

BEAR LAKE WATERSHED ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES

Present: Rich Russell, Barb Farfsing, Dick Graham, Bob Yates, Don and Liz Raiff, Sandy and Jennifer Scholl, Tom Fleming, Richard Mitchell, Bill Fronk, and Maria Somsel

Regrets:

Bob Yates called the Bear Lake Watershed Alliance Steering Committee meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2015 at the Bear Lake Township Hall in Bear Lake, Michigan.

Meeting minutes for the May 27, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Barb made a motion and Bill seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Sandy Scholl as follows:

<i>June 30, 2015 Bank balance</i>	<i>\$32,094.82</i>
<i>Deposits</i>	<i>1,735.00</i>
<i>Expenses</i>	<u><i>(879.75)</i></u>
<i>Check Book Balance</i>	<i>32,950.07</i>

<i>BLWA Endowment 6/30/15</i>	<i>5,872.09</i>
<i>Investment Activity</i>	<i>(74.96)</i>
<i>Administrative Fee</i>	<u><i>(25.00)</i></u>
<i>Fund Balance</i>	<i>5,772.13</i>

Total Combined Assets \$38,772.20

BLWA banquet proceeds netted a profit of over \$10,000.

Bob made a motion to accept the report as given and it was seconded by Barb. Motion carried.

Maria provided an update on the Greater Bear Watershed Coordinating Committee's meeting yesterday. A meeting of the Greater Bear and surrounding watershed groups is being planned to address possible opportunities for collaboration. She has a presentation from Rob Carson, Manistee Co. Planning, that she will share at the September meeting.

Barb and Maria discussed the need for a new webmaster as Jack Sawka will be moving out of the area. Jack has recommended that we secure a different website as the current site was one established by Private Sector Consultants (PSC) when they were writing our watershed plan and Jack took it over after the project work was complete. He reports that it is difficult to use and has made a

recommendations for us going forward. We will dedicate time to this topic in greater depth at the September meeting.

Dick Graham reported that he is waiting for a response from a company regarding road signage regarding size, etc. Approval was obtained for the County Road Commission to install the signs. At this time the timeline for this work is unknown.

Don Raiff reported that no work has been done on the rain garden project and his report from May 2015 is essentially unchanged. The identified area is behind the Village maintenance building in front of Hopkins Park. With the recent rain this area was blown out with storm water exiting through the new, large drain that was put in. The Village is working to fix the outflow issue before the rain garden can be put in lest it wash out.

This is a very visible location for a garden and should provide a ready display for education to the public. Due to the Village's financial issues they are not inclined to develop this area until after more is known about what they will do with the blighted property in this area. Therefore the railroad ties will stay in place and the BLWA will assist with putting in a rain garden in the upper area only to allow time for the Village to work through the drain outlet and other issues.

Dick provided an update on the Storm Drain project. He has looked at the storm drains on the school property and understands how they tie together with others. Pat Bentley has completed survey work on the Lindeman drain and has volunteered to do the Village drains when he has more time this Fall. Rob Carson gave a map of these drains to Dick. He will share with Sean Adams and discuss so that the community could be more prepared for an emergent spill on Village, townships and state roadways.

It was suggested the BLWA select one drain that we could fix that was within the Village. Dick has explored an area, but more work needs to be done and it will not likely be ready to do this summer. He is looking at others, but unless it is a project that does not require piping and asphalt it is unlikely to be completed yet this year. Maria recommended that we go to Glen Arbor to see their rain gardens and how they have helped with storm water management.

Dick reported that there is no new news on the SAW grant. Rich joined the meeting.

Maria reported that there was an error in election of officers at the July 2015 annual meeting. The Treasurer and Vice President positions should have been open, but instead the President and Secretary were elected. Officers would like to rectify this situation. A review of our by-laws revealed that voting can be held

at regular meetings for various purposes including the election of officers (Article IX) with a 30 day written notice. Therefore we will make notice in these minutes, email these minutes out, put the election on the September meeting thus fulfilling our 30 day notice requirement.

Barb Farfsing would like us to find a replacement for her as Chair of Information and Education. She is willing to continue in this role until we can do this or determine how this work might be restructured.

Barb provided a report on Fall Autumn Glory Day - Saturday, October 3, 2015. It will be sponsored by the BLWA and other groups are being solicited to participate and host events. Many volunteers are helping with this event and recruiting others to assist them. We will focus on community and target families that are both fun and educational. Activities will be in Hopkins Park and include children's activities, hayride, farmer's market, cider mill, bonfire and DJ with music. The BLWA will be active in serving an evening dinner. The goal is to engage our community and get the watershed name, mission, projects, information and education out. BLWA is providing seed money for this day. Any groups or anyone with ideas should reach out to Barb. Information will come out soon in the Bear Lake Bulletin.

Bill Fronk provided a report on testing in Bear Lake. Tom Riechard from District 10 has not sent us results of E.coli testing this summer. After inquiring Bill learned that the results have been good and he provided a handout with the levels at 6 sites tested at various times this summer. The highest E.coli level was 39 (note that 'no swim' warnings are not issued until it reaches 300). He also learned that the testing with new technology that was to be done in parallel with the current technology has been difficult. The new technology can distinguish between DNA from human and animal waste and live and dead bacteria. The difficulty is that these two tests have not been correlated or standardized. BLWA funds E.coli testing. District 10 has committed to not increase our costs for 2016. It is still unclear if we will be testing with new or old technology next year and if we will have to pay more for it. Bill will attempt to get a quote for next year.

Don Raiff asked if we should do additional testing of the storm waters that drain into the lake. He suggested that we identify what is going into the lake, how bad it is and use that to prioritize the drains that need work first. Bill will go back and ask District 10 about this and Jennifer Scholl will inquire about this as a project at GVSU.

Old Business
None

New Business

Barb shared an idea that she has for a photo contest and reviewed her drafted guidelines (see handout). Discussion ensued. The idea is for the winning photo to be printed and sold at Bear Lake Days. Rich made a motion and it was seconded by Bob for Barb to proceed with this project. Motion carried. An article about this will go into the next Bear Lake Bulletin.

Bill brought up a concern about phragmites that he observed near Bear Lake behind Blarney Castle and near Chief Lake. Rich will contact Mary Reed to discuss this and find out how they approached it in Onekama and he will also contact Arcadia. Bob Yates reported that the Lake Improvement Board cannot address phragmites or the purple loose strife seen on private property at the corner of the bay under their charter.

Next meeting is September 30, 2015.

A motion was made to adjourn by Rich and seconded by Bob. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.