

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

HUTCHINS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Regular Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

Held: December 2, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at Fennville Public Schools

Call to Order:

President Loren Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Roll Call:

Secretary Randy Vogelzang called the roll of Board members:

Board Members Present: John Burmeister, Loren Barnes, Jim Baird, Gary Holton, Martha Kautz, John Lerg, John Lindahl (arrived at 6:52), Maureen Sytsma, Denise Grimaldi, .and Randy Vogelzang.

Board Members Absent: Anne Irwin, Janice Rowland, Bill Busscher, Scott Clark, Todd Moore, Jill O'Connor

Agenda Approval:

Denise Grimaldi moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded.

Agenda approved (9-0)

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

John Lerg moved to approve the September 16, 2014 quarterly board meeting minutes.

Seconded.

Minutes approved (9-0)

Correspondence

Justin Burchett- Program Manager/Education Coordinator for Allegan Conservation District contacted the Association. Loren Barnes will contact him and let him know how he can meet with us. John Lerg is favorable to a discussion on soil erosion. Loren Barnes will provide copy of his letter to Board Secretary.

Treasurer's Report and Submitting of Bills to Treasurer Denise Grimaldi

-Treasure Report – Denise Grimaldi provided her Treasurer's Report and highlighted several budget items in her report. Generally, the Association spent more than was budgeted in some line items but did not spend what was budgeted in others. Also, there may be reimbursement by the Lake Board for the budgeted water quality work done by Kieser of \$1275, which would be a material positive impact on the budget. There was also discussion about the one-time spending of funds which were not budgeted, such as the payment to the American Cancer Society in March. There were questions to John Lindahl about the CLMP bill which, based upon information from the Lake Board, should be reimbursed by the Lake Board if submitted. It was not clear whether there was to be reimbursement by the Lake Board for the past bill or whether it would be for a new bill attributed to 2015. Denise will need the CLMP application for 2014 from John Lindahl to seek reimbursement from Lake Board. John Burmiester will contact Denise after the next Lake Board meeting and will clarify which years the CLMP bill will be reimbursed and he will get what is needed in order to seek reimbursement.

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In summary, Denise reported that the Association is financially healthy, with a surplus of \$7,354.86 as of December 1, 2014. Maureen Sytsma moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Seconded.

Treasurer's Report approved (10-0)

Committee and Representative Reports

CLMP: John Lindahl. John reported that he will get Denise the CLMP bill and she can write a check.

Chamber of Commerce: Bill Busscher. No Report

Membership: Denise Grimaldi reported that there are 164 members this year, up from last year's 140 members and the year before of 137 members. Also there was good involvement in Association this year. There was some discussion of why the dues were increased since the Association is running a surplus. Since the surplus is not huge and there is more training and education to be provided in upcoming years, most concluded the decision by the voters was justified. The newsletter has the new membership dues in it and Denise will put it in the mail at any time, which Loren advised her to do now.

Public Relations: John Baird. John suggested that the Committee change its name to "public relations" and there was no opposition to the name change. He has some new ideas for the Committee which he will be working on this next year such as: signs for the Association explaining what we do and to help let people know about the Association, which might cause inactive members to be interested in paying dues and supporting the Association. He envisions four nice metal signs at strategic locations around the lake. He also discussed producing all-weather Styrofoam signs that would give notice that kids are at play. He suggested that they be given to members as part of the directory distribution. He said he would be looking for ways to generate revenue through the directories – especially advertising. Also, he discussed the pontoon parade – having one on the lake and getting a banner. All liked Jim's ideas and encouraged him to continue with his imaginative promotional efforts. Loren will remember that there should be some money budgeted for this committee when the budget is put together for next year. Finally John Lindahl suggested the he work with the road commission to place the signs. This will be taken to the January Board meeting.

Directory: Bob Renzema. No Report.

Discovery Camp: John Lindahl. No report.

Newsletter: Anne Irwin. Anne sent word that the newsletter was finished and was going out.

Lake Board: John Burmeister: John provided a Lake Board update. He attended the last Lake Board meeting and it agreed to reimburse the Association for the Kaiser testing

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and CLMP waiver. He also reported that the Lake Board will ask for bids or open bidding for competitive contracting for water quality testing as contacts come up in 2015. He stated there has not been open bidding for some years. There is a meeting planned in March to prepare for the bidding process.

The Board then discussed Jeff Green's concerns about the drain district. Denise provided some input since she has land affected by the drain planning. She advised that the Engineers were not finished with their work but there should be two catch basins and pumps when the project is completed. However, the engineering is not that far along and she did not think people should be concerned at this point. John Burmeister reiterated to her that we do not want run off in lake. The discussion concluded by noting that the engineering process is not completed.

Area Directors Report/ Remarks

Lindahl: John advised that his "two men and a boat" business operates to take in and out the Hutchins Lake no-wake buoys. There was discussion about the propriety of board members contracting with the Association to receive payments from the Association. Vogelzang noted that there could be issues with the tax exempt status of the Association if board members were receiving financial benefits from the Association that were in excess of the market value of the work. John's feeling is the work he does with the buoys should be bid out and not just given to him. He charges \$520 to take the buoys in and out. Vogelzang recommended that the board also consider a conflict of interest policy. It was decided to bring this to the January meeting.

Holton : Gary discussed certain line items on the budget, including a discussion of what was donated to the American Cancer Society and why.

Unfinished Business

Proposed Recreation Drain: Based upon the discussion earlier in the meeting, the consensus was to hold off further meetings with the county officials until the engineering is completed. In the mean time, the Board will monitor the situation. Denise can also report or let board members know if they would like to attend any community input meetings. Essentially what may be a driving interest in this project from the community standpoint may be the increased assessment and taxes.

Bylaws Committee: John Lindahl – John distributed the redline draft of the bylaws with the proposed changes suggested by the Bylaws Committee. He and the other Board members of the Committee, Loren Barnes and Randy Vogelzang, led the Board through the revisions. Victor Rigterink is also on the Bylaw Committee.

Based upon direction of the Board when the bylaws committee was formed, John reviewed a fundamental change proposed to Article III, "Membership", that will restrict voting rights in the Association to only members who pay their dues. Currently, all owners on the lake and channel,

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and any person who own property with legal access to the lake can vote regardless of whether dues were delinquent. This change would prevent all current members from voting by limiting voting to only dues paying members.

The Board referred Article III, Section 5, a section the Committee did not suggest be changed, back to the Committee for review on whether a change should be made to the bylaws to determine at what point dues should be delinquent. Again, this relates to the ability to vote. The section currently states that dues should be considered delinquent if unpaid by February 15th. Some Board members suggested that this concept of delinquency be removed. Some board members discussed whether members would ever be considered delinquent as long as they paid their dues at some point. Other board members suggested that dues paid near an election day should not be permitted – in other words, members should not be allowed to vote even if they paid their dues a few days before or on election day. The Committee will evaluate this section of the bylaws.

There was also discussion about the Bylaw Committee's proposal for an Election Committee to set the process for elections rather than attempt to develop all the election procedures in the bylaws. This was an issue the Bylaw Committee had divergent views. Although some Committee members proposed to list comprehensive elections procedures in the bylaws, Vogelzang explained that there are already basic election standards in the bylaws – providing for a Nominating Committee, allowance for absentee or proxy votes and appointment of Area Directors to the Board by the President rather than have them elected by the members. These provide the broad policy decisions about elections. It is not practical to make bylaws into operating practices by additionally trying to codify all the details and issues that could possibly come up under these policies for every election. Further, trying to include comprehensive election process details in the bylaws would reduce the flexibility of the Board to manage the elections process from year-to-year. The bylaws are intended to provide broad policy direction to the Board for governing the Association, not all the specific practices and operating procedures. Otherwise, any unanticipated issues not in the bylaws would require amendment of the bylaws each time - a time-consuming and lengthy process requiring two thirds approval of all the members. Thus the Bylaw Committee recommended that the Board should assign the details for the election process to an Election Committee thereby giving the Board the flexibility to oversee the election process more effectively. The Election Committee would develop operating procedures for the election process and report back with its recommendations to the Board. The Board would then have the option to approve some or all of the recommendations. In the future, if changes were needed, the Board through the Election Committee would have the flexibility to make adjustments as needed.

Since the President may appoint committees, Loren will name the members to the Election Committee in January.

Finally, Loren explained the proposed changes to Article VIII. The primary change was permitting the consent agenda concept that streamlines the more routine motions and approvals. There was no disagreement to adding these new provisions to Article VIII.

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Emergency Vehicle Sign: John Lindahl moved to present the emergency sign proposal to the county road commission to place emergency vehicle parking sign on locations indicated on a map. We will copy Allegan County Sheriff Depart. The Board will help pay for this if county needs funding and we would have further dialogue on how much we would pay. Second. Contacting the Allegan County Road Commission emergency sign proposal Approved 10-1.

New Business

Kaiser – John Lerg asked Kaiser to make suggestions on what they might do to enhance our protection and understanding of the lake. There have been some things we could not do in the past because we did not have money, but now that we have a surplus of money there are some new things we could do.

One idea is to do wet season testing and compare and contrast what we get for dry season testing. Also, another idea is we should be proactive against invasive species and other aquatic plants that we anticipate could hit the lake. We could use beetles to kill certain invasive plant species, for example.

These additional tests would give us more understanding of the lake, and eliminating invasive plants is helpful to the lake. John proposed the he ask Kaiser what they would propose for these two proposed actions. John suggested that we should contact Kaiser pretty soon because their schedule for next year is filling. Loren recommended John get with Kaiser and have them make a presentation to board at the January board meeting. John Burmiester added the Lake board should pay for the expense of Kaiser and he thought they were willing to do it.

Public Input

Victor Rigrterink: Victor commented that that he did not see a downside to keep the delinquency date in the bylaws to encourage people to pay in a timely manner. The Board could tie dues to the May date for ordering the Riparian magazine. Loren thanked Victor for his input.

Next board meeting is January 20, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Room at Fennville Schools.

John Lindahl commented on some of his political activities not on behalf of the Association but affecting the lake, including meeting with Township Supervisor Tommy Giles to discuss the proposed drain and the Clyde wetland ordinance. He also discussed a variance attempt before the Zoning Board to put an outbuilding less than 50 foot near the lake. It was approved, but apparently there were problems with the board's process. John commented on his view of personnel on the Zoning Board and why the case with the outbuilding will have to be redone. In his view the Zoning Board did not do its job correctly when it ruled and so the whole case may have to be redone so presumably the outbuilding could not be constructed.

Adjournment:

Randy Vogelzang moved to adjourn. Seconded.

Adjournment approved. (10-0)

Adjourned: 8:50 pm

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Submitted by Randy Vogelzang
Secretary, Hutchins Lake Improvement Association