

Paradise Lake Improvement Board meeting minutes – 5/11/11

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm; all present
2. Motion by Cathy to approve minutes from prior meeting. Seconded by Elaine. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment
 - Rosemary Consoni asked what the bill that Progressive AE turned in last month was for. Tony from Progressive answered that it was for ¼ payment on the contract and included work accomplished to date.
4. Correspondence was approved to be placed on the website
5. Chair Report
 - Chairman Jim gave a handout of Emmet County's magazine. He discussed how it was put together and why. He also spoke briefly on marketing and stated that Carp Lake could benefit from some positive marketing as well.
6. Appearances
 - Tony Groves from Progressive AE was in attendance and offered a folder to each Board member which contained info on the oxygenation of the lake currently as well as historically (1989-2010). All showed good levels of oxygen. He also offered a draft of a sample press release the Board could utilize. Additionally, Tony met with Clean Flow representative John Tucci and felt the meeting was productive. Tony will be looking at projects with Clean Flow this summer.
 - i. Question (Elaine) – Did you discuss the oxygen levels with Mr. Tucci? Answer (Tony) – Yes, we went over past studies. He was not aware of them prior.
 - Also included in the folder was a new SAD criteria worksheet and the Board discussed the possibilities presented.
 - i. Question (Chair) – Have you used the GIS system? Answer (Tony) – Yes, we have all this in our database and use it.
 - ii. Question (Arden) – Do you assess property based on front footage? Answer (Tony) – No. It's a benefit to the property regardless of how many feet they own. A small lot benefits equally to a large lot.
 - iii. Question (Elaine) – Is "500 feet" standard for use in a SAD? [In relation to benefit and a property's proximity to the lake] Answer (Tony) – Yes

- iv. Question (Elaine) – Has a study ever been done to ascertain benefit to properties beyond 500 feet? Answer (Tony) – I’m not sure; each lake is different. I will contact your assessor to ask his opinion and get back to you on that.
- Elaine commented that she has an idea as to how she would like to see the SAD distributed. Elaine stated that at present, 46% of the taxes paid in Carp Lake Township are paid by the smallest population of residents which are the riparian owners. She also went on to say that she would like to find a way to ease the burden of the SAD on the population that would be responsible for paying towards lake improvement. She feels the Township should contribute [assessment at large] being that they have a healthy bank account and went on to question the feasibility of a new town hall/community center/fire hall when we have the health of the lake to consider. Paul stated that he thinks the Township would be open to helping and would discuss it.
 - i. Question from the audience – What percent of the project would you like the Township to pay. Answer (Elaine) – I’m not prepared to answer that but off the top of my head, 20% would be great but don’t carve it in stone.
- Arden asked Tony how long after the SAD is implemented will we get the money? Answer (Tony) – If the SAD is in place for the winter tax bill, we will have money for 2012.
- Questions from the audience
 - i. Rosemary Consani – Will lots that have a main house and a rental be changed one or two units? They would be charged two.
 - ii. Marilyn Smith – Will properties such as resorts be charged just the two units or would you charge per building? Answer (Tony) - They would be considered commercial and be charged 2 units. The cost is not per building.
 - iii. Audience member – There are some in the community that think the process is too slow and that the Board is dragging it’s feet and that the SAD could be done sooner then it is planned for, is that true? Answer (Tony) – This Board has set up a SAD according to the laws and I think they are moving at a good speed to set up the SAD and look at solutions for the lake.
 - iv. Audience member – How many years will the SAD be in effect? Answer (Tony) – 5 years
- Cathy asked Chairman Jim if we should plan on formally asking the Township to discuss the possibility of an Assessment at Large. Chairman Jim was not prepared to answer the question so Cathy advised that he think about it.
- Cathy inquired as to whether residents in need would qualify for some sort of hardship exemption similar to what the Township offers. Answer (Tony) – Yes. He also went on to say that there is some further information about Lake Boards and current legal proceedings in the folder he presented to each board member.

7. Old Business

- Cathy went to the Michigan Lakes and Streams conference and felt it was overall a positive experience having gathered a lot of very useful information. One session she attended on riparian issues, however, brought up the Paradise Lake Improvement Board during their presentation and publicly presented us in a very negative non-factual light which she found offensive. Cathy proceeded to speak on behalf of the Lake Board in an attempt to correct the misinformation. [Side Note: The gentleman speaking was Mr. Clifford Bloom]
- Cathy let it be known that our grant from the revenue sharing board is good for 2 yrs. The end date is Aug. 2012.
- Elaine asked if it would be possible for the Board to apply for any grants. Tony answered that a lot of grants are not used towards fixing lakes. Cathy concurred. There was a further short discussion on grants following.

8. Financial Report

- Insurance payment [covers the Board] and a payment to Cathy to cover the Michigan Lakes and Streams trip.

9. Public Comment

- Bob Smith – What about the possibility of adding bacteria to the lake? Answer (Tony) – We have no studies showing bacteria helps. I am looking into this to see if it is something we can use.
- Marilyn Smith – Have you checked with the DEQ about BioAugmentation? Answer (Tony) – They have done no evaluations or studies to see if this works. This summer I will be working with BioAugmentation to test how it works. I have a trial set up and will have more info later.
- Audience member – Originally John Tucci of Clean Flow said that the ingredients in their enzyme treatment were proprietary. Can someone put an unknown substance in the lake? Answer (Tony) – No, it needs to be approved by the State before it can be used in the lake.
- Bill Mummert – Do thick weeds keep oxygen out of the water? Answer (Tony) – No. The lake water is continuously mixing and oxygen levels in our lake are good. Question #2 – Will you measure the depth of the muck when you do the weed study? Answer (Tony) Yes, in some spots.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM