**Crystal Lake – Perch Lake Property Owners Association**

**Spring Meeting Minutes**

**7 April 2017**

*Trustees in Attendance:*

* Marty Mulloy, President
* Stan Kirkwood, Vice President
* Mike King, Treasurer
* Rick Applegate, Roads
* Bob Conn, Lakes
* Mary Lou Suarez, Special Events

*Call to Order:*

Marty Mulloy at 10:00 AM, led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members introduced themselves.

*Introduction of New Members:*

New lake members Wayne Snyder and Anna Marie Asher from Ann Arbor introduced themselves to meeting participants. They purchased lot #83 on Crystal Lake.

*Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:*

Motion to approve minutes -- Judy Moskus; seconded by Cindy Conn

*President’s Report:*

Marty noted that the last 30 minutes of the agenda for this and future meetings would be reserved for outside guest speakers. These speakers will focus on topics of special interest to our lake community. Todays guest is Carter Woodwyk from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Hillsdale County.

The primary focus of the Board has been developing a five year Strategic Plan that we plan to present at the Summer Membership Meeting. A survey is being conducted to gather the thoughts and opinions from all members. A handout of the survey is available on the back tables and Mela is also sending out the survey via emails. Please keep us advised of your current email address.

*Vice Presidents Report*

Stan provided a broad overview of the strategic planning process and steps we are taking to develop a plan. He encouraged everyone to complete the survey so we can get a broad perspective of the interest of lake members.

*Treasurer’s Report:*

Mike noted from calendar dates 6/1/2017 through 3/31/2018 we had Income of $32,207 and Expenses of $26,213. Budget for the year is $34,175 – we are on track to be within the budget. He emphasized the importance of keeping email addresses up to date to ensure timely notification of dues.

*Roads Report:*

Rick asked the members if they were pleased with the condition of the roads over the winter. Members stated they were very pleased and appreciated Rick’s hard work.

He asked members to avoid dumping large logs and other inappropriate foreign matter in the waste disposal lot. It is imperative that we keep the lot from being overloaded – this is the holding pond that takes in the run off from the chemicals, such as arsenic, used at Meckley’s Farm.

Road dust treatment is scheduled to begin in May, Lastly, please slow down when driving on our roads – we have too many incidences of people speeding that are environmentally harmful and dangerous to pedestrians.

Rick reported on the activity of the Fish Committee – Rick asked everyone fishing to please keep off the beds while the fish are spawning. Optimally, we want our fish to reproduce to avoid the expense of further stocking. Rick is placing buoys in areas that we need to stay away from the fish beds. In addition, special thanks to Terry Bias for making signs advising those fishing to stay away from the beds.

We do have some fish stocking planned in 2018. This spring we will introduce Red Ear Bluegills and Perch. In autumn we will be stocking crappie.

Carp Harvest – we have taken several initiatives to reduce the number of carp on the lake. A guard has been installed at the weir to block carp migrating from Lake Lee Ann to Crystal Lake. In addition we have a Carp Harvesting initiative planned from May 19th through June 9th. There will be an award of $10 per carp and with an additional prize of $50 for the largest carp. Details of the Harvest are on our Lakes Web Site and a handout at the tables at the back of the hall.

*Special Events Report:*

Mary Lou advised us that the Township fireworks are scheduled for July 3rd and our Summer Picnic is July 14th. We are scheduled to have a Boat Parade and Children’s Fish Day (Sponsored by the Fish Committee) – dates are TBD.

It was proposed that we discontinue the Christmas Party and replace it with a Community Lake event in autumn. A motion was made by Cheryl Bias and seconded by Phil Webb – a large majority passed the proposal. Fall Feast will take place Saturday September 29th. Details will be forth coming as to the time and location.

*Secretary’s Report:*

Marty conveyed Mela’s report to the members. The web site continues to be updated and is the best source of information. Email blasts are designed for pertinent and time sensitive updates and lake news.

We are working on privatizing our Facebook page so it can operate much like a meeting – the audience is only lakes property owners who are having a conversation. Lastly, the strategic planning survey is on the table in back of the room – feel free to drop off your survey to me. Mela will also be sending one electronically next week.

*Lakes and Foundation Report*:

Bob notified Perch Lake residents that there would be no individual lot treatments for a couple of years. Perch Lake will be treated with sonar chemicals that work from the roots of the lake and progressively work its way to the surface. It is anticipated that milfoil weeds will begin to die off by the middle of June. This process is a significant step forward in more aggressively attacking the weeds while at the same time reducing the number of chemicals and minimizing the harm to the aquatic life in the lake.

If Perch lake residents have sent money for individual lot treatments they will be reimbursed or they may choose to donate the monies to the Foundation, which will use the funds for Perch Lake.

There is no change in Crystal Lake individual lot treatment -- they will continue as we have in the past.

Bob cited that he is doing his best to minimize damage to our eco-system while at the same time killing off intrusive weeds that threaten the health of our lakes. Chemicals such as copper sulfate kill weeds but also kill off aquatic life such as fish eggs, frogs and turtles. All chemicals are bad – the skill is to use the right chemicals as sparingly as possible and to achieve the results that improve the health of the lake.

Bob said he has a plan that has been approved by the DNR to use chemicals to kill weeds that are choking the channel from Crystal Lake to Little Crystal. If nothing is done the waterway will be totally blocked and lake owners on Little Crystal will be unable to navigate their boats to Crystal Lake.

Special care should be taken when using the cutter boats – cutting milfoil weeds spreads them thereby making the problem much worse. Before anyone uses the cutter boats – they must ask permission from either Lakes Foundation representative Dave Vanderworp or Bob Conn.

Karl Kakaley recommended that we drudge the channel and Little Crystal disposing the vegetation and muck on the shore banks. Karl believes that lot owners would not object to this alternative.

The proposal Karl raised will be evaluated further, but moving forward Phase I of the plan will be implemented as approved by the DNR. Lastly, do not mow the grass and dispose of the clipping into the channel along the gravel road.

Bob cited the Boat Launch is our greatest contributor to invasive weeds & species being introduced into our lakes -- invasive weeds and species such as zebra mussels, red crawfish, milfoil and starry stonewort latch onto the trailers when we launch and take boats from our lakes. Typically external companies that service our boats have trailers that cover multiple lakes and are an ideal transportation vehicle caring invasive weeds & species (aquatic hitch hikers) from lake to lake.

Bob said he will begin drawing water samples from a broad number of points along the lake to identify any potential pollutants emanating from defective septic tanks. Depending on the finding of the test and the degree of potential danger to the lakes – we might require periodic testing for septic systems by individual lot owners.

Fertilizer used on our grass and flowers contribute to weed production – all are asked to use the utmost care when using these chemicals.

A goose round up is being considered this spring – other lake communities have employed this option to reduce the number of geese and the accompanying disagreeable effects geese have on hygiene of the lakes. Additionally, please do not feed the feed the geese and ducks -- doing so makes the present situation worse and is harmful to the animal.

A question was raised during Bob’s presentation. Do we have a restriction against boats outside of our lakes being brought in by guests?

The answer is yes – in our By-Laws Article 8 Section 1 states that “guest watercraft and equipment is not permitted”. Your cooperation is requested to adhere to this policy.

*Lakes Foundation Report:*

Dave Vanderworp reported that we have collected $12,000 in Lake Foundation donations – our goal is $15,000.

*Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Hillsdale County*

Special guest Carter Woodwyk graciously accepted our invitation to address our Membership Meeting and answer questions raised by the members.

Carter said that there are approximately 200 DNR Officers covering the State of Michigan. We have 2 officers in Hillsdale County – consequently, please be patient when calling for assistance.

Question was raised regarding if the DNR would respond to unauthorized outsiders coming onto the lake to fish. Carter said any complaints should be filed by calling 1-800-292-7800. He would check on his jurisdictional rights and get back to us.

Fishing licenses are $26 for adults between ages of 17-65. Senior (ages 65+) rates are $11 for the year. Three day fishing licenses for non-residents are $30 per adult.

Carter was invited to our Children’s Fishing Day – he will check his calendar to see if he can attend

We greatly appreciate Carter taking time out of his Saturday to come and join our meeting.

*Old Business*

Marty stated that we covered in today’s meeting “Old Business” that was discussed at our last Membership Meeting. No further “Old Business” issues were raised by the membership.

*New Business*

Suggestion was made to have all Perch and Crystal Lake boats register with the lake board. Each watercraft would receive an individually distinctive decal that would be displayed on the watercraft. Hopefully, this would reduce the number of unauthorized boats and help identify boats that do not have such designation. The strategic planning committee will address this issue and report out at the next membership meeting.

*Adjourn 11:45AM*

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Phil Webb and seconded by Cindy Conn

*Volunteers Sign-up Sheet*

The following members signed up for volunteer assignments

Name Interest

Vanessa Campbell Newsletter / Mailings

Ann Dyjack Mailings & Auction Board

Linda McCracken Mailings & Whatever Needed

Denise Schlotz Special Events

Elizabeth LaPorte Education – Healthy Lake

Ruth Ann Fifield Whatever Needed

Cindy Applegate Whatever Needed

Judy Moskus Just About Anything

Dick Johnson Just About Anything

Dave VanDerworp Just About Anything