

Regular Meeting of the Five Lakes Association Board of Directors  
September 12, 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 September 12, 2011. 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, 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, John Zomer, Rich Henk, Don Dysinger, Ray Brusseau, Vito Marinello, Mary Vitale, Mike Vitale, Onita Oles.

**Minutes:** August minutes were distributed to all Board members. Steve Cohoon noted some changes to the Treasurers report:

- Letter to Dr. Lang will be re-written stating \$1400.00 will be held, pending the decision to grade and gravel his driveway, post the spring rains. If the work is not required, the money will not be spent. Letter is attached.
- Because the the \$1400.00 is not being spent in this years budget, our deficit is reduced to approximately \$2800.00. With the additional and timing of dues collection, general fund spending will not be required to cover the deficit. .

Dick Haynack motioned and Cory Gingery seconded to approve the August minutes, with the Treasurer Report corrections. – motion passes 9 Yes, 0 No.

The Special Board minutes of Aug. 22, 2011 were not complete. Those will be distributed for approval at the October meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Steve reported income of \$555.00 in dues/ fines and \$25.00 in advertising and expenses of \$20.00 for Non-Profit Licensing, \$300.00 lawn maintenance and \$21.19 in office expenditures. He also noted the CD automatically renewed @ \$3047.97 and a reminder letter will be sent out this week to the 26 households delinquent in due payment. Dave asked about the status of a homeowner east of Peninsular Drive, asking Steve to determine status at the next meeting for discussion on legal pursuit of dues collection. Tim O'Neal moved and Ralph Greenfield seconded to approve the Treasurers report – Motion passed 9 Yes, 0 No.

**President Report:**

Savin: Dave summarized the August meeting discussion regarding Savin Lake Service and the approved motion to sever the contract with Savin. Based on that decision, Dave drafted a termination letter for Savin with the intent to present the letter to Savin, supported by Tim O'Neal. Tim was not able to make the meeting so, Dave met with Savin and his Operations Manager. Savin misinterpreted the intent of the meeting, thinking it was an opportunity to meet with the Board to resolve our issues. Dave informed Savin the Board met on August 22nd and agreed to immediately terminate the contract. Dave read the letter to Savin (attached). Savin, Tim and Dave signed all three copies of the letter.

Loons: It was reported 2 young girls were harassing the loons on their jet skis. Jason McCullough,

DNR, was contacted and copies of homeowners statements were submitted. Jason informed Dave a warrant has been issued for the girls to appear before the Magistrate. Jason had spoken to the parents and they were appalled and accepting for what was happened.

**Area Reports:**

**Bob Chamberlain:** Bob stated, he has had conversations with many of the people in his area and no one has a problem with the status of weeds on the lake. He did note there are not alot of fisherman in his area.

**Frank Oles:** Frank stated we have an agreement with Dave Peterson on the construction of his boat house, work has already started.

**Dick Haynack:** Dick had a call regarding the crop duster. Rich Henk stated the planes are out of Ionia and are contracted by the farmers for the week. He noted the planes crossed a small portion of the lake, so he called the airport and they stated there were no restrictions, the planes could fly as low as necessary. Cory also stated there was fire rescue training at the airport this week as well.

**Tim O'Neal:** Nothing to report.

**Ralph Greenfield:** Discussed building approval form from John Zomer - garage, asked the Board to contact him and set a time to review the location for approval. Frank asked Zomer to sign the approval form. Zomer stated he had a problem with the approval process; as long as he meets the criteria, why does he have to have board approval, since the Board members are not builders, and be present for questions during the review process? Dave stated the building approval is a necessary process to enforce the convents, as long as the building proposal is documented and signed, the requester doesn't have to be present.

**New Business:**

Enviroscience - Enviroscience is scheduled to address the Board in October, they are the mid-west experts at utilizing weevils to control Eurasian milfoil. Dave asked if we should continue with the current schedule for the presentation or postpone until Spring, based on our current progress in reviewing lake management services. Bob Chamberlain stated our last presenter (excellent credentials) did not believe weevils were an appropriate tool at controlling milfoil and we should acquiesce to his position. Dave stated Enviroscience would review their successes at other lakes. Chris agreed with Bob, stating at this point, we don't have a firm understanding of the type of milfoil we're dealing with. She also stated if we postpone the presentation, we may consider the weevils as an a tool to curb weeds, not the all encompassing treatment plan. The Board agreed to postpone Enviroscience until spring.

Presentation: BreAnne Grabill, Nothern Michigan Manager for Lake Management Services

- Presentation is on separate attachment.
- Board questions of Brea:
  - Ralph Greenfield asked Brea to clarify the water quality measurements: Brea explained a typical program relies on 3 samples per year. The spring/fall sample evaluates nutrients on the surface of the lake measuring phosphorus and nitrogen. There is a full profile done at the deepest portion of the lake, to the bottom, measuring PH, alkaline, temperature and oxygen. Ralph asked, because we have a very shallow lake, should we take multiple samples? Brea stated multiple sites could be tested if necessary but, the deepest area allows standardize testing and testing below the thermocline for the fall sampling. Summer testing includes ecoli sampling in three areas of the lake.
  - Ralph asked about the rotten egg odor we've been smelling right now - Brea stated it is probably just the lake turning over.
  - Ralph asked how muck is formed. Brea explained the lake constantly is being filled with

leaves and trees, as they decompose, the muck is formed. Muck typically forms first in the shallow areas with less activity, the more activity, the less muck. Muck will naturally break down but, as we put nutrients in the lake and have excessive leaves/trees decompose, smaller lakes can't keep up with the natural break down process so, we end up with muck. There are different types of muck, treatment methods are based on the type or the amount of organics in the muck. Ralph asked about treatment methods, besides increased activity. Brea stated you should first work with your watershed to decrease the amount of nutrients your allowing in the lake. Also, homeowners should rake their beach areas of leaves and not throw dog droppings into the lake. There is an enzyme based pellet homeowners can purchase to for a localized option, although it is very expensive.

- Bob Chamberlain thanked Brea for her very professional presentation. He also stated a previous presenter wasn't confident we had Eurasian milfoil and asked Brea to clarify her positive identification of Eurasian milfoil. Brea explained genetic testing at Grand Valley State would be required to be 100% confident. She stated most of what she saw was variable leaf milfoil (native) but was confident we have some Eurasian/hybrid in the lake. Although we have the native version, it is invasive and needs to be treated.
- Bob asked about the fishing at Torch lake. Brea stated the lake was oligotrophic, or clear/lacking plant life. Although she hasn't fished at Torch, she hears the fishing is terrific, and that different fish species survive in different kinds of lake.
- Frank reiterated the problem of this week, lake odor. He also stated there was a brownish cast to the lake 4-5 inches into the water column. If this water was agitated, it immediately emulsified. After about 3-4 hours, the lake turned a green/blue color. He asked Brea to elaborate. Brea stated she's never experienced that severe of a odor or color change. With out a sample to evaluate algae or nutrient content, she would attribute the incident to the lake turning over.
- Chris questioned having the ability to maintain a specific fish habitat in the lake. Brea stated the first thing we need to do is get rid of the plants we don't want in the lake (milfoil). If we keep localized habitats with additional plants, we run the risk of spreading those plants through out the lake with boat traffic. Let the native plants grow back in the lake.
- Audience Questions of Brea:
  - Ray Brussea asked if we could introduce new "good" plants in the lake as our native plants come back. Brea stated the seed bank is in the lake, we just need to give it a chance to let it grow. Ray asked how long it would take our lake to come back. Brea stated if we get started next year, within a "couple years" we would need to treat the lake less.
  - Onita Oles stated we can't entirely control the watershed (ex. road drainage) . Our attempt to reduce the amount of silt flowing into the lake is the construction of silt traps. Onita asked how we could go about controlling the watershed, above earlier stated homeowner responsibilities, including watershed grants. Brea stated there are other opportunities including silt trap fencing, agriculture conversations to reduce impact of chemicals used (phosphorus fertilizer has now been banned in Michigan), involvement of back lot owners, and there is additional information she can provide upon request.
  - Vito Marinello commented on the muck and weeds at his shore line, and an example of a positive use of weevils.
  - Ralph reference Brea's presentation and the identification of plants in the lake. He noted her example of Eurasian milfoil as the only exotic plant and asked if this is the only plant we need to control. Brea stated the Eurasian is the exotic plant but we do have native variable leaf milfoil which is invasive and needs to be controlled. At this time, those are the only two requiring control.

- Mike Vitale asked if Brea is recommending a spot spray vs. an general spray of the lake - Brea stated yes, spot spray.
- Onita Oles asked if the loose milfoil floating on the lake now is going to deposit across the lake causing a new crop next year. Brea stated yes, which complicates weed management of the lake. Onita asked if underwater cameras are used - Brea stated not at this time.
- Rich Henk noted we have treated for Eurasian milfoil in the past, were we using the wrong treatment plan since we still have a problem? Brea stated the mifoil can not be totally eradicated but she is confident her plan can control our problem. She can't evaluate previous treatment plans.
- Dave asked about if over use of copper sulfate impacts fishing?. Brea stated its typically not an issue. Since copper naturally occurs, it's difficult to determine what is natural vs. what has been introduced.
- Pam Cohoon asked if the lake has to be at a certain temperature for treatment. Brea stated the lake has to be over 55 degrees, and of course the loons must be off the nests.
- Frank Oles asked if Brea's treatment plan would cause an increase/decrease in zebra mussels. Brea stated there is an increase of lake weeds within a year or two of the introduction of zebra mussels. Also, the zebra mussels eat the good algae. She stated with in 5 years she expects there to be approved treatments for zebra mussels. She explained zebra mussels have a 7 year cycle - they peak then deteriorate for 7 years then peak again.
- Cory asked if rusty crayfish are they in the area? Brea hasn't seen them.
- Ralph Greenfield asked Brea's opinion on aeration. Brea stated aeration can be used as a muck inhibitor (optimally in channels) but not to control weeds. Ralph stated his research shows aeration is a muck control tool for deep water, he asked Brea if she has any knowledge of solutions for shallow water. She stated if we were considering aeration for muck control, she would suggest we wait a year and test our lake and shore line oxygen levels. With that information (study), a treatment plan would be identified if necessary - maybe aeration or pellets.
- Onita Oles noted some property owners have minimized weeds and muck my adding sand at their shoreline, is this a viable option? Brea stated it is illegal to add sand to a lake with out permits. By adding sand, the property owner is manipulating the lake, the muck will land somewhere else in the lake.

Dave asked for a motion to have Brea develop a budget for a lake treatment plan. Chris motioned, Cory seconded - motion passed 9 Yes, 0 No. Dave asked Brea to deliver the budget to Tim O'Neal, prior to the October meeting. She did clarify her plan may need to be modified next spring due to the fact she will base her budget on the lakes current state, which may be impacted by the last treatment.

#### Audiance comments:

- Onita Oles asked if bids were being solicited by other lake service providers. Dave stated the Board will be developing a bid request document at the October meeting.
- Rich Henk asked how much it costs to dredge Surrey Lake. Dave stated last he heard it was around \$975,000. This was accomplished with a 7 year note, spreading the cost to the home owners to about \$3000 - \$4000/year.
- John Zomer asked Cory about the status of a fish survey, Cory stated he's working on it.
- John Zomer asked why Area Representatives are voted on by the entire membership vs. just the membership in the area of representation. Bob Chamberlain stated his opinion - the vote should be from Association membership from his area only, Zomer agreed and asked what needed to be done to change the process. The Constitution would need to be changes which is a costly process.

Other Business:

- Dave requested to have his Savin meeting mileage be reimbursed, 140 miles @\$0.51/mile. Bob Chamberlain motioned for the reimbursement, Dick Haynack seconded, motion carried 9 Yes, 0 No.

Adjournment:

President Southworth asked for a motion to adjourn, Dick motioned and Bob seconded. Motion passed – meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Submitted by  
Chris Butche, Secretary

**Supporting Documents:**

Dr. Lang Letter:

8-10-11

Dear Dr. Lang,

First, we would like to thank you for allowing us to go through your property to install the North end silt trap. Your cooperation was instrumental to this project.

As per your request, we will hold the \$1400.00 for grading and gravel for your access road, in our budget, for a year from this date. Should you decide to grade and gravel, please contact Len Wittich or Steve Cohoon before 7-1-12 so that we can revise our budget report for the annual meeting.

Again, thanks so much for your assistance with this important project to maintain Five Lakes.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohoon  
Five Lakes Treasurer

Savin Letter:

August 23, 2011  
Mr Guy Savin  
President  
Savin Lake Services  
3088 Hottis Road  
Hale, MI 48739

Mr. Savin:

in July, 2011 during the course of a phone conversation between you and Tim O'Neal, Chairperson of the Five Lakes Weed Control Committee, and a separate July, 2011 phone conversation with Dave Southworth, President of Five Lakes Association, you offered to withdraw from the third ( 3rd ) year or 2012 of the 2010, 2011, 2012 Weed Control Contract without prejudice nor further financial remuneration.

During a special Board meeting Monday, August 22, 2011 the Five Lakes Board voted to accept your offer of withdrawal from the 2012 portion of the 2010, 2011, 2012 Weed Control Contract, without prejudice nor further financial remuneration. The Five Lakes Association Board has decided to go in

another direction.

Please provide the 2011 DEQ Treatment Report For Chemical Treatment of Nuisance Aquatic Plant and/or Algae Growth by November 15th, 2011.

Respectfully,

David Southworth  
President  
Five Lakes Association

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Guy Savin, President, Savin Lake Services

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Tim O'Neal, Chairperson Weed Control Committee

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David Southworth  
President  
Five Lakes Association

cc/ William Fahey  
Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes PLC