

MANISTEE LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Mike Neubecker, Chairman
Coldsprings Twp.

Francis Kelly
Co. Drain Comm.

Norm LaCroix
Secretary Treasurer

Jerry Gancer
Kalkaska Co. Comm.

Norm Groner
Excelsior Twp.

Meeting Minutes 08/15/2006

The sixth meeting of the Manistee Lake Improvement Board (MLIB) was held Tuesday August 15, 2006 at the Excelsior Twp. Hall, Kalkaska, Mi. Called to order by Chairman Neubecker the roll call indicated that those present were Chairman Mike Neubecker, Secretary Treasurer Norm LaCroix, County Board of Supervisors representative Jerry Gancer, Excelsior Twp. Supervisor Norm Groner and Drain Commissioner Francis Kelly. Also present was Tony Grove from Progressive AE as well as several members of the public.

The meeting agenda was approved as amended. No conflicts of interest were identified. The previous meeting minutes were approved as presented.

The Bonding applications were completed and will be submitted by Norm LaCroix for the Chairman and Secretary Treasurer.

Jerry Gancer reported that he had received correspondence from Mr. Douglas Bock regarding suggestion for establishment of the Special Assessment District. They will be reviewed as part of the next Board Meeting.

Norm LaCroix reported that the check for \$6000 to Progressive AE had been cashed and that the current bank balance was \$ 3562.35. The Treasurers' Report was accepted as presented.

Tony Groves from Progressive AE reviewed the Preliminary Draft Summary of the Engineering Study Findings and Recommendations for Manistee Lake. A copy of the report is included in these minutes. The final report will be presented to the lake board in November of 2006.

The highlights of the report were:

1. The shallow nature of the lake makes it naturally susceptible to rooted aquatic plant growth.
2. The average phosphorus concentration often exceeds that level that encourages a high level of plant growth.
3. Water Clarity is sufficient to encourage plant growth in the majority of the lake bottom.
4. Predominant plant species were the native pondweeds (approx. 60%) and the invasive Eurasian Water milfoil.
5. Some milfoil was damaged by weevils but much of it appeared healthy.
6. Lake Level Control which is covered under a separate part of the Environmental Protection Act has many considerations required before a court will issue authorization. Further information and costs will be presented in the future.

7. The Michigan DNR indicates that 34,000 walleye fingerlings were planted in the lake in June of 2006 and that they are planning a updated survey of fish populations to be completed by 2007.

The Primary Recommendations were: (5 Year Program)

1. Stock 12,000 milfoil weevils per year to control milfoil . Est. cost \$17,000 per yr.
2. Monitoring and measuring of aquatic vegetation annually. Est cost \$10,000 per yr.
3. Water Quality Monitoring (with AuSable Institute). Est. cost \$1500 per yr.
4. Further evaluate lake level control.
5. Manistee Lake Guidebook (similar to Houghton Lake) to encourage good watershed management practices. Est. cost \$5,000 per year.
6. Direct Collaboration between the Lake Board, the Manistee Lake Association and the DNR to improve fish stocking and studies of the lake fishery.
7. Contingencies and Administrative Costs est. \$5,000 per yr.
8. Note: Approx. \$20,000 has been committed to the engineering study.

Chairman Mike Neubecker thanked Tony Groves for the thoroughness of the report so far and asked for comments from the public.

Dr. Janet Goulet suggested strongly that this was not an aggressive enough recommendation. She specifically requested serious consideration of a plan to deal with the large deposits of sediment in the lake that often interfere with swimmers. This could have the added benefit of removing some of the excess nutrients which are concentrated in the lake bottom. Tony Grove agreed to include options in his next review.

Mrs Rosemary Brow suggested that a plan needs to include more options for treating the excessive plant growth (such as chemical treatment) in case the weevils don't adequately control them. The board agreed to be as flexible as allowed for within the limits of the law.

Secretaries Note: Possible line item might be "Control of Nuisance Aquatic Plants both invasive and native using an integrated approach of biological , chemical and mechanical control."

A discussion was held regarding options for the Special Assessment District and it was agreed that this would be a major item for the next board meeting. Mr. Bob Stein has done extensive work in researching options and identifying special situations that must be resolved.

A motion was made by Chairman Neubecker to meet on Tuesday August 29, 2006 at 7 PM at the Coldsprings Twp. Hall. The motion passed unanimously.