

Paradise Lake Improvement Board Minutes – 4/13/11

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. All present minus Arden Bawkey.
2. Motion by Cathy to approve minutes of prior meeting, seconded by Paul. Motion approved.
3. Public Comment – none
4. Chair Report
 - Arden will return on the 20th of April and will be in attendance at the next meeting.
5. Correspondence
 - Brief discussion on the few letters/emails received
 - i. Correspondence received was approved to be published on the PLIB website
 - Received certificate of insurance from Progressive AE
6. Appearances
 - Tony Groves with Progressive AE gave a presentation using a series of maps. Items discussed using the maps to illustrate were: water depth, the make up of the lake bottom, water sampling locations, and the watershed. The maps also showed number of residential acres, farm acres, commercial acres and wetland acres. Tony pointed out that the quality of our watershed is a direct consequence of the quality of water in our lake. He also commented that there is a lot of natural land to filter water coming to the lake and that the land covered in the direction of flow is beneficial to our quality. Tony also showed an aquatic plant survey map and explained how their survey would be approached using a grid method. He shared that it was imperative to utilize the grid map so they can quickly find and zero in on any particular point in the lake using GPS coordinates. Also shared was a map of parcels on the lake which came from Emmet County's GIS report.
 - Finally, Tony handed out a SAD criteria worksheet to be used as a “jumping off point” for future discussion on how the SAD will be formed and who it will encompass based on benefit.
 - i. Question (Elaine) – What about government land? Will they be a part of the SAD? Answer (Tony) – The State will not pay a special assessment. The Township can do an assessment at large for their holdings. Conservancy land is not exempt either.
 - ii. Question (Bob Roll) – What about water sampling in Hebron Township? Answer (Tony) – There will be no problem with water sampling in Hebron Township.
 - iii. Question (Rosemary Consoni) – Where did you get the SAD criteria? Answer (Tony) – From past experience and past use of SAD's
 - iv. Chairman talked about land value touching on the approximate number of 8% of value lost in Emmet County. He commented that it is not just weeds that are driving down values on Paradise Lake.
 - v. Tony discussed his prior experience and use of aeration briefly.

- vi. Question (Ann Hayes) – At your last presentation, you had stated that aeration was not right for our lake, why? Answer (Tony)- They have been used in situations to prevent fish kills where the water is not deep enough and there is a thick layer of ice on top. In this instance, there is not enough oxygen in the water for the fish to live on and ultimately, the fish will die. The system opens up ice and prevents that. It has also been used to control algae. This type of system has not been used for milfoil control historically. The water in Paradise Lake has good oxygen levels at present so aeration does not initially appear to be a good treatment option however, we are investigating the possibility.
- vii. Question (Bob Smith) – Can you comment more in depth on your weed survey methods? Answer (Tony) – Every 300 ft. we do a rake toss, list all plants and assign plant codes. We can then run a program against it that will show areas of progress or failure when we get to the treatment phase.
- viii. Question (Elaine) – Can you do an accurate survey without tossing the rake? Answer (Tony) – No. If there is no rake toss or plants collected, they cannot be correctly identified.
- ix. Question (Paul) – Do you look for weevils? Answer (Tony) – Yes. We will collect milfoil stems from every site we study. They will be collected and sent to the lab for examination. Any damage perceived will be logged.
- x. Question (Marilyn Smith) – Will you show the dense locations of milfoil? Answer (Tony) – Yes, when we are done, we can pinpoint any dense areas.
- xi. Question (audience member) – Do you do public relations? I think it is really important to publicize our positive efforts to try to counteract all the negative stories out there. Answer (Tony) – Some, but not until all the info has been collected and the report is done. It can go on the board website.
- xii. Chairman Jim talked briefly about PR (public relations). He shared that Emmet County does its marketing and spoke briefly about how communities deal with problems pointing out that a smile and a friendly tone, even during disagreements, goes a long way.

7. Old Business

- Paul and Cathy met with Tony Groves prior to the meeting in order to convey the boards decision to go with them and to also ask him to look into the possibility of aeration and the possibility of speeding up the process. Tony shared with them the steps involved with the implementation of a SAD and let them know there isn't a way to speed that process up legally in order for it to be placed on the Summer Tax Bill. Additionally, until the board can collect the money, we cannot begin a treatment. If everything goes as scheduled and any legal objections are settled, it could be possible to add the assessment to the Winter Tax Bill which would make a Spring of '12 treatment possible.
- Comment (Marilyn Smith) – The Township received a grant for 5000.00 to be used on weevils, is there an expiration date? Cathy will research this issue and find out.
- Comment (Ann Hayes) – Is biological control the only control to be considered? Chairman answered no, all options are on the table.

- Question (audience member) – Do we have a contract with Progressive AE? Chairman answered yes, we have a contract in place.

8. New Business

- Cathy will be attending a lecture series presented by Michigan Lakes and Streams and would like to ask the board to cover the cost of 65.00 to attend. Motion by Paul to pay the fee of 65.00 for Cathy to attend, seconded by Elaine. Roll call vote – Cathy, yes – Elaine, yes – Jim, yes – Paul, yes. Motion carried.
- Paul discussed the prospect of going in with the township in purchasing a PA system for the meeting hall. The cost per Board would be 1100.00 at most which would be exactly 50% of the 2200.00 total. Motion by Paul to join in, seconded by Cathy. Roll call vote – Jim, yes – Elaine, yes – Paul, yes – Cathy, yes. Motion carried.
- Motion by Cathy to pay bills in the amount of 40.56, seconded by Elaine. Motion carried.
- Tony Groves presented the board with a bill from Progressive AE. This amount was added to the total for April bringing that total to 4440.56. Motion amended and second amended. Roll call vote to accept the bill for payment – Paul, yes – Jim, yes – Elaine, yes – Cathy, yes

9. Public Comment

- Audience member – When will the surveys be done? Answer: When the ice leaves the lake and after the 4th of July.
- Audience member – Should we contact the press? Answer (Tony) – a press release makes the most sense in order to get accurate information out.
- Rosemary Consani – “At the last meeting, my car was vandalized so if anyone has any info, please contact me.”
- Bob Smith – In the first survey, will oxygen sampling be done? Answer (Tony) – Yes, and we will take samples in early morning.

10. Meeting adjourned.