

TAMARACK LAKE

LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2009

A meeting of the Tamarack Lake, Lake Improvement Board was held at the Montcalm County Drain Commissioner's Office, 211 W. Main Street, Stanton, Michigan on the 21st day of October, 2009, at 3:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lincoln at 3:02 P.M.

PRESENT: Todd Lincoln, Chairman
Village of Lakeview Representative

Sandy Raines, Secretary/Treasurer
Montcalm County Deputy Drain Commissioner

Dr. John London, Member
Cato Township Representative

Patrick Carr, Member
Montcalm County Board of Commissioners

Clark Newell
Abutting Property Owners' Representative

ALSO
PRESENT: Norm Zion, Aquatic Nuisance Control, Inc.,
Dr. Doug Pullman, Aquest Corporation
Jeff Kurtze, Bernard Behrenwald, Kevin Griffith, Property Owners
Carrie Wills, Drain Commission

A motion was made by London and seconded by Newell to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by London and seconded by Newell to approve the minutes from February 3, 2009 as presented. Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kurtze commented that there was no improvement in the condition of the lake this year. He feels that something different needs to be done. He wondered if there might be grants available to clean out the lake bottom.

Griffith asked how much is spent each year to treat the lake. The lake board has a contract with Norm to treat for the amount budgeted that year.

Todd explained that the size of the treatment area is determined by the DEQ permit. He agrees a dredge is needed but is too expensive. The board is doing what can be done with the available funds

Griffith asked what would happen if the lake was not treated for a year or if sonar can be used again.

If the lake is not treated the weeds will get out of control. We have to maintain a balance in the eco-system. The DEQ will not permit a high enough concentration of sonar to do any good for treating the new hybrid milfoil. A combination of contact herbicides seem to work better on the new hybrid.

Behrenwald commented that he understands that the weed treatment is just a band aid effect on the whole problem. Why can't the lake be dredged? The sediment could be pumped onto the island and held back by a coffer damn. He also questioned the method of apportionment.

Kurtze suggested draining the lake and excavating the lake. Maybe there would be grants or stimulus money available to help with the project. The board asked if he would be willing to act as a subcommittee and investigate the possibilities for a lake cleanout.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of 2009 Weed Control Program

Dr. Pullman reported that the weeds came on quickly this year. Tamarack has been a difficult lake to manage because of its unstable eco system. The new hybrid milfoil is apparently coated by microbes that consume the chemicals and protect the plants. The first step is to kill the microbes and then treat the weeds. The combination used near the end of the summer seemed to work very well and will be the plan of action for next year.

Griffith questioned who oversees Norms work. Dr. Pullman surveys the lake after an application. There was discussion of a breakdown on Norm's invoice. The board will be asking for a more itemized statement from Norm in the future.

Norm used the treatment approved by the board for 2009. He treated on June 9 and retreated on June 29. The treatment just didn't work this year until the later application where a different chemical combination was used.

Outlet Structure

The board discussed again who has control of the control structure at the outlet of Tamarack Lake. The Drain Office repaired the spillway and installed a guard rail for safety purposes because the outlet is part of the Macomber Drain. A steel plate was installed as a part of the safety measure. However, the Drain Commission has no authority to adjust the height of the drain to maintain the lake level. The legal lake level must be established by the court through a petition process.

A motion was made by Carr and seconded by Newell to have the Drain Commission send a letter to the Village of Lakeview telling them that in lieu of the recent events in regards to improvements to the structure, the Drain Commission will be responsible for the structure. Sandy again informed the board that the Drain Commission has no jurisdiction to oversee the lake level without an order from the court to establish a legal level. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2010 Weed Control Program

Norm is recommending the same treatment be used to treat in 2010 as was used for the last application this year. The chemical combination can be applied at the same time taking care of both the microbes and the weeds. London suggested we might get our best value for the money if a weed free path was created around the lake for boating purposes. He thinks people would be satisfied with that. Norm said that should be a workable plan. Sandy suggested appointing someone as a point person to be a contact person for Norm. London and Kurtze agreed to take that responsibility and Norm can contact them when he is ready to survey or treat the lake.

Renew Contract With Aquest

Dr. Pullman presented a proposal for next year's contract. The contract is for the same as this year's plus a 3% increase.

A motion was made by Carr and seconded by Newell to accept the contract with Aquest. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting Date

The board discussed setting a date for an annual meeting of the lake board. By state statute the board has to meet at least once a year.

A motion was made by London and seconded by Carr to set an annual meeting date for the third Wednesday of October. Motion carried.

Fish Plant

Todd reported that walleye and channel cat fish have been planted in the lake. The cost will be covered by the memorial contributions from the Charles Martens memorial donations with the balance coming from Todd.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Carr and seconded by Newell to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Donald E. Cooper, Secretary/Treasurer
Tamarack Lake, Lake Improvement Board

State of Michigan }
 } ss:
County of Montcalm }

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Tamarack Lake, Lake Improvement Board, Montcalm County, Michigan held on October 21, 2009 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 Tamarack Lake, Lake Improvement Board.

Donald E. Cooper
Montcalm County Drain Commissioner

DRAFT