

Regular Meeting of the Five Lakes Association Board of Directors  
August 8, 2011

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 August 8, 2011. The meeting was called to order by President Dave Southworth at 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken:

**Board members present:** President Dave Southworth, Vice-President Cory Gingery, Treasurer Steve Cohoon, Secretary Chris Butche and Area Representatives, Dick Haynack, Bob Chamberlain, Frank Oles, Tim O'Neal and Ralph Greenfield.

**Board members absent:** None

**Association members present:** Pam Cohoon, Tom Meskill

**Minutes:** June minutes were distributed to all Board members, no corrections/changes – Dick Haynack motioned and Bob Chamberlain seconded to approve the June minutes – motion passes 9 Yes, 0 No.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Cohoon reviewed the proposal for the 2011-2012 budget. There was some discussion of carryover items – no significant changes. It was questioned if Dam inspection should be carried in this year's budget or next. Since Dam inspection is in the in Spring, the cost must be covered in this year's budget (\$700). Silt trap discussion - the Board agreed the picnic area silt trap must be cleaned (\$2500). The North end trap is completed, but Dr. Lang has requested that we hold on to the \$1400 allowed for grading and gravel of the roadway through his property, be held for a year. The excavator said that it may be better to leave the roadway as it is to hold the soil in place. Should there be excessive runoff next spring, then Dr. Lang would like that money available to him so that he could grade and gravel at that time. The Board agreed with Dr. Lang's suggestion. Steve summarized the budget discussion; we have an income of \$17,650 and expenditures of \$21,685 leaving us a deficit of \$4231. There is money in the General Fund available if necessary, however, if we don't need to spend \$1400 on Dr. Lang, that money will be available. Also, we will have received some of the dues for the following year before some of this year's projects need to be paid for, so we may not need to dip into the General Fund. Next year's budget will not include some of the higher priced projects (East silt trap cleaning, dam inspection). Tim O'Neal moved and Cory Gingery seconded to approve the Treasurers report – Motion passed 9 Yes, 0 No. Frank Oles moved and Cory Gingery seconded to have Steve write a letter to Dr. Lang holding the \$1400 in this year's budget for potential road work on his property. Motion carried 9 Yes, 0 No.

**Area Reports:**

**Bob Chamberlain:** Bob stated, at the annual meeting, there were questions regarding the Area Representative voting process – why are all residents allowed to vote for all Area Reps vs. just the Representative for their area? The Board stated it has been that way as long as can be remembered. Steve led some discussion questioning this past practice – example State Senators are voted by State, not nation. Tim noted the responsibilities of the Representatives were to represent the entire lake not

just of those from their specific area including potential special interests. Dave agreed the topic needs additional discussion but since we are two years away from Area Representative votes, the topic should be discussed at a later date.

**Ralph Greenfield:** Ralph noted John Wenger's house is in process of being foreclosed and he is cutting grass to keep it presentable. Another house in his area is also in need of lawn care but because of the slope of the lot, it is too difficult for Ralph to cut. Ralph has been trying to contact the owner through the directory information but has been unable to contact. Ralph will take the lead in finding volunteers with weed whackers to tend this lawn. Some discussion as to whether the Area Representatives should take the lead in getting volunteers to maintain lawns in with similar situations – there wasn't Board support. The Board did support a letter to be sent to the homeowner of record requiring them to maintain their property. There was group discussion around charging the homeowner/maintenance company for lawn care but, we have no legal right to enforce.

**Dick Haynack:** A request for a fence was approved at Henk house. The son of the owner of the home is now living there. The property owner has asked the Board to provide a dumping ground for the accumulation of debris from his lakefront. The Board is not responsible for this issue but, Cory has assisted the owner in finding a solution.

**Tim O'Neal:** New property owners – Paul and Jan Campbell.

**Frank Oles:** Deferred topic on power boat problems.

#### **New Business:**

**Tim O'Neal - Weed Report:** Tim and Cory toured the lake and found the last weed treatment was effective in some areas and some not. Tim contacted Savin to question him on the issue. Again, there was significant discussion on the appropriate chemical usage, cost of treatment and satisfaction with Savin's service. Tim suggested having the board meet with Guy Savin allowing their opinions to be voiced and questions answered.

Dave read a letter he had written to Savin regarding a post June 17/July13 lake survey completed by himself, Tim and Cory. The letter asked Savin to supply information regarding the chemical cocktail utilized and plan to appropriately treat areas noted on the lake grid map. Savin stated he didn't receive the letter, Dave e-mailed it again today.

The group discussed having an engineering consulting Service visit the lake to prepare a treatment and contract proposal as well as continuing with finding an alternative lake treatment service provider, some have which already been contacted with preliminary lake evaluations (Lake Management Services). Ralph asked about Lake Management Services and the process they would utilize to evaluate the lake and thereby the treatment plan. Cory stated, after talking to other lake Presidents, Lake Management does water sampling, utilize fishery biologist and other tools to evaluate the lake. Ralph also asked about appropriate measures to resolve excessive muck in the lake, for example aeration. The group commented aeration is not a proven method for elimination of muck, nor has a pellet method been effective, possibly dredging is the only method of resolution.

Frank asked when our contract with Savin would be complete – next year. He noted now is the time to gather our information, become educated, enabling us to write the specifications for what we want our

lake to look like in preparation of the bidding process. He also noted Savin is the 3<sup>rd</sup> service provider utilized on the lake and all contracts have ended in the same manner, sour faces. We must accept that some of the lake issues are here to stay, but need to be properly managed.

Chris stated as we move forward, we need metrics on the health of the lake so we know if the right things are being done and the health of the lake is improving (ex. Oxygen levels). We have had nothing with Savin. Frank cautioned the group on micro management of the lake.

The Board agreed we'd like to have an engineering (Lake Shore Environmental) service speak vs. only lake service (seller of chemicals) address the Board. Dave will make the contact with Lake Shore Environmental to address the group prior to lake treatment services representatives scheduled as subsequent meetings, including Savin. He will try and schedule the meeting with Lake Shore on the 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> of September.

Dave stated the Board will have discussion at the October meeting relative to the preparation of a bidding process. He also stated Savin is willing to back out of the 2012 contract. Frank asked if we could find appropriate lake service providers in time for 2012 treatments if we severed the contract with Savin. Dave stated Profession Lake Services could provide services within the lake budget in that time frame. Frank noted we need to have a proper bidding process. Tim noted we may not have the option; Savin may back out of the contract. Steve commented the Service providers must tell us what the cost of their treatment plan vs. us telling the Service provider our budgeted dollars. Again Tim asked for the Board to meet with Savin. There wasn't any interest from the Board in meeting with Savin until we understand the current status of the lake and can ask him to develop a lake treatment plan.

Following much discussion of our perception of the lake health, in summary, the Board agreed to obtain measureable information on the health of the lake, beginning with a presentation with Lake Shore Environmental in mid September. Subsequent to that meeting, other Lake Service companies will make presentations to the Board (October) followed by a plan for lake treatment bidding next year.

#### **New Business:**

1. Power Boat predicament: Cory stated we had a near fatal incident and an incident with a Yamaha jet boat driven by impaired college age men/women coming too close to docks, making donuts and driving recklessly. The parent was confronted by an association member and she was upset the Sherriff was called vs. a courtesy call to her. Cory has since had conversations with the DNR to determine the appropriate method to handle these incidents, they are as follows:
  - If alcohol is involved, immediately call the Sherriff / DNR. Document the incident including the boat license number.
  - If alcohol is not involved, try and handle the situation through conversations with the individual(S). If there is no response, call the DNR, again with information including the boat license number.

There was group discussion about the role of Association Members relative to these types of incidents, in the end, it was determined the above process should be followed, including proper documentation of the incident. Chris will post have the above information posted on the Website and the Spring Newsletter.

Frank Oles reviewed another reckless boating incident where a boat came too close to some kayakers. As a result of this incident, an Association Member has asked the Board to purchase a buoy to place 100 feet out from her sea wall. To do this, the Board would have to ask Grant Township to have an election to approve the purchase/placement of the buoy. Currently, this Association member has her home up for sale. If the house is sold and the new homeowners take exception to the buoy, the Board would once again have to ask the Township to have a special election to remove the buoy. Frank put forth a motion to move forward with the purchase/placement of the buoy. Dave asked if the State would allow us to place a buoy in that location. Frank stated yes, but, after going through the above, the State would also have to inspect the buoy and the placement of the buoy. Frank also cited a recent incident where the Sherriff was on the lake and watched boats encroach the 100 ft. rule and nothing was done. Dick commented there was a motion on the floor, there was no second – motion died.

2. Fall Newsletter: Chris stated she would like an article from each Area Representative as well as financial report – please submit by the end of October. She also asked each Area Representative and Board member to help find advertisers for our Newsletter. The price is \$25.00 which covers both Spring and Fall publications. We only need a copy of their business card or contact information to be published, again by the end of October.
3. Kids Fish Tournament: Cory stated the Tournament is set for September 3. The kids should just start fishing at 7:00 and meet after 11:00 at the Picnic Area with results. It is a catch and release tournament but fish can be kept if legal size. Cory has arranged for prizes working on burgers and dogs.

#### **Audience Comments:**

**Pam Cohoon** asked, since we are getting lake treatment recommendations from other lake services, shouldn't we also ask Savin to discuss his recommendations, without our input. This may help with our relationship with Savin.

**Steve Cohoon** asked Cory if he would provide the paint for the 5 Lake Signs, he would get someone to paint the signs (Pam).

**Tom Meskill** supported the discussion on not providing budget allowances for lake services and allowing them to define their costs, this would be good information for future Grant writing. Tom also stated we had a Web incident; a stranger would create an account and send messages – some for advertising. Tom has modified the site requiring new accounts to be authorized by Area Reps. Chris asked if we track Web hits – Tom stated we have between 20–100 per day, some could be from search engines. Cory asked for his phone number to be updated on the Site, Chris will send that info to Tom. Chris also asked the Board if they'd like their e-mails on the site – NO.

Adjournment:

President Southworth asked for a motion to adjourn, Cory motioned and Dick seconded. Motion passed – meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Submitted by

Chris Butche, Secretary