

LAKE MONTCALM
LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD
MEETING
September 16, 2008

A meeting of the Lake Montcalm, Lake Improvement Board was held at the Douglass Township Hall, 3521 W McBrides Road, Stanton, Michigan on the 16th day of September 2008 at 2:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dunn at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mike Dunn, Chairman
Abutting Property Owners' Representative

Donald E. Cooper
Montcalm County Drain Commissioner

Anne Hiscock
Douglass Township Representative

Jason Hiscock, Chairman
Belvidere Township Representative

Patrick Carr, Member
Montcalm County Board of Commissioners

ALSO

PRESENT: Norm Zion, Aquatic Nuisance Control
Property Owners attached

A Motion was made by Pat and seconded by Don to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Jason and seconded by Anne to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2008 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN DUNN

Chairman Dunn welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. He told them that the board is interested in getting input from the people who live at the lake and that the board will try to be more specific as to what the goals are for the future. Don reviewed the background of the lake improvement board and explained the procedures of the board. Mike remarked that he thinks everyone should have a chance to serve on the lake improvement board. It is the best way for people to see what the board does and to learn first hand what is involved in lake management.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bonnie Feeney: Are you saying the lake improvement board doesn't deal with only weed control?

Mike: No. We can address anything that pertains to the water quality of the lake

George Timiney: He asked the board to take into consideration the low economic condition of the county. He wants the lake to be nice too, but would like to see the board keep costs at a minimum

Mike: The board has been trying to cut the cost of weed control. Money was saved this year by not using a consultant. We have the upper-hand now on the milfoil problem and the cost of weed control depends on the extent of the nuisance weeds.

Don: Explained the collection of the assessment. The amount spread can be rolled back to a lesser amount but can never be higher than what was approved at the public hearing. All money collected for the lake is put in a separate account and is only used for Lake Montcalm improvements. The cost of the weed control program will no doubt go up just as the price of everything else is going up.

Bonnie: Are we treating for just milfoil?

Don: We are treating for just nuisance weed right now. But the board could look at other lake improvements if the need arises. Other lakes are looking into channel or lake dredges, fish habitats, etc.

George: Does the board recommend or just adopt?

Mike: Recommend. That's why we have public hearings on any new project.

Robert Waldo: With the public landing, how can we stop weeds from coming in on other boats?

Mike: There is no way to control what comes in or police it. Other lakes have the same problem as long as there is a public landing.

Bonnie: Birds also bring in other weeds, so there is no way to control that.

Waldo: He has heard of other lakes installing boat and trailer washers.

Mike: That is very expensive and people probably won't take time to use them enough to be worth installing and maintaining.

Anne: It will help if each property owner can be sure to clean off their own boats and remind friends and family to do the same when bringing in their boats.

Norm: The DEQ asked them to evaluate launch sites one year and make recommendations to them. Norm got approval from the volunteer weed control group for the DNR to make improvements to the boat launch area which made it more inviting for people to use the launch site and actually made the weed problem worse. He also advised that there is a fish virus in some lakes that can be brought in on boats, ducks, and geese. Bleaching boats will kill the fish virus so its not transported to other lakes.

The use of sonar was discussed. Norm remarked that the cost of sonar is expensive and the DEQ requires a series of water tests and a lake management plan which adds to the cost. It is cheaper if you can maintain on a regular basis to keep it under control.

Timiney: The lake doesn't need to look like a swimming pool. He likes to see the wildlife.

Bongard: He is new to the lake and asked for clarification of how the assessment is spread. He also reported that he has a golden colored plant and wanted to see if it is ok to rake it out.

Norm: Sounds like chara and yet it is ok to remove it.

Jason: It is the board's common goal to keep the cost at a minimum plus keep a little in contingency.

Valarie Lewis: Understand the lake should not look like a pool. She likes to see the wildlife too, but also wants good quality water for swimming.

Anne: The loons are back on the lake. Water must be clear if they have returned.

Dick Elden: Will the cost for treatment next year be \$11,000 again?

Norm: Yes, it should be about the same as this year.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Lake Montcalm, Lake Improvement Board, Montcalm County, Michigan held on September 16, 2008 and that said minutes are on file in the office of the Montcalm County Drain Commissioner and are available to the public.

I further certify that notice of the meeting was posted at least 18 hours before the meeting at the office of the Montcalm County Drain Commissioner which is the principal office of the Lake Montcalm, Lake Improvement Board.

Donald E. Cooper
Montcalm County Drain Commissioner