

**BEAR LAKE-LAKE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 8, 2024
LAKETON TOWNSHIP HALL**

Chairman Paul Pek called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Paul Pek, Vice Chairman Craig Howell, Commissioner Cook and Member Moore

ABSENT: Member Jim Panici

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Taylor Hobby

ROLL

City Clerk Hobby called the roll.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Moore moved to approve the agenda as amended moving the GVSU Annual Report review/discussion to the beginning. The motion was supported by Commissioner Cook and carried unanimously.

GVSU ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW/DISCUSSION

Professor Alan Steinman from GVSU was in attendance to discuss and answer questions regarding the Bear Lake 2023 Watershed Assessment. Chairman Pek pointed out that he noticed Bear Creek is cleaner than the overall lake and mentioned that Fenner's Ditch seems to be the hotspot on the lake when it comes to the phosphorus.

Ms. Moore asked Professor Steinman to give the board some of the high points of the report in general. Professor Steinman pointed out that there was good and bad in the report. The good news is that the total phosphorus overall has come down. Which means that the restoration in the wetlands was a success by having cleaner water coming into the lake. The bad news associated with the phosphorus is that the bottom of the deep holes in the lake contain high concentrations of phosphorus. It is very localized as to where the high concentrations are and that is why PLM focuses the phoslock on those areas. Professor Steinman stated that it is a natural phenomenon and it is not affecting the overall concentrations, but it will continue to be a problem. Commissioner Cook inquired about how it is renewing itself. Professor Steinman explained how wave, boat, prop action all affect the sediment and moves what was at the bottom to the top which is then above the phoslocked sediment.

Professor Steinman explained that although the Fenner's Ditch concentration is high the load coming out of the ditch is low due to the slow flow. His recommendation is to stay the course on what is being done and then strategically target the hot spots. One of the suggestions is to then target Fenner's Ditch to check the sediment to see if it is the source.

Commissioner Cook moved to approve the scope of services by GVSU as proposed with the additional testing and work on Fenner's ditch in the not to exceed amount of \$33,500. The motion was supported by Member Howell and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Cook moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023 meeting. The motion was supported by Member Moore and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Darryl Van Fossen, 138 N. Bear Lake Rd, wanted to make sure the board checked out the permit fee paid to PLM because he remembers it being more. Also, on the PLM document he mentioned that it talks about the AVAS surveys that are done in the spring and fall and wanted to remind the board to make sure they are done when it is warm enough, don't do it too early. He also noted that it would be beneficial to take advantage of the optional management services that were listed. As a resident he would like to see the money spent on what to do to fix the lake and not on an association and focus on what the board has going because it is a great plan.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Pek discussed the email from Tony Jarvis regarding the wild rice. Member Moore stated she would rather redirect him to another project that may be more beneficial than the wild rice. Commissioner Cook shared that she knows Mr. Jarvis and thinks he would jump at an opportunity to get the kids involved in a different way. Commissioner Cook said she would reach out to find out more.

OFFICER REPORTS

TREASURER

Treasurer Howell presented the proposed 2024 budget. He stated that after the discussions at the beginning of the meeting he will have to make some revisions. The proposed budget includes a 10% increase on PLM and then all other line items were left the same.

Treasurer Howell explained that on the up side there is currently a \$168,497.29 cash balance and an investment balance of \$187,219.08. The cash balance is earning 5.231% with no commitment on time. He would be going to contact Mike Huston, City of North Muskegon Finance Director, to ask about reinvesting in CDs to get a higher rate of return before the money needs to be pulled out this would in turn benefit the residents.

Commissioner Cook suggested changing the PLM Education line item to just "Education" and all members agreed.

Treasurer Howell said that he would modify and clean up the proposed budget so that action could be taken on it next month.

SECRETARY

Secretary Moore shared that she is still working on the updated Lake Management Plan and is feeling good about the progress.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Meeting/Dates Locations

Member Moore will get with Laketon Township about using their room until North Muskegon City Hall renovations are complete.

NEW BUSINESS

Bear Lake PLM Lake Management and Treatment 2024 Pricing & Report

Board Members discussed the reports and pricing from PLM. There was not a need to vote on the pricing due to the fact it was already approved previously for a five-year contract.

Member Moore shared that the Lake Management plan from PLM is an Aquatic Nuisance Plan and wants the board to keep that in mind. She also believes that the education can be done on their own, but believes PLM does a good job with the newsletter and should continue with that.

More Detailed PLM Treatment Maps

Chairman Pek sent the treatment maps from Ms. Moore over to Jamie asking if they can do something more detailed with the maps.

Michigan Lake & Streams Association Membership

Member Moore believes the membership is not expensive and would be worth it due to the educational benefits it could bring. She will price it out and get more information to present at the next meeting.

Officer Elections (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary)

Member Moore made a motion to nominate Paul Pek as Chairman, Jim Panici as Vice Chair, Craig Howell as Treasurer and herself as Secretary. The motion was supported by Commissioner Cook and carried unanimously.

Sub team Leads (Treatments, Conservation District, Newsletter, Workshops)

Chairman Pek said this could be discussed at a different time. He said if there is a passion that anyone has that they would like to lead on please let them know.

Accomplishments List/Newsletter Prep

Chairman Pek would like everyone to think about the accomplishments that happened over the past year that should be included in the newsletter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bonnie Slayton, 524 Lake Dr., was looking at the website and was not able to find information regarding the meeting location or if there was any other new information. Chairman Pek said that he could always put out an email blast with the meeting information for the month.

BOARD COMMENTS

Member Moore commented about non-point pollution. Al's focus is phosphorus as it should be, but there is a lot more stuff getting into the water from the storm water. She agrees phosphorus is the number one enemy, but it is important to think about the other pollutants entering the lake and effecting the quality. She would like to do a presentation on this topic.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Next meeting: March 7, 2024

Taylor Hobby, City Clerk