

The 2013 Annual Meeting

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting

LITTLE PLATTE LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Brown at 10:00AM. He immediately adjourned the business part of the meeting so the guest speaker, Benzie County Drain Commissioner Christy Andersen could speak first and then attend another meeting. She is a surveyor by trade and new to the position replacing Terry Money who held the position for many years. Currently the code book she is following was written in 1956. The association has been frustrated in the maintenance of the Deadstream Dam under Terry Money's term so would like to work closely with her and receive reports when boards are changed to manage the water level more carefully. Quite a lively discussion followed as everyone on the lake is concerned about keeping the water level at the court appointed 1.8 level. One suggestion to better control the water level was to use smaller six inch boards and monitor them weekly, changing them as needed. One twelve inch board placed in the dam in early spring does not allow for gradual adjustments as the season progresses.

Blocking the fish ladder after spring spawning to prevent water loss there was also brought up. Ron Brown had already discussed this matter with Will Zewicki from PLIA and the DNR. The DNR does not approve such a move. When the dam was constructed all boards were to be removed in the fall and that procedure has never been followed.

The minutes of last year's meeting were posted on the website. Jane Christian made the motion to accept the minutes as posted and Char Ester seconded the motion. The motion to accept the 2012 minutes from the annual meeting carried.

Treasurer, John Ester gave the financial report for June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013. It included a comparison of the previous year's activity and he also had the proposed 2013-2014 budget available. Our biggest expense this past year was the cost of the beaver dam. Because the beavers are building again we will probably have that expense again this year. Judy Retallick made the motion to accept the treasurers report, Bill Cummiskey seconded, and the motion carried.

John also prepares the annual newsletter and sends it to 220 addresses around the lake. From that mailing about fifty members respond and pay annual dues of fifteen dollars per member.

Trustee Lynn Walker gave the water level report which was followed by much lively discussion. We may have beaver activity to deal with on a regular basis. Last year the rodents work raised the lake level 6 inches at their dam site which lowered the level at the gauge on our man made dam at the road. There is another beaver dam under construction now. Last year some of the board members tried their hands at removing the first dam but found out the hard way that professionals can do a better job for a fee. The DNR paid half of the five hundred dollar cost but may not repeat that this year. Permits are required to trap beavers out of season so that will be another task for John or Lynn to do if we want to rid ourselves of this pair.

Discussion of proper maintenance of the dam continued. Char Ester suggested that Christy Andersen search for Crossman's maintenance records from years ago to see how it was handled then.

The bottom board is buried in the muck and would be difficult to move but the association board will look into the feasibility of having it done to help with the back up of silt at the dam. Todd Morgan made the motion that the bottom board be removed in the fall and replaced in the spring and allow up to \$500 for the cost of removing that board if the county will not pay to have it done. John Christian seconded the motion and it carried.

Dave Van Hammen directed members to the Platte Lake Improvement Association (PLIA) for their results on water testing. The PLIA website shows any sampling results they have taken of Little Platte Lake. Anyone who wishes to do the water testing for our association is welcome to do so.

John Ester reported that there are two large eagle chicks on the nest and loons are sitting on the platform after years of not using it. About six years ago loons laid eggs on it but didn't sit so perhaps this year they will be successful. A bear had been sighted on Sylvan Point earlier in the spring. Amanda Brusher wondered if we, as an association could have any influence on the DNR deer season. The deer were so plentiful they devastated vegetation on Sylvan Point this past winter. Another question was directed to permanent duck blinds. All blinds must be taken down after the season. Ron Brown has tried to reach people at the DNR office frequently and found it nearly impossible to speak to someone. That one person who is the most helpful is Heather Hettinger. Someone is bow fishing at night using very bright lights which shine into peoples windows and wondered if we could do anything about that nuisance. Again that would be a question for the DNR.

Ron Brown said the lake vegetation is about three weeks behind the usual growth pattern this year. His motto is: You cannot know what the best fishing time is unless you fish every day.

Finally the seaplane mystery has been solved. John Ester was able to read the numbers on the seaplane with his birding scope. Last year and the previous year a seaplane had been landing and taking off from the lake for hours at a time. Dave Van Hammen was able to contact the owner of the plane through the numbers to inform him of our concern. The plane was used for instruction and the pilot has not returned for practice.

New Business: The question of safety and general lack of repair of Deadstream Road was discussed at length. Todd Morgan felt as a lake association our attention should stay on issues directly relating to the lake and this does not directly fall into our focus so the discussion concluded with the suggestion that someone or many people attend the December meeting of the County Road Commission to voice our concern.

John Ester reported after learning from Lake Township that the cap on property tax does not increase if the property transfers within a family.

Election of Officers: Last year John suggested we amend the way we elect officers. Now instead of just electing a board of five people to choose their positions the positions will be specifically elected. Half of the positions will be filled every two years. The general membership agreed to this and there were no nominations from the floor so the existing board members will continue their positions for the next term as follows

Two year terms:

President-Ronnie Brown
Secretary-Gretchen Staub
Trustee-Lynn Walker

One year terms:

Treasurer-John Ester
Trustee-Dave Van Hammen

Diane Brown made the motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 11:50AM. Next year the Annual Membership Meeting will be held in the Lake Township Hall On June 21 at 10:AM.

The minutes were submitted by LPLA Secretary, Gretchen Staub