynack

President Southworth stated there would be an opportunity for audience comments at the end of the business meeting.

**Minutes:** Secretary Butche presented the minutes from the September Board meeting. Dick Haynack motioned and Cory Gingery seconded the minutes be approved. Motion carried with a 6 Yes, 0 No Board vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Wittich was absent. President Southworth distributed the Treasurers report and asked for comments. Dick Haynack asked for clarification for spending on attorney fees. President Southworth stated those costs are not shown on the statement and a payment schedule has been worked out over a 6 month period of time. Haynack and Steve Cohoon asked for the cost. President Southworth stated he was not sure of the cost but estimated \$18,000 - \$22,000. The last payment was \$2400.08 as shown on the report. Treasurer Wittich has the data for total attorney fees. Steve Cohoon motioned and Dick Haynack seconded the approval of the Treasurers report – motion carried with a 6 Yes, 0 No Board vote.

**Committee Reports:**

**Tim O'Neal (Weed Control, Landscape Maintenance and Dam Management):** Tim O'Neal was absent, no report.

**Area Reports:**

Area S – Dave Peterson: Nothing to report.

Five Lakes Drive – Bob Jeffords: Absent, No report

Peninsular Drive – Dick Haynack: Discussion on a flower bed and fence, located on the road right of way, was encumbering the delivery of mail. The Post Office required movement of the mailbox or mail delivery would be curtailed. The flower box and fence has subsequently been removed. Although, a rock has now been placed in the location of the flower box, which could cause the mail driver to hit the rock. Dick informed the mail person of the rock. Since the homeowner has left for the winter, no mail will be delivered; the issue will be played out next spring.

White Birch Drive – Steve Cohoon: Nothing to report.

Pebble Creek & Deep Woods – Tim O’Neal: Absent, No report.

#### **Action Items:**

1. President Southworth stated he will go door to door with Karen Wittich, asking for payment of delinquent dues, per Karen’s request. Treasure Wittich will move forward with court papers for those Association members who do not comply.
2. Lake Board benefits – Dave Southworth noted he has had discussion with Dan Dysinger and has plans for a meeting with experienced Township Supervisors (ex. Lake Lansing) regarding this issue. To date, he has learned Lake Board participation hinges on a 3 tier Township tax – Lake Owner, back lot and immediate area. President Southworth will ask another board member to participate in the Lake Board discussion with expectations to present the information to the Board and Association membership in April/May of next year. Dick Haynack asked who manages lake business in a Lake Board association. President Southworth stated it appears the Lake Board would consist of Dan Dysinger (Grant Township supervisor), Drain Commissioner and 1 or 2 people from the immediate area and 1 or 2 people from the lake although the 5 Lake Board would stay intact. The Lake Board would be responsible for weed control, silt trap maintenance – the tax would pay those expenses. President Southworth stated, with just preliminary meetings one point is certain; we should not relinquish control of weed control and/or other lake maintenance processes. Potentially we could make this a topic at the annual meeting.
3. Silt Trap – Cory Gingery stated there is nothing to report at this time.
4. Swim area buoys - Cory Gingery stated there is nothing to report at this time.
5. Savin fall treatment confirmation / spring treatment variance – Although Tim O’Neal was absent, Steve Cohoon stated the weeds are dying therefore fall treatment is confirmed. Spring treatment variance requires pictures of loons off the nest; variance request must wait until that time.
6. Pebble Creek back lot shed – Ray Brusseau check this item. President Southworth talked with the Assessor and discovered Robert Luster owns the Pebble Creek house and the back lot adjacent to the house; the shed appears to be legal.
7. Recycling meeting follow-up – President Southworth participated in the Grant Township meeting noting the Associations September discussions concerning recycling and yard waste disposal. Dan Dysinger penned a letter addressing yard waste disposal – letter is attached to the minutes. In summary, the cost of creating a Township compost site is prohibitive, alternatives for individual yard waste disposal was documented in

the letter. Also attached to the minutes is a letter from the DEQ with frequently asked questions for yard waste disposal. Dick Haynak commented yard waste disposal is the homeowner's responsibility, not the responsibility of the Association.

8. Date for newsletter article submittal – Secretary Butche stated in order for a mid-November publication, MMI needs a week for printing, folding and mailing the newsletter. In order to have time to compile the articles and advertising, Chris would like to have the articles submitted by October 24<sup>th</sup>. Secretary Butche also noted the Association Directory needs to be completed by December 15<sup>th</sup>. But, in order to have an accurate mailing list for the newsletter, the current directory needs to be updated prior to the mid-November time frame. Chris has updated the directory with all information available and will distribute the list to the Board and Area Representative for their review and additional updates. Chris asked about advertising for the newsletter, President Southworth stated current advertisers paid for both spring and fall publications. There are two additional businesses interested in advertising – Conlay's Power Washing, Chris will contact and Longmeyer (sp?) Plumbing and Heating, Dave will contact. Secretary Butche also asked Tom Meskill to post a notification on the Web Site soliciting newsletter article submittal from Association members. Chris motioned and Haynak seconded a motion to post the request for article submission on the website, motion carried 6 Yes, 0 No.
9. Association member letters from lily pad bay - President Southworth either called or met personally with each of the Association members who submitted letters, thanking them for their interest and updating status.
10. Recommendation to modify the Constitution to allow absentee ballots – This item must be tabled until 2011. President Southworth stated we need to discuss all aspects of a potential change in the Five Lakes Constitution such as the cost of an implementing an amendment to our constitution, supervising the voting event, process, procedure, if legal assistance is needed. Steve Cohoon stated there is probably a procedure defined in the constitution for change. Group discussion followed, supporting a review of the Constitution to discover process for updates.
11. Draft of current month minutes on the web site – Secretary Butche stated this has been complete for September and process will be followed for all subsequent months.
12. Constitution and By-Laws published on Web Site – Secretary Butche stated this is complete.

#### **New Business:**

1. Cory Gingery recommended a kids fishing tournament on the lake. This would be a Saturday morning event, catch and release and picnic. Cory has and will continue to contact local businesses for donation of prizes. Dates being considered are either Fathers Day or the week after which is free fishing weekend. Prizes for largest fish of each species and other events will be considered. Volunteers would be needed to help with fishing event and picnic. Peggy Connelly suggested some homeowners may want to volunteer their docks for back lot kids to fish, Southworth also noted some homeowners may volunteer to take groups of kids out on their pontoons. Pam Cohoon noted each

kid will need adult supervision and potentially some Association Members would volunteer to supervise a group of kids. President Southworth solicited the groups comments around opening up the event to non-5 lake residents, group discussion leaned towards 5 lake residents only at this time. Peggy Connelly suggested this event be posted on the web site which could lead to some Association members making a donation to the event. Pam Cohoon stated this event could be used to document fish species (census) if kids documented their catch. President Southworth asked for clarification of “children” eligible for the event. Cory stated that Association member children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren up to the age of 16 should be eligible. Steve Cohoon asked if we need to establish a budget for this event. Cory stated it was not necessary, it is expected to be funded by donations. President Southworth asked for names of donators to be published on the website for recognition. Dick Haynak motioned and Chris Butche seconded the approval of a Kid’s Fish Event, motion passed 6 Yes, 0 No. Cory will establish the date and get the wheels in motion. Cory will have information available for publication in fall newsletter.

2. Dick Haynak stated it is his opinion there is a problem with the fish in the lake, there aren’t as many and they are not as big as previous years. This statement prompted significant group discussion. Dick suggested pursuing planting some species of fish in the lake, which he believes was an agreement when the public landing land was donated to the DNR. President Southworth asks the group what kind of fish we would request to be stocked in the lake if funding was found – suggestions included: hybrid blue gills, small mouth bass (help with Cray fish population), and channel cat. Peggy Connelly stated some of the other lakes in the area ask for donations for lake stocking, as well as other categories, on their yearly dues invoices. Cory stated 8 point lake does this and the DNR will match the funds. Ralph Greenfield asks if we know why the fishing has deteriorated and if this is a critical problem or just a concern. Cory stated currently, we don’t know the degree of the problem. A DNR census could answer the question but, funds are not available. Both Dick and Cory agreed the bluegill growth is probably stunted. Steve Cohoon shared a personnel experience with a private lake where the bluegill were stunted due to lack of substantial food. To counter act that problem, striped bass were introduced to the lake to reduce the bluegill population. Tom Meskill asked if there is documentation of the DNR’s commitments due to the public landing. President Southworth stated there was none he was aware of. Steve Cohoon volunteered to talk to the DNR about the fish population and the possibilities of a census or a resolution to the concern over stunted growth of our fish, Cory Gingery to support.

#### **Audience Participation:**

- Peggy Connelly volunteered to write a straw man document for the proposed modification to the Constitution allowing absentee ballots. President Southworth stated this was a good idea but the cost of the change must also be considered. Ralph Greenfield read Article 7 of the Constitution which outlines the process for Constitution change. This clarified the process and answered an earlier question about legal support.

- Pam Cohoon asked if there was resolution at the Grant Township meeting about the recycling truck leaving early. President Southworth stated the item was addressed by dropping off a trailer at the Grant Township Hall site.
- Pam Cohoon asked if the Dysinger letter could be published on the site, Chris will follow up with scanning.
- Dick Haynak asked the website address be added to the Directory cover. Great idea, Chris to document.

Adjournment:

President Southworth asked for a motion to adjourn, Dick Haynack motioned and Chris Butche seconded. Motion passed – meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

Submitted by  
Chris Butche, Secretary

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