

Lake Manuka Association, Inc.
Annual Member Meeting
May 26, 2007
The United Way Building
Gaylord, Michigan

Attendance: Approximately forty-two members attended. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the Association President, Chuck Winger, at 9:05 a.m.

Opening Presentation: President, Chuck Winger, provided a narrated PowerPoint presentation welcoming those attending the Annual Member Meeting. He reviewed how and why the association was started and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 27, 2006 Annual Member Meeting were read by the Secretary, Jack Crusoe, and **were approved as read.**

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Jack Crusoe, read the Association Treasurer's Report with a General Account balance as of May 15, 2007 of \$6,563.15 and with a Lake Study Account balance as of May 26, 2007 of \$3,990.28. It was noted that 86 members had paid their dues so far in 2007 as compared with 113 total members in 2006 and 115 total members in 2005. **It was moved, seconded, and approved that both reports be accepted.**

Proposed Budgets for 2007-2008: The President asked the Treasurer, Jack Crusoe, to read the proposed budgets for the coming year. For the General Account, Jack reported Planned Revenue of \$7,225 and Planned Expenditures of \$2,725, leaving a year-end Budget Reserve of \$4,500. For the Lake Study Account the Planned Revenue, Jack reported Planned Revenue of \$4,040 and Planned Expenditures of \$100, leaving a year-end Budget reserve of \$3,940. **It was moved, seconded, and approved that the Proposed General Account and Lake Study Account Budget be adopted.**

Officer Reports:

President

Introduction of the Board:

Chuck introduced the members of the Board and thanked them for serving and coming to many meetings. During the past year these were some of the things that were accomplished:

- Boat Ramp Signage “Clean Boats for Clean Water”
- Board decreased from eleven to ten members
- Open Forum on the Lake Study Report was held last Labor Day
- Four Board meetings were held
- Lake management – the actual plan was organized
- Constructed and distributed the straw vote on lake improvements

Kolke Creek/Merit Energy:

Board members sat in on several days of the hearings before Judge Murphy, regarding the Kolke Creek/Merit Energy matter. It will be about fourteen days before final arguments are made and 28 days before a bench order is made regarding the Merit Energy/DNR/DEQ plan to dump remediated water into Kolke Creek. Chuck noted that Merit Energy apparently has other leaking well sites that may also require water remediation. He said that the case has brought out that you might not want to ask for certain things. The Board is remaining relatively quiet on the matter. The Simpsons spent a lot of money on the defense of their riparian rights and property and did an even more detailed study of their situation than we at Lake Manuka did.

Clean Boats for Clean Water:

Relative to “Clean Boats for Clean Water,” a discussion on zebra mussels and other (newer) threats (fish kills) that don’t currently affect Lake Manuka was conducted. It was noted that zebra mussels change a lake’s environment, cleaning up the water and eating themselves to death. They tend to wreck swimming because they adhere to the lake bottom and are sharp on feet.

The Lakes and Streams Association is a neat group providing much useful information. Please visit their website.

Establishing a Lake Level for an Inland Lake:

The Lake Level Act #202 of 1911 was adopted by the State of Michigan. It was followed by Act #377 in 1921 that basically stated that counties can deal with dams, etc. on controlling lake levels. In 1939, the state reinforced that counties establish lake levels for height and levels for inland lakes. In a 1961 State Act, two-thirds of lake owners can petition to raise a lake level to a set height. They can dig wells or bring in water from other sources to maintain lake levels. What is the ordinary high level water of a lake? It is apparent in the soil itself, between the upland and the lowland, i.e., where plants, etc. are obvious. For \$50 a riparian owner can have the MDEQ mark the ordinary high water for his/her property.

Our lake Report says that we are surrounded by sandy soil. The report suggests

that wells or other sources of augmenting water will leak out, i.e., money spent leaks out.

Lake Property Values:

Area realtors have been contacted. Most are aware of Manuka Lake and what we are doing. I shared the four improvement issues with them – and the costs of the improvements. They commented that we should, 1) listen to your older owners – the lake level goes up and down, 2) it is difficult to sell property on Lake Manuka, but Opal and Dixon sell well. Even Lake Arrowhead sells better than Lake Manuka, but Otsego Lake has similar problems to Lake Manuka.

- “Drill wells – only goes into water table.”
- “Take muck out and get 30% - 40% on investment.”
- “Weed control only is a chemical thing.”
- “Dredging for navigation is a sometimes thing.”

Chuck further reported that people living near several of the muck areas have the most to gain from dredging. Lake Manuka is known as a “low value” lake – some form of active management may help reverse this impression.

Comments of Those Attending:

- “Lake has been this low in 1965, but it has taken much longer this time to comeback.”
- “Since 1938, the lake fluctuates about every eight years.”
- “Seems like the Report author (Groves) doesn’t want to do anything unnatural to the lake.”
- “Success of wells is so, so – electricity, noise, etc. – environmental issues are current issues” according to a Supervisor in Oakland County. Larry Patriitto reported.
- An aeration project was done at East Twin Lake (started in 2004), same size as Lake Manuka about 160 acres. Although that lake is not quite like our lake in that it has two big basins with the big one being round. Their pumps are the big commercial types, four compressors. Oxygen pumped into the bottom of the lake allows bacteria to consume muck. The Riparian will report the results soon.
- Harvesting of weeds requires three feet of water to get the equipment in; maybe a bit less with some newer equipment.

Standing Committee Reports:

Communications Committee – Jeff Drukker thanked Craig Baetz for his work on the association website, updating it and adding new materials. Jeff asked the members to check the site for much useful information.

Government Committee – Bob Gurchiec reported that he was awaiting the final count on the straw vote on lake improvements to see what our next steps will be for the committee.

Lake Preservation – Larry Patritto reported that the committee has been working on preparing, distributing, and counting the straw vote. The committee also got out the Lake Study Report. Larry thanked those who had responded to the straw vote. So far 65% of a mailing to 150 residents had responded to the straw vote. Many interesting comments were received.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Lake Wequas:

Terry Jans reported that water passed through the Wequas/Manuka culvert this March for the first time in many years. Riparian owners on Lake Wequas are very interested in the results of the straw vote on lake improvements. Terry noted that the general flow of water is from Lake Thomas to Lake Wequas to Lake Manuka.

New Business:

Straw Vote on Lake Improvements:

Total votes; 98

Augmentation Wells: Yes – 26 No – 72

Dredging: Yes – 17 No – 81

Weed Removal*: Yes – 60 No – 38

Navigation Dredging: Yes – 40 No – 58

* Weed removal would be a five year plan, likely done each July. Cutting stresses the weeds roots and ultimately kills them. A Limited Liability Corporation would be likely formed to remove the weeds.

Action Plan:

The board will get back to the membership with a final straw vote count and offer a plan(s) for vote.

Chuck noted that “navigation dredging “needs DNR, DEQ, and Hayes Township permits and must be professionally done. There are liability issues with sophisticated machinery.

It was asked where we would dispose of cut weeds. Chuck noted that only 25% of the lake weeds would be removed, retaining a quality fishery. A professional assessment would be sought as to weed removal location. If Eurasian Milfoil gets in the lake, then chemical treatment will be necessary. A member offered 10 acres for weed disposal if other takers couldn't be found.

The government Committee will discuss with Mary Sanders the issue of how to calculate property units for assessing tax assessments should a project be selected that requires it.

Board Member Elections:

Chuck Winger, Bob Gurchiek, Larry Patritto, Ernie Bourdage, & Terry Jans were nominated for three year terms. Jack Crusoe chose not to seek a second three year term as Director and as Secretary/Treasurer. He thanked all for their support and for the opportunity to have served. **All nominations were seconded and approved.**

Final Comments:

A section of dock is located on Larry Patritto's property. Let Bob Gurchiek know of concerns regarding the boat launch site. Suggestions for maintenance and improvements to the island are welcomed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Winger at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jack Crusoe
Secretary