

- MANISTEE LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Mike Neubecker, Chairman
Coldsprings Twp.

Francis Kelly
Co. Drain Comm.

Norm LaCroix
Secretary Treasurer

Lou Nemeth
Kalkaska Co. Comm.

Norm Groner
Excelsior Twp.

Meeting Minutes 01/16/2007 APPROVED

The ninth meeting of the MLIB was held Tuesday, 01/16/2007 at the Coldsprings Township Hall, Kalkaska County, Mi. Called to order by Chairman Neubecker at 7:00 PM the roll call indicated that all members were present except Francis Kelly who was absent. Also present was Tony Groves from Progressive AE, the engineering consultant, and several members of the public. Mike Neubecker introduced and welcomed Lou Nemeth as the new representative to this board from the Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners. The agenda was approved with one amendment. No conflict of interest was identified. The minutes of 11/21/2006 were approved as written.

Norm LaCroix asked for assistance from Mike Neubecker and the Manistee Lake Association in getting these minutes routinely published on Coldsprings Twp. and MLA web sites. All previous attempts have been unsuccessful. No correspondence has been received since our last meeting

The Treasurer's Report indicated that our funds will be down to \$800.00 when we make the final payment to Progressive AE after the public hearings. We will need to develop alternate temporary funding for this board until the special assessment district is established and funds are available. Mike Neubecker indicated that we would probably have to borrow from the Townships in a manner similar to the loan from the MLA.

Mike Neubecker asked if there was any additional input from the public or the board on the engineering report from Progressive AE which was accepted at our last meeting. Mr. Harvey Brow commented that although there were differences of opinion we should basically accept the recommendations from the engineering company as they are our most expert source of information.

Lou Nemeth reported a recommendation that the lake be dredged and the spoil be deposited in the center to form an island, and asked whether this possibility had been discussed. Tony Groves indicated that this would not be a good recommendation for Manistee Lake for a number of important reasons including the nature of the sediment in this lake.

Norm LaCroix indicated that input from Jerry Gancer and others suggested that we should be more aggressive in planting weevils to deal with Milfoil. It was suggested that 20 to 25 thousand weevils per year would be more appropriate than the 12,000 per year originally proposed. Norm indicated that this proposal was consistent with our previous experience in Manistee Lake. A contact with Enviroscience (Weevil producer) also indicated the following.

1. They have also had improved success by planting more concentrated numbers of weevils (5,000) per planting site.
2. They will have no problem providing our requirements and would give us priority because of our previous relationship.
3. They will hold their price to what we previously paid.

Tony Groves indicated that he was in agreement with this proposal.

Norm Groner offered the opinion that the current proposals as amended from our discussions are the best options. He indicated that the weevil approach to control milfoil was the least costly and is as effective as other options. All options require maintenance.

Tony Groves submitted an update to the engineering study recommendations to reflect the changes made based on input from the public and the board. The updated recommendation is attached to these minutes. The highlights are:

1. The improvement plan is reduced to three years (from five years) to allow for more flexibility in responding to changing needs (public input). The plan will likely be redone after three years.
2. Aquatic plant control focus on controlling Eurasian milfoil by planting 20,000 weevils per year (tentatively 5,000 per location). This is an increase from the originally proposed 12000.
3. Aquatic vegetation monitoring to insure we know what is happening in the lake annually and are responding appropriately.
4. Water quality monitoring (nutrient levels, e-coli etc.). Probably in conjunction with AuSable Institute.
5. Watershed management to reduce added input of harmful nutrients. This is an educational piece to be sent to all home owners on the lake. (Cost reduced to \$2500 from \$5000).
6. Fisheries Management. Continue collaboration between the MLIB, MLA and DNR to Improve the fishery with emphasis on Walleye while protecting all other desirable species.
7. Continue evaluation of lake level control. A proposal will be presented at the public hearing to gauge public interest in this project. The approximate cost is estimated at \$100,000.
8. Lake Dredging will also be discussed at the public hearing. Although it is not recommended at this time because of excessive cost public input will be accepted on the option of spending approximately \$18, 000 for a feasibility study.
9. Administration and Contingent Expenses are approximately \$3500 annually.

Total estimated annual cost for the current proposal (items 1 through 6 above) is \$39,000 per year plus \$20,000 in the first year for the engineering study and administrative costs.

A motion was made by Norm LaCroix and seconded by Mike Neubecker to take the current proposal as stated above as the boards recommendation to the public hearing. It passed unanimously with one member absent (Kelly).

Bob Stein made a detailed presentation on a alternate proposal for the Special Assessment District which is attached to these minutes. This proposal expands the current proposal to include some properties around the lake which benefit from lake improvement but do not have deeded or dedicated access. It also proposes to use SEV as a basis for determining the tax. The board will discuss the Special Assessment District at the next board meeting and thanked Bob for his excellent presentation.

The next meeting of the board will be 02/27/2007 at Excelsior Twp. Hall at 7:00PM. A motion was made to adjourn at 9:00 PM by Neubecker seconded by Groner. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.