

CRYSTAL LAKE - PERCH LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Fall Meeting Minutes 4 November 2017

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Marty Mulloy, President
Mike King, Treasurer
Mela Belle, Secretary
Bob Conn, Lakes
Mary Lou Suarez, Special Events

CALL TO ORDER:

Marty Mulloy at 10:00AM, Led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Acknowledgment of Chuck Hopkins sitting in the audience for the first time after years of service on the board. Board members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes - Denise Schlotz; Seconded by Gary Cooper

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Marty spoke to the new board following in the footsteps of past greatness. Stated that this new board offers a diverse range of talent and a unique cohesion in it's vision for the future.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mela shared that as a new board member she is now acutely aware of how hard the board members work, volunteering many hours to improve lake life for all of us. She thanked both the current and past boards for all their time and effort. With that in mind, Mela established a volunteer sign-up sheet asking everyone to consider pitching in as well, wherever possible even if it is only a few hours a year to stuff envelopes. Every bit helps. Alternatively members can reach out to the board on the website using the contact us tab.

An important focus for this board is communication and education. As such we are working to expand the website, newsletter and possibly a private facebook page. The facebook page could be a forum for the individual requests, sales, notices, etc. that the email blasts are not really designed for.

Lastly, watch for a board-driven survey in the upcoming months as the board will be seeking your input as we develop a five year vision for the lakes. It will be asking for your ideas as to what is important to you as a property owner.

SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT:

Mary Lou Suarez reminded us all the Holiday dinner is December 2, 2017. The main meal is catered, pop and coffee is provided. Bring your own holiday cheer as well as your favorite holiday dessert!
Mary Lou thinks the dessert table is the best part of our party!!

Also she could use helpers on both sides of the party, setting up and cleaning up!

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mike discussed that he and Mela were in the process of updating the contact and mailing list and reminded everyone to please keep us up to date with any contact information changes.

CLPLPOA Treasurer Report

November 3, 2017

Ending balance from 2015-2016			\$29,593.85	
	Credits	Debits	Balance	
July	\$ 850.24	\$ 1,439.76	\$28,534.09	
August	\$.24	\$ 453.01	\$28,081.32	
September	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,351.44	\$25,730.12	
October	\$ 21,075.00	\$ 348.05	\$46,171.97	
Total	\$ 21,925.48	\$ 4,592.26		

Savings Account as of September \$55,012.26

163 Invoices were issued for Association Dues and 96 have been paid.

LAKES FOUNDATION:

David stressed that the foundation is not the same as the lakes committee. The foundation exists to pay for what the association decides for the lakes. Currently we are collecting enough money to meet the PLM billing, however with new accounting practices we now have more details available to us and therefore will be shifting the billing changes in the future. You will be updated as this solidifies. Gary Cooper asked if is tax deductible and the answer is not so straightforward. Checking with your own accountant is the best policy.

Dave mentioned that the Foundation needs members. He is both the President and Treasurer. He would love to have a treasurer on board, especially a treasurer who lives on the lake or near County National Bank. The treasurer's role is basically the job of recording donations and writing checks. Use the website contact form to reach out and volunteer!

Started with	\$7,186.93
Took in via donations	\$22,340.00
Spent	\$19,771.87
Balance	\$9,755.06

Breakdown of donations

Basic lake care

Crystal lake owners	76 of 103 owners	74%
Perch lake owners	23 of 40	58%
Off lake	3 of 19	16%

Fish stocking

Crystal lake owners	51 of 103 owners	50%
Perch lake owners	16 of 40	40%
Off lake	2 of 19	11%

54 paid for individual treatment

Breakdown of costs

(analysis possible because thanks to Bob and Tom we got PLM to explain invoices more accurately)

Crystal Lake spending	\$6,232.15
Perch Lake spending	\$5439.02
Fish stocking	\$3.141
Individual treatment	\$4.844

For 2018 the Board is asking for \$15,000 :

\$12,000 for treatment and cutter boat maintenance

\$3,000 for fish stocking

Our conclusion:

We have adequate participation and can pay for what the board wants done

We were collecting too much for individual lot treatment and not enough for basic lakes care

We encourage more participation from Perch Lake owners

While Fish stocking is integral to lake preservation we feel that it should be a stand alone contribution

We have sufficient reserves for unforeseen circumstances

If we want to lower individual contributions even further encourage your neighbors to contribute

If every lot owner paid the same amount the total would be about \$75 per year

Therefore, assuming that we have about the same number of donors as last year:

We are asking for \$125 for Basic lakes care

We are asking for \$50 for fish stocking

As a service to members we will continue to combine individual treatments with Basic Lake Care because it's easier if it is done under our permits and with one lake treatment company. To do this we ask for \$100 for individual lot treatment (note: this payment is for either weed OR lily pads not both. If you want both you will need to pay \$200.00)

Note: These are not road dues. An email/ mailing will go out early January as permits need to be applied for

LAKES REPORT:

Bob announced that there will be a silent auction at the Holiday party this year with all proceeds going to the lakes committee. He asked Chuck Fifield to stand up and show a sample of his work that will be one of the items for auction. Most of us are familiar with Chuck's beautifully detailed pen and ink drawings. These are all limited edition works. Roxanna is donating another beautiful quilt this year in colors of the season.

Jeff Greep was applauded for catching a huge carp (being the only one to do so this year) and awarded \$10. Bob and Rick placed a grate over the weir (which is monitored regularly) to prevent carp and other trash fish from Lake LeAnn from entering Crystal. A picture of the grate can be seen on the website under the Fishing page. Chuck Hopkins mentioned Rick's brother donated the grate. Lakes are down about 14 inches from the drought. Beaver dam cleared out.

Why is eliminating the carp is in Crystal important? They disrupt the entire ecosystem. Nobody fishes for them. Jeff Greep caught about 20 bullhead catfish before the one carp. Jeff is looking for a good carp recipe. Someone mentioned smoking them. They also make good compost.

Bob hates herbicides! Who doesn't? Working with PLM to reduce our usage of. Spoke about a less toxic herbicide, sonar, that's the safest on the market for addressing milfoil. We used it years ago. It's more expensive, but only needs to be applied every other year. Eel grass can only be removed by using rakes and your hands.

We don't want to continue throwing money and fish into the lakes. We need to encourage growth naturally. Blue gill spawn beds will be protected in some areas this year. Not everyone may care about fishing. However, fish are an important part of a balanced ecosystem. Fish stocking in Perch and Crystal will be more precise as far as what's needed and what will survive and thrive in the future.

Mentioned he and Chuck going out onto Perch lake and discovering that it's much deeper than people thought. Dredging 100 yard are cost around \$70,000. Roads, septic, leaves dumping, and lawn fertilizers all play a part in lake management. Meckley's uses an arsenic based pesticide that's likely seeping into our lakes. Our lakes budget of \$15,000 pales in comparison to Lake LeAnn's \$120,000. If we had the money we could use non-herbicide approaches to dealing with weeds. The machinery is very expensive. Brennan suggested we start saving now to save for machinery in the future. Bob didn't disagree, but mentioned additional maintenance concerns such as storage and upkeep.

Someone asked about Copper Sulfate – kills the bottom of the lake.

Ended on a good note. Our water is still clean and we can swim and play in it!

OLD BUSINESS: Touched on Altec storage moving forward, not a pressing issue at the moment. Jeff Greep inquired about township rejecting us from putting a structure on the compost site. Bob Conn is working on getting rid of the ordinance preventing the structure from being built – when there's no primary residence. More research needed and ongoing as to options for Little Crystal.

NEW BUSINESS: Watch for the upcoming survey!

OTHER DISCUSSION: Additional discussion on lakes ecology and balance. The board is stressing education and research.

Elizabeth LaPorte: Mentioned MSU Extension as a resource for our lakes. They have a fisheries and wildlife and 6 week lake management course. They also have a natural shorelines program. Residents can get their shorelines certified. The foundation will pay for certification signs that can be posted on your property.

Marty stated that he stopped individual lot spraying at his home for the past two years based on what he has learned from Bob, and that wildlife is returning to his shorefront. Frogs, turtles and snakes are successfully reestablishing themselves

Carolyn Driscoll: Brought up Nestle and wondered how we can fight them from extracting copious amounts of water from local aquifers. They are extracting up to 400 gallons per minute. Mela mentioned Osceola County is being sued by Nestle because they successfully blocked Nestle from taking their water. DEQ issues permits to Nestle. Is there a way to organize and protect our water?

Marty mentioned that Rick Applegate met with folks from other lakes around the area and one takeaway was that we're in good shape. Being small and not having public access are two key things we having going for us.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:20