

Pickereel-Kimball Lakes Association Meeting – Minutes

September 3, 2016: Taken by Jen Simpson, Secretary

Location: Camp Newaygo at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Camp Newaygo Update
3. Introduction of the PKLA Board & Officers
4. Introduction of New Owners on the lakes
5. Treasurers Report – Leanne Krystiniak
6. Secretary's Report- Jen Simpson
7. Zone Representative Update- Bill Alsover
8. Weed Control Update- Lynn Norlin
9. Boat parade update
 - a. Boat Parade theme for 2017
 - b. Date for 2017 Fireworks - Saturday, July 1, 2017

New Business:

1. Election of Board of Directors
2. Update on PK Inflow Nutrient Pollution Study – Bill Alsover & Bob Clouse
3. Open Q&A
4. Date for Spring Meeting – Memorial Day – May 29, 2017

John Schorr (President – referenced as “J” throughout notes): Good morning. Welcome all to association meeting. Thank you to Camp Newaygo for hosting. There is a wedding upstairs so we're outside today.

Jane Vitek from Camp Newaygo: Good morning, I'm the Executive Director of the Camp. We have a great team year round, 7 year round employees. One question we keep getting is: what will you add for year round residents? We are adding a Christmas event, you're welcome to drive up and it includes sleigh rides and bbq. Last year we had 10k people that attended camp. We have 40 fairy houses hid on property, 300 people came each day to get to fairy houses in the woods. We aren't just a summer camp. 15 years ago we had 180 campers, and the land back then was all plotted and ready to sell. When Jane was hired it was to throw out the for sale sign. True North Community Services owns this camp with their theme to bring local people to the camp for the community. Zip line is open next to public on September 10th. Oldest person was 90 years old to ride it.

Capital Campaign going on, and need a space for meetings like this. Weddings here, just booked one for 2018, and one here this weekend. This year they also gave \$55k in scholarship to children in and out of the area. We want to support our local work with events people want. Three different projects: Arts & Crafts Lodge, Health and Leadership Lodge, and a cabin for our nurse, and housing for overnight guests and interns. Another one is Castle Inn sold to Camp Newaygo for Day Camp Site. We have an intern in lower level from Gerber, and 2 cottages which house teachers for the camp. We're not renting those spaces out, looking to build what we can do for the community. We have day camp 300 kids, and the boys liked to be split from the girls. We'll start craft shop this fall, and adding a small classroom and winterizing. A goal is to start a health lodge year from now. We've raised \$1.2M so far for the project, would like to finish fundraising by March 2017. We're doing a smore challenge by eating a smore and posting your photo on line, and a splash in for camp you jump in with clothes on and donate \$50. We have 3 days of Halloween, we have 100 volunteers a year and this is one time a year they do that. They need belts and hats. Have 20 weddings this year, and Christa runs those. Have a dinner at xmas, Valentines, and Mother Days. Check out our website:

J: Intro of the board, talked about terms coming up. Get a hold of us, typically an issue comes in via email, and one of us will get back to you.

New Members: Carly Huan, bought Jim & Mary Kuipers cottage.

Leanne: Treasurer's report. Balance \$XXXXXXXX. Summary of bills = balance of \$XXXXXXXX. Separate report handed out in packet. Motion to accept, and so moved.

Jen: Secretary Report: minutes in packet hand out. Any questions let me know. They will be noted as accepted on website after motion to accept at this meeting. Motion to accept Secretaries report, and so moved.

Bill Alsover, Zone Rep Update: last year collected from 204 lake members on the lake (about 2/3rds of members). Checks will continue to come in, into next year. There are 182 that are paid thus far. Expect close to 200 this year as well. We need some new zone reps, there are some reps that have “aged out”, and have need for 3 possibly 4 people to help out in the collections next year. Doesn't have to be your lake, or where you live on the lake. It does take some time. If we got no more we would be \$1k shorter than last year on dues. Important to support what we do such as fireworks etc.

J: It's a good way to meet your neighbors.

Lynn Norlin on weed control:

Member (referenced as "M" go forward in notes): We're on the west side, and we are getting a lot of weeds in our area. Anyway those that get the weeds, is there a way to get help in removal of the weeds?

M: We're across from you, and we have some issue with that as well from the prop from boats.

Lynn: It has been issue for 10-15 years, and prop wash, and eel grass has such tender root system pulls it right out. Chops it all up, and floats and west shore rakes constantly. First treatment for eelgrass was this year, and we have a map for areas treated, and where it was treated. It's not as thick as where it wasn't treated. It's not as good yet as we'd like to see. At least a 3 year program to knock it down to where it is management and we're in the first year of a 7 year program. Not sure if Lake Association can help with cleanup of weeds, we'll have to talk with John.

M: After spraying we now can see the bottom of the sand in the lake.

M: Have we ever had a survey of happiness of the lake treatment?

Lynn: I can help with getting Savin to get special attention in that area. The eel treatment was 8k, and up to 10 feet of water depth, but they push it sometimes a bit further.

J: One of the drawbacks is clearer the water, the deeper the weeds get, the further they go out.

M: Another thing is a floating mat, and where that sets, that helps get rid of weeds growing.

J: I've used a rope razer.

M: Is there harvester and some sort of system.

J: This is a new treatment for eel grass, we're spending \$20k on 40 acres. It will be expensive and long process.

M: Keep part of your lake shore natural, we rake it into the reed area for our shoreline and put all the weeds, and that's one suggestion.

M: Do we attend the Lake Board? Do we have any options people on other lakes have used?

Lynn: The Lake Board is a public meeting

J: We used to be in charge of contracting, and township didn't like collecting for that. So they setup a government agency Lake Board and it's out of our control. We have 40% of the vote. There is an open time land owners can go. They are held in White Cloud. The next meeting is Monday, October 19th.

M: Jim & I are farmers. We know of a fellow in the industry that is designing something that could help clean up the weeds.

M: is this treatment as we go along hope to have less eel grass?

Lynn: Yes, over time we'll have less.

J: It's a delicate balance.

M: One idea is to have money collection and ask questions on weed treatment satisfaction. That could be helpful to be valuable tool to express.

Bill Alsover: Yes, I can do that.

M: You can do a monkey survey.

Gary Ebels: We can take care of that.

M: Request a little more notice than 24 hours regarding when lake will be treated. Hard disappointment when having company and they can't swim.

Lynn: This is my last year on the Lake Board, and you'll have someone else to pick on.

J: If you'd like to be considered on the Lake Board, glad to put your name in. Decision will be in January. One way to be involved in feedback is to be on the Lake Board.

M: check with township on if you have to be resident to do it.

J: Let's start a discussion on the boat parade, and interest in the activities. There were 7 boats in Pickerel this year, and interest from shore dwindling as well. One suggestion would be Xmas in July, light up our places for the holiday weekend. Open for discussion. One option is to take a year off, or do what we're doing now.

M: Canoe and Kayak racing would be fun instead maybe?

J: We had the poker run and only 7 boats for that as well

M: We used to have a canoe race on the 4th.

M: Mentioned decorating earlier, but people would have to go late at night to see the decoration.

J: Date for fireworks, July 1st.

M: If fireworks were spread out more, that would be good.

J: 800 shells in 6 minutes. It's on a timer so John talked with Carl. How long would you like it to be?

M: 15 to 20 minutes better timing

J: Election of board members, Steve & Jen got re-elected for another term.

Bob Clouse: Nutrient topic. Restorative Lake Sciences is doing work for us. They did 1 set of testing, preliminary testing on streams and lakes.

We are getting high concentrations from phosphorus, during low water flow. Waiting for significant rain to test again after rainwater. In July the thermocline was about 20 feet. When surface water gets colder, the lake will turn over.

M: Is it possible these results can be put on the website?

Bob: yes, when we collect next 2 sets of data, the PHD Jennifer will summarize all of the results, and recommendation and it will be posted on website in December. Then we'll have to make some decision on the reality of junk coming in and what we can do about it.

M: any of testing to test soil?

Bob: no, don't plan on testing the soil, because they already know it's high in concentration.

M: heard we can try and prevent water coming in the soil

M: Are you working with Michigan Lake and Stream association? They collect and publish this kind of data. I was on their website, and couldn't find our names on our group.

Bob: Micore is reporting agency, for both P&K, and agree we should be testing every year. This data will be sent to DEQ, and Micro for publishing.

Bill: What Micore doesn't do, is walk up-streams and deepest part of lake at various times of the year. We will be looking at using the \$650 extra donated with dues to get equipment needed to get the testing done to publish.

Bob: the historical records boosted our interested in doing these studies now. Finding what the root cause is is the reason for this study.

M: Are we not a member of MI Lake & Stream?

Bill: no, we are not but we did talk with them.

M: throw it out there that we should be members of that MI Lake & Stream member.

J: There are about 5-6 associations we could be member of for couple \$\$'s.

M: Encourage board to look into o it.

J: The board will look into it.

Carol Spangler: History project. In early 50's there were 20 businesses' on P&K Lake. Some questions to prompt your memory of the lake (sample):

Where you luck enough to grow up on the lake?

What is your best memory of the lake?

Do you know any history of previous owners?

We're asking for old pictures of the lakes, and will be filed in archive in the Newaygo Museum. My name and contact information is on the fliers in back of the room.

Open Q&A:

M: Minnow thing, how we can get rid of that stigma of conditions being right?

J: It's one of those things, DEQ mandates so hard to control that to get it change. Drain commission tried to get appealed.

M: Can we have new directory?

Jen: Yes, you'll get one in the spring, Bills been giving me updates.

M: Wakeboarding has created the deep waves, it used to be 3 trees on small island and it's going away. We were thinking about informally to "save" the island. Like when people take rocks etc.. to try to save the erosion.

M: DNR would not like cinder blocks, rocks likely ok.

J: We would be asked to do things previously about the island, but DNR has said you have to maintain it and patrol it.

M: Want to see if ok, to put rocks there. If anyone has a rock, my family will go around the island.

M: That's where the loons nest, so DNR would have vested interest we would think. The swans we have are mute swans, and DNR has removed them previously.

J: Swans are prevalent, up to 60 in the fall. Don't have geese?

M: Reminder about Oak Wilt. One thing we can do to protect is no firewood from other places. If you have to prune oak tree do it early in the winter, or Sept on otherwise creating a venue for fungus to enter the tree, it will kill close by as it goes root to root to root. It's really serious concern, or if storm damage to oak tree, quick remedy is latex paint on the wound.

J: 3 new invasive specials in the Muskegon River, no cure for those at this point. Careful if you have your boat on Muskegon River.

M: Prop wash at boat launch Hess Lake put one in.

J: It's been sponsored by Muskegon Watershed.

M: Mute swans; is there interest in us talking about getting with DNR to get rid of swans?

M: years ago the swans were reduced by DNR.

M: Motion to have board contact DNR to remove the mute swans from the lake

J: Any discussion on that?

M: Will we get geese back?

J: A lady on Pickerel Lake had Geese, and called and John said call DNR. DNR said don't disturb. Can do it in season only.

M: There are natural ways to get Geese off your lawn, they like short grass.

J: ok with board contacting DNR? Vote: 23 aye, opposed 20.

M: Jane has brochures on Camp Newaygo and Newaygo Museum.

M: Motion to adjourn

M: Aye

J: Meeting closed at 10:21 a.m.