

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 11/.21/2006 APPROVED

The eighth meeting of the MLIB was held Tuesday, 11/21/2006 at the Excelsior Township Hall, Kalkaska County, Mi. Called to order by Chairman Neubecker at 7:00 PM the roll call indicated that all members were present. Also present was Tony Groves from Progressive AE the engineering consultant and several members of the public. The agenda was approved as amended. No conflict of interest was identified. The minutes of 09/01/2006 were approved as modified.

Jerry Gancer asked that these minutes reflect a correction to an item in the 09/01/2006 minutes. The "Chronological Summary of Lake Board Procedures" referred to in the second paragraph is not part of the Act which is the basis for establishing a lake board. This was agreed.

Mike Neubecker requested that an e-mail from Norm LaCroix to Harvey and Rosemary Brow responding to their letter to the board be read into the record. That response was read and is entered into the minutes of this meeting.

Minutes of a meeting held with the Manistee Lake Association, the MLIB and the DNR on 09/12/2006 were also read into the record by Secretary Norm LaCroix. The meeting resulted in an action plan to remove white suckers and increase the Walleye Planting Schedule in the lake. Copies of these minutes are available to interested parties.

A discussion was held about Fife Lake and a program they currently have to control Milfoil. Progressive AE is working with the Townships involved as they have not established a lake board. They are using Chemical Control.

Mike Neubecker asked if bonding of the board was complete. Norm LaCroix reported that it was and that the contract policy was on file with the Secretary Treasurer.

The Treasurers report was presented by Norm LaCroix and accepted as presented. Arrangements for the final \$5,000 of the \$20,000 loan from the MLA to the MLIB have been completed.

Tony Groves reviewed the highlights of the revised recommendations from the study findings. A complete copy of this revised plan was presented to the board and is entered into the record as an attachment to these minutes. The highlights of the revised recommendation are:

1. Change to a three year improvement plan ( from the originally proposed 5 year plan ).  
This could allow for more flexibility in responding to changing conditions than the 5 year plan.
2. Aquatic plant control: Control of Eurasian Milfoil by stocking milfoil weevils at a rate of 12,000 per year. Estimated annual cost \$17,000.  
Note: Alternative control using chemicals would cost \$45,000 annually to spot treat or \$80,000 for a whole lake treatment. None of the known controls are permanent and all require some level of ongoing maintenance. There is the added concern that chemical treatment could allow pond weed to proliferate significantly which has been the primary aquatic plant problem for the last 2 years.
3. Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring: Monitoring aquatic vegetation annually in a similar way to that done during this summers study by Progressive AE. This would measure the impact of weevil planting as well as identify other changes in aquatic plants that may require a reponse. Estimated annual cost \$8,000/yr.
4. Water Quality Monitoring: Focusing on nutrient levels and e-coli measurements as well as other water quality measures and including lake level measurements would provide information needed to manage the lakes ongoing needs. Estimated cost \$5,000/yr.
5. Lake Level Control: Consider an evaluation of controlling lake level by constructing a lake level control structure at the outlet culvert at the south end of the lake. This requires a permit from the DEQ and action by the circuit court to establish a legal lake level.
6. Watershed Management: Education of the public on guidelines to be established for controlling pollutants is critical to the long term health of the lake. Lack of this control is the root cause of many of the problems in the lake including excessive aquatic plant growth. Note: Cost estimate for this has been reduced to \$2,500 per year at the request of the MLIB.
7. Fisheries Management: Continue collaboration with the MLA and the DNR to improve fish stocks in the lake.
8. Administration and Contingent Expenses: Estimated annual cost \$2500.

The total estimated annual cost is \$35,000 exclusive of cost related to lake level control. In addition \$20,000 would need to be assessed in the first year of the program to cover the cost of the lake improvement feasibility study and administrative costs.

The recommendation includes the establishment of a special assessment district that would include all properties that would boarder the lake and back lots that have deeded or dedicated access to the lake. Under this plan lake front properties would be assessed one unit of benefit and back lots with deeded or dedicated access would be assessed ½ unit of benefit. Contiguous lots in common ownership would be assessed as a single parcel provided only one house exists on the parcel.

A detailed review of this proposal included the following comments and points of interest.

1. Dredging to reduce sediment is not recommended by Progressive AE because of cost and their opinion that sedimentation is a long term process that will not significantly change in the near term. Cost is estimated at \$73,000 per Acre to remove 3 ft of sediment. Establishing a disposal site and controlling contaminates are also very

difficult issues. Consideration will be given to establishing a system to measure the depth of sediment and monitoring it annually.

2. Tony Groves pointed out that we need to make a decision on the special assessment district to meet timing goals for springtime public hearings. The next meeting of the MLIB will focus on this issue and will include a presentation by Bob Stein on an alternate proposal that would include a wider range of properties.
3. A question was posed by Lee Gancer: "What do we do if weevils are not available?" There have been problems in producing weevils in the past. Tony Groves responded that this was a good point and that the line item in the project needs to be as flexible as the law allows so that we can shift to alternate means if needed.  
Secretaries Note: Line item might be "Control of nuisance aquatic plants using available technologies including but not limited to weevils, chemicals or mechanical means."
4. Jerry Gancer inquired about pond weed control. The DNR /DEQ will not allow the use of herbicides outside of 300 yards from shore. Pond weed exists outside this limit. This limits control to mechanical means.
5. Jerry Gancer commented that we need to be more aggressive if we choose weevil control for milfoil. He suggested that 25,000 per yr. would be more reasonable and would not add significantly to the total cost of the project.

Mike Neubecker made a motion to accept the engineering study report. He pointed out that this does not mean that the MLIB has chosen the recommendations as presented. More conversation with the public is needed before finalizing the boards plan. Motion was passed unanimously.

Bills submitted for approval included the last billing from Progressive AE for \$6,000 and the per diem payments for board members. They were approved unanimously with the exception that Progressive AE will be paid \$3,000 now and \$3,000 after the first public hearing.

The next meeting will be at the Coldsprings Twp. Hall on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Gancer and seconded by Neubecker. Meeting was adjourned at 9PM.