

BEAR LAKE LAKE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday August 9, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Laketon Township Hall
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Kim Arter at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

Present: Kim Arter, Darrell VanFossan, Brenda Moore, John Snider and Steve Johnson

Absent: None

Also: Representative of RLS Dr, Jennifer Jermalowitz-Jones, Recording Secretary Veronica West and four (4) area citizens.

MINUTES: Darrell VanFossan moved to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2018 regular meeting. John Snider supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. The minutes will be placed on file.

REPORTS:

- **Restorative Lake Sciences:** Dr. Jones reported that sediment cores (thirty (30) four deep foot cores) were taken last week and were equally distributed around the lake bottom. They have been sent to the lab for testing on long & short chain hydrocarbons. Water quality samples were taken in May 2018 and will be taken again in September 2018 for comparison. The May water quality samples showed dissolved oxygen levels were nearly zero at depths 4 feet and deeper. She added they are hoping to see a rebound of native aquatic vegetation after this year's treatment for the invasive species that took place in early June 2018. Brenda Moore requested seeing more email updates from RLS. RLS will email Chairperson Kim Arter and she will forward on the updates to other board members. John Snider asked if the oxygen levels are still low in September how long will it be before the aeration system is installed/applied. Dr. Jones explained the plan and the need for the core sample lab results from this year and next year to make sure there are no hydrocarbons in the lake bottom before aeration can be implemented. Darrell VanFossan asked if any further treatment for invasive species is planned for this year. Dr. Jones noted that when they are out in September taking water samples and see the need, they will draft a plan and budget to present to the board for treatment – treatment can be done up until late November. Darrell VanFossan also stated he is hearing comments/concerns from residents about algae at the lakeshore. Steve Johnson also asked about the algae and the aeration plan. Dr. Jones explained that the algae is difficult to treat, but as more native aquatic plants grow, they will absorb the nutrients that fuel the algae blooms. She also explained that how the aeration system will oxygenated the water and further combat the algae, when it is implemented in year 3, provided all the core sampling comes up negative for hydrocarbons in the lake bottom. She did note that toxic algae is one of the biggest issues facing lakes in Michigan as it is a public health issue. She added RLS will keep a close eye on algae issues and treatment options if and when needed.
- **Muskegon County Drain Commissioner Brenda Moore** – Brenda Moore displayed a map of drains in Muskegon County and stated she wants to start the dialogue about what she is doing upstream of the lake in her capacity as the drain commissioner. She pointed out several drains in the process of work or study. She added that she is working with the Conservation District in coming up with funds to reduce the costs of assessments for the work on some of these drains. She added she hopes to have more detailed discussions at future meetings and to get more lakefront property owners here for a presentation on all the work that is happening upstream of the lake.

COMMUNICATION:

- **Treasurer's Report/Check Register:** Chairperson Kim Arter distributed the report/register of expenses to date and noted it would be updated monthly and copies of all the bills/checks/receipts are on file.

PUBLIC COMMENT (On an Agenda Item): NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Election of New BLLB Treasurer:** Kim Arter explained that the statute requires the group have a treasurer and originally had appointed Sam Jansson, the board member representing the City of North Muskegon, however he has left the board and been replaced with a new representative for the City Steve Johnson. She explained the funds collected from the assessments are currently being held by Laketon Township and are accounted for in the Township's audit and the auditor has recommended that the Bear Lake Lake Board get their own bank account and transfer these funds out of Laketon Township bank account and to the BLLB account. The first step in this process is to appoint a new Treasurer for this board. After some discussion Brenda Moore moved to appoint Darrell VanFossan to the position of treasurer for the Bear Lake Lake Board. John Snider supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.
There was additional discussion of the logistics of paying bills, (The Board approves them and they must all be in the budget), getting bonding for the treasurer, obtaining a bank and an auditor. Darrell VanFossan also suggested better reporting of the budget and expenditures. Steve Johnson asked if the Township is holding the funds, how do the bills get paid. Kim Arter explained the process, noting this board approved the budget and approved the payment of bills but that Laketon Township is not charging this board for doing the bill paying. John Snider commented he feels further discussion of the logistics/mechanics of this issue should be postponed until the next meeting so more research can be done into what the statute requires/allows.
- **Website Information:** Kim Arter noted the question has been asked about putting expenditure information on the website. She noted the budget is currently online, but that is all at this time and she is all in favor of as much transparency as possible. Brenda Moore noted that she has no issues with the information being posted online, but that will generate questions and someone will need to be the contact person to answer such questions because if the residents have no one to answer questions it becomes more problematic than helpful. Darrell VanFossan volunteered to be the contact person. Steve Johnson moved to post the check register of expenses paid online. John Snider supported the motion and the motion carried by a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mr. Bernie Berntson commented he is impressed so far with the work this board is doing and is happy to see the board using the website to share the data and information with the public.
- Kim Arter commented on the Fenner's Ditch/DEQ/EPA project to contain the oil seep, noting the work is now complete. She stated they removed contaminated soil from the ditch, and the seep could not be completely capped/sealed but is directed to a containment area that they DEQ will monitor and periodically pump out. This project was the result of a \$700,000 grant from the EPA. She also added that the DEQ did a great job of contacting and communicating with all property owners along the ditch throughout this project. She also commented that after Labor Day she anticipates the Horton Park Grant project to get started for the renovations at Horton Park that will bring a repaired boat launch, new parking, new playground and new pavilion. Brenda Moore commented on letting the public know about this investment into this lake and added it would be nice to put together a timeline of all the projects that have been done on this lake to show all the investments made into making Bear Lake a healthier lake. Steve Johnson asked who will be paying for the constant monitoring/pumping of the containment system and Kim Arter noted the EPA/MDEQ will be responsible for this forever and also mentioned a grant project a few years ago that identified and mapped all the old oil wells in Laketon Township.

ADJOURN: Brenda Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Johnson supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Veronica West
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Bear Lake Lake Board on _____.

Signed: _____.