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HUTCHINS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING June 26, 2010

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Bob Renzema called the meeting to order at 10 am at the Fennville Public Library. The Call to Order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bob Renzema, Gary Holton, Lou Sytsma, John Lerg, Larry DenUyl, Tom Tucker, Ralph McMahon, Bill Busscher, Dan Lepo, Suzanne Holton, Brad Holbrook.

Absent: John Lindahl, Richard Schmidt

A quorum was present. About 40 members and other guests attended.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

No changes to the agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gary Holton presented his report that showed a balance of \$10,584. His report was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) Board members received about 30 pieces of correspondence regarding continuing the special assessment district. *These will be handed over to the Lake Board for review.*
- (2) The National Lake Management Association (NALM) is presenting a seminar on shoreline management in October in Roscommon Michigan. Any interested HLIA member should contact Bob Renzema.

PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Marine Deputy Tim Morton

Invited guest Tim Morton of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol shared the following information during a short presentation and a more extended Q and A session.

- There were no significant changes to boating laws in 2009.
- The most significant change to the previous year's boating laws allows PWCs to be out on the lake until sunset, rather than the previous one hour before sunset regulation.
- In 2011 a new boating law will be in place requiring PWC operators to be at least 16 years old.

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- There is no law in place governing how far a fishing boat must stay away from shore.
- The marine patrol tries to be on Hutchins Lake **every evening** and at least once a weekend.
- PWC operating to close to shore or after hours are the causes of most complaints to the Marine Patrol
- An electric trawling motor qualifies as requiring motor boat registration.
- **Hutchins Lake regulations say "no wake after 7:30 pm". PWC may be on the lake until dusk, but after 7:30 pm only at no wake speed.**

Morton advised that the Marine Patrol does not have the authority to make or change boating laws. He advised citizens to petition their townships for desired changes. The townships in turn petition the DNR for changes to boating laws.

Tony Groves, consultant to the Hutchins Lake Board (Invasive Weed Treatment and Tax Assessment District)

Invited guest Tony Groves provided the following information during a short presentation and a more extended Q and A session.

- This is the fifth and final year of the assessment district, which was put together by Ganges and Clyde Townships.
- The assessment district has three responsibilities: (1) monitoring the quality of Hutchins Lake water, (2) disseminating information relevant to the quality of Hutchins Lake, and (3) control of Eurasian milfoil and other exotic species in Hutchins Lake.
- The plant control in Hutchins Lake has been extremely successful.
- Most of the project's emphasis for the past couple of years has been on treatment in the channel.
- The goal of the project has not been to eradicate weeds entirely from the channel, but to maintain unimpeded boat access from the channel into Hutchins Lake.
- The possibility of dredging the channel as an alternative to, or in conjunction with, weed treatment, was discussed.
- The two most important things residents can do to prevent undesired plant growth in the lake are (1) use appropriate and approved fertilizers only, and (2) preserve natural shoreline habitat rather than replacing this habitat with hard seawalls.
- In its fifth year, the project is well within its budget, and in fact has a \$30,000 surplus.
- He proposed extending the life of the project, keeping the scope of the project the same, and rolling over the \$30,000 into the budget for the project extension.
- HLIA members will be informed by mail for the date set for the hearing about the possibility of extending the project.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & REPRESENTATIVES

CLMP John Lindahl

Recent water clarity readings have shown both the clearest readings and the murkiest readings ever recording by CLMP.

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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Bob Renzema reports the directory is close to publication.

HUTCHINS LAKE BOARD

Suzanne Holton is the HLIA representative to the Hutchins Lake Board.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Gary Holton

Gary Holton reported 148 paid members so far this year.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE Ralph McMahon

- The Memorial Day Poker Run was a success with 20 boats and 50 individuals participating.
- "Unorganized" boat parade July 4th at 7:30 p.m.
- Boating safety class July 10th in the library

SUMMER DISCOVERY CAMP

The fourth annual Summer Discover Day Camp will run on July 20th. Children ages 7 through 11 are invited. The topic of the camp will be Birds of Hutchins Lake.

WATERSHED ACTION TEAM

This summer the team will focus on identifying and removing the invasive exotic purple loosestrife from around Hutchins Lake.

AREA DIRECTORS' REPORTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Busscher, of the nominating committee, placed the names of Bob Renzema and John Lindahl on the floor for the offices of president and secretary respectively. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved and passed unanimously that Bob and John retain their current position.

PUBLIC INPUT

Several members reported that residents of Hutchins Lake, who allowed their dog to swim and play on the sandbar, also allowed the dog to relieve itself on the sandbar and would not clean up after it. Affected residents have tried to talk with the dog owner with no success. Suzanne Holton offered to write a letter to the dog owner after approval from the HLIA Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a. m.