BEAR LAKE LAKE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday September 12, 2019
6:00 p.m.
North Muskegon City Hall
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Kim Arter at approximately 6:20 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:
• Present: Darrell VanFossan, Brenda Moore, John Snider, Steve Johnson and Kim Arter
• Absent: None
• Also: Dr. Jennifer Jermalowiz-Jones of RLS, Recording Secretary Veronica West and one (1)
  area citizens.

MINUTES: John Snider moved to approve the minutes of July 11, 2019 as presented. Brenda
Moore supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. The minutes will be placed on file.

REPORTS:

• Indian Lake Field Trip: Darrell VanFossan reported on the field trip he and Kim Arter took to
  Indian Lake to observe a whole lake aeration system in operation. They met with Tim Hull and
  Bonnie Hague from the Indian Lake Improvement Association (ILIA) and Veronica Kenreich-
  Towne the Lake Project Manager from RLS. They toured the lake by boat and it was noted
  that Indian Lake (499 acres) is very similar to Bear Lake (415 acres) in size and problems.
  Indian Lake has 3 compressors, located on sites that were volunteered by property owners
  (property owners were not given any money or assessment reduction for the use of the
  property to house the compressors). Darrell took many pictures and video with audio to show
  the sound of the compressor - it was noted the compressor was inside a shed like structure
  and when the door was closed the sound was minimal and a normal conversation could take
  place with no issues. It was also noted the hoses and wires are all buried and not visible. The
  ILIA contracted with Ever Blue for the aeration system and they gave Ever Blue rave reviews,
  saying they do an excellent job. Things of note: from 2012 to 2019 went from a eutrophic
  lake to a mesotrophic lake with primarily the aeration system and minimal chemicals.
  Discussed an organic “slurry”/bio-augmentation enzyme component (bio-blast) they make on-
  site that is distributed throughout the lake through the aeration diffusers to reduce sediment/
  muck on the bottom. The lake has shown improvement in: oxygen levels, water clarity,
  sediment reduction, increased native plant life, and blue-green (toxic) algae is almost non-
  detectable, but with some “good” algae remaining. A bonus benefit gained was a reduction in
  zebra mussels, with Dr. Jones noting the zebra mussels do not tolerate the “bio-blast”
  bioaugmentation treatment. Kim Arter commented that the lake had beautiful clear blue water
  and it was an impressive system. Steve Johnson and John Snider both commented that they
  would like to invite some of the Indian Lake people to come here to one of the BLLB meetings
  to speak on their experience with their lake, how it started and how it has benefitted from the
  aeration system they are using and how they feel about the whole thing and maybe even
  reimburse their costs as it is over 2 hours travel time one way from Indian Lake to our area.
  Brenda Moore asked Dr. Jones if other clients would also have the same good things to say
  about aeration systems that Indian Lake has to say. Dr. Jones responded emphatically yes,
  noting that she can provide other case studies and contacts for them and also noted that it is
important to use the right systems and proper treatments in the correct situations and she wouldn’t recommend aeration if it weren’t proven technology and appropriate for the situation here in Bear Lake. Brenda Moore also commented that compressor location on private property, by way of volunteers is somewhat scary as they could pull their permission at any time or have a new owner pull their permission. She would feel it more appropriate to locate them on municipal property or property acquired with appropriate easements. There was also discussion of zoning regulations with regard to locating compressors with regard to setbacks from the water etc.

• **Restorative Lake Sciences - Update:** Dr. Jones noted the biggest hurdle right now with regard to aeration is the DEQ Permit. The baseline report is due by Dec. 31, 2019 and it will be turned in with the permit application for aeration. She expressed some concern that the DEQ could add additional data collections for the aeration permit over and above the baseline data they have already collected due to the petroleum found in the lake sediment. Brenda Moore commented that these concerns are why this board has been to the State to speak with Senator Bumstead and others to request assistance in the form of a budget allocation to deal with the oil, noting that the feasibility study along with the core sample data has been provided to the state. Brenda Moore asked if the levels found are of concern enough to the DEQ or EPA to even address it. Dr. Jones stated she won’t know the answer to that: until the DEQ responds to the permit application for aeration.

Dr. Jones reported on this year’s treatment, noting some milfoil was found and treated, but didn’t overtreat as over treatment can cause even more algal blooms. She noted there is no need for any further treatments this year and will treat any invasive again in the spring. Kim Arter commented that she noticed a huge difference this year with less algal blooms and Dr. Jones stated this is because of her conservative treatment of the other invasive. Steve Johnson concurred with Kim, noting the algae is still there, but not as bad and Darrell VanFossan commented that when the RLS boat was out on the lake working, he spoke with them and found he has several native aquatic plants now growing in his area with less milfoil present and a few phragmites nearby.

• **Ribe Drain Update:** Drain Commissioner Brenda Moore reported on the Ribe Drain project. She presented a map of the area, showing the various drains and highlighted the ones the eventually empty into Bear Lake. The Ribe Drain project has been approved for bonding by the County which means they will get better rates. The Furman and the Brantson drains will be getting cleaned as well. Kim Arter also commented on the work being done upstream and how it also helps the health of Bear Lake and would like the information on the Ribe Drain project and any other upstream projects to continue to be added to the webpage for the BLLB to keep people informed of the investments of time and money that are going into the area that will help Bear Lake.

**COMMUNICATION:**

• **Treasurer - Delinquent 2018 Special Assessment payments:** It was discussed that the statute that governs lake boards requires that the local municipality treasurers report to the lake board after Sept. 1 each year any delinquent payments from the prior year. Those delinquent payments must each be assessed a 6% one time penalty and transferred to the upcoming winter property tax bills. The reports were furnished to the Board. It was noted there were only a very few from each municipality.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

• **Proposed Director’s Liability Insurance:** Kim Arter commented that she discussed this issue with the township attorney, and he stated that the 2 citizens that are on the BLLB are not covered
by governmental immunity or the local municipality’s liability insurance. She also noted she called the insurance company and the quote is still good at $19,177.00 per year for a one (1) million dollar policy. Brenda Moore commented she does not want to leave these 2 members of the board hanging and thinks they deserve protection. John Snider moved to purchase the liability insurance at the quoted rate as presented. Brenda Moore supported the motion. Darrell VanFossan commented that he has tried to purchase a policy on his own, but insurance companies don’t offer it to individuals. It was discussed that this would also be revisited annually when it is time to renew the policy each year.

A roll call vote was taken:
Voting in favor of the motion: John Snider, Brenda Moore, Darrell VanFossan, Steve Johnson and Kim Arter.
Voting in opposition of the motion: None.
Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

• Invite Representative of Indian Lake Improvement Association to October 10, 2019 BLLB Meeting: Brenda Moore moved to extend and invitation to a representative of the ILIA to attend the 10/10/19 BLLB meeting, to give a first hand account of their experience with their lake project and aeration system and to reimburse them for mileage, meals, and hotel; not to exceed $500. Darrell VanFossan supported the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:
Voting in opposition of the motion: None.
Motion Carried.

• Mail Meeting Notice/Invitation to all assessed Bear Lake properties for the October 10, 2019 meeting: It was noted that Dr. Jones will be presenting several case studies of lakes that she has implemented whole lake aeration systems on, including Indian Lake and the results of those treatment plans at the October 10th meeting. In addition Ever Blue, an aeration system installation contractor will also be giving a presentation on their bid to install aeration in Bear Lake. In addition, it was also noted that a representative of Indian Lake is to be invited to give testimony on their experience and impressions of how the aeration system project affected them and their lake. It was discussed that this is a very important meeting and it is very important information that all of the citizens need to be aware of and how important it is that they get this information first hand at a meeting. Ideas from a letter mailing, to using the city and school electronic marques, to postings online webpages and facebook were discussed. Steve Johnson noted that if this information is important enough to invest in getting an ILIA representative to come and to reimburse their expenses it is important enough to spend a little money on a mailing to each and every assessed property owner. There was discussion of potential cost of this mailing; postage, supplies, labor etc. John Snider moved to spend up to $2,000 to mail an invitation to the October 10, 2019 meeting to each and every property that is assessed by the Bear Lake Lake Board. Steve Johnson supported the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:
Voting in opposition of the motion: None
Motion Carried.
PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

BOARD COMMENT: NONE

ADJOURN: Brenda Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Darrell VanFossan supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Veronica West
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Bear Lake Lake Board on October 10, 2019

Signed: ___________________________________________