

# HUTCHINS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Board of Directors and Annual Meeting  
June 26, 2021, 9:30 a.m. (Fennville School Board Room)

## HLIA Board

Joe Bianco	1	Allan Kautz	VP
Jill O'Connor	2	Ruthie Malda	Pres
Karen Barnes	3	Randy Vogelzang	Sect
Maureen Sytsma	3B	Scott Clark	7
John Lerg	4	Ruthie Malda	8
Jim Baird	5	Denise Grimaldi	9A –Treas
Jeff and Kym Zwagerman		Vicki Brink	9B
	6A		
Martha Kautz	6B	Vacant	10

**Call to Order** – Ruthie Malda called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

**Roll Call** – Randy Vogelzang took roll and the following board members were:

Present: Ruthie Malda, Scott Clark, Allan Kautz, John Lerg, Martha Kautz, Jim Baird, Joe Bianco, Vicki Brink, Denise Grimaldi, Jill O'Connor, Jeff and Kym Zwagerman and Randy Vogelzang.

Absent: Joe Bianco, Maureen Sytsma

Randy Vogelzang reported that there was a quorum for the meeting.

**Additions to Agenda - None**

### Consent Agenda

1. Changes to Agenda and Approval of Agenda
2. Minutes from last Meeting- (attachment 1)
3. Treasurer's Report - (attachment 2)
4. Summary of Bills – Treasurer Review

**Approval of Consent Agenda** – Ruthie Malda

MOTION: John Lerg moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second. Approved (12-0)

**Correspondence** – Randy Vogelzang reported on various correspondence and notice for the Annual meeting: Denise Grimaldi sent the newsletters from the Michigan Waterfront Alliance, Jill O’Connor sent an email report on the Discovery Camp, and there were several emails from members relating to the annual meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report and Submitting of Bills** – Denise Grimaldi reported a balance of \$4,292 .97, and she discussed expense items for several new projects this year. She reported that the Association has 166 members.

### **Special Guest Speaker**

Officer Carter Woodwyk – Conservation Officer – DNR - Allegan County:

Officer Woodwyk introduced himself as a member of one of the law enforcement agencies we see on the lake who wears a green uniform and ride in black trucks. He described what they do. They are “state police-like” in that they are law enforcement officers with authority to make arrests, but with a focus on hunting, fishing, marine boating, aquatic invasive species, etc. He grew up in this area, being from Holland, and has spent a lot of time on Hutchins Lake as he grew up. He is a certified law enforcement officer and does what the Sheriff does, plus more. He explained how to contact him and his agency through a hotline - 800 292-7800 – or by calling 911 or the Sheriff non-emergency line. He discussed goose mitigation and that a biologist can review and take action if there are problems. Don Poppie is the biologist, who can be contacted through the Allegan field office at 269 673-2430.

### **Committee and Representative Reports**

CLMP – Jill O’Connor reported on the cooperative lakes monitoring program for Michigan lakes and streams. She reviewed that John Lyndall took data for many years but after a pause last year due to COVID we are back taking data again. She explained the focus on water clarity. She uses a secchi disc at 8 ft to measure the clarity. She drops off that data in Kalamazoo. The work includes a watch on aquatic plants and check if there are invasive plants. CLMP reviews the data and provide reports. Sarah Cramer and Jill work together on this activity.

Chamber of Commerce – Jim Baird -defer to next meeting.

Membership – Denise Grimaldi – Denise discussed membership collection process and that by June we have a total. It is a challenge with residents buying and selling property. Directors should meet and provide information to these new residents about the HLIA. They could refer them to the website.

Public Relations – Jim Baird -defer to next meeting.

Directory – Joe Bianco and Denise Grimaldi – Joe and Denise are collecting information and hope to publish a directory in the next few weeks. Details will be provided later.

Discovery Camp – Jill O’Connor – Jill reported that Discover Camp had 11 kids registered. They will spend time paddling and hear from the Allegan Sheriff Marine Patrol. Sarah and Jill will teach about wetland and animal species, including water birds. John Lerg will do a catch of fish and discuss fish. The camp will be held June 30 and July 1, with a noon picnic on last day.

Newsletter – Ruthie Mulda – Ruthie reported that the plan is to publish a newsletter 4 times a year after each board meeting and it will be emailed out. Board members are to let Ruthie know what they would like to hear about in the publication.

Lake Board – John Lerg and Jim Baird – Jim and John provided background about the board and that weed control is the primary goal of the board. Funds are collected by law as part of county tax assessment and they are separately designated for a fund covering collection of weed control expenses. The Lake Board oversees activities and pays money out for services. The Allegan County Drain Commissioner by law oversees how the money is spent. Progressive AE is contracted to handle weed control. John went with them this year to look at how the lake is doing. They did a circle of lake and looked at shallow water up to 5 feet and near shore to see what is growing. Most of weeds were handled by weed treatment in late May. Sand grass is the most prevalent weed in 5 foot or less. While others are water lily or yellow water lily, arrowhead plant, duck weed, green algae or slime.

### **Area Directors Report/ Remarks**

Deferred to Next meeting

### **Unfinished Business**

Website update – Joe Bianco – It was reported that there is progress ,and the website is online now. Joe is working to keep it up and also working on a directory in the next week or two.

Directory update – Denise Grimaldi and Joe Bianco- They are working on a directory and the plan is to make changes monthly so we can keep it up to date on the website.

### **New Business**

Election of officers – Vice President and Treasurer - Ruthie Malda- An election was held and Denise Grimaldi was elected as Treasurer and Allan Kautz was elected Vice President.

Weed control for 2021 summer status -Jim Baird and John Lerg - The next weed treatment will be set after a study. Progressive A and E will decide after monitoring the lake and it will recommend to the Drain Commissioner when the next treatment will be made. TBD

Roadway speed monitoring – Allan Kautz – Allan reported that road 122 has a speed control sign. The biggest problem is with nonresidents – there are lots of speeders. He reported that a police officer will put the sign up over 4<sup>th</sup> of July to monitor volume, speed and enforcement. Volume has gone up significantly, and there is no enforcement by police. He asked the county for speed bumps but no action, Allan is not sure how to proceed, maybe file a petition, but the road is promoted by the State of Michigan as scenic route with the intent of adding new travelers on the road.

Boat launch area issues – Ruthie Malda - Ruthie reported that she added signs about lake rules at the launch site, but someone ran it over and took sign bolts off. There was a discussion about how this can be resolved.

HLIA Statement regarding the DeGroot Property-Ruthie Malda- Ruth reported on the project of DeGroots – Ruthie read a statement to the board. See attached.

### **Public Input**

Northern Pike Project: Bruce Grahms - Bruce reported on this project. As a matter of background, he stated that during the 1960s the lake was overrun with small fish, and we could not do anything about it. He stated that he is the only one left from original HLIA, and that the DNR helped with the Pike problem. Pike over 24 inches cannot be taken out. He contacted a biologist for DNR for help and he told Bruce to get samples and Bruce described how he did that. If the samples show we have a problem, the DNR will make it a priority. Bruce then provided his thoughts on fishing, and that there were not as many fish this year. He suspects that Pike may be taking out other fish.

There was also discussion about trolling with lines in the water and whether the troller has the right of way. It was concluded that there is no law giving the troller the right-of-way.

MOTION: John Lerg moved to adjourn. Second Approved (12- 0 )

**Next Meeting** September 14, 2021

### **Adjournment**