

BEAR LAKE WATERSHED ALLIANCE (BLWA)
Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, July 18, 2015

Lion's Den - Lower Level

9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Members attending:

Tom Fleming, Phil Kench, Sue Kench, Dave Adams, Dick Graham, Jackie Johnson, Liz Raiff, Don Raiff, Barb Farfsing, Rick Farfsing, Rand Vance, Kevin Mallison, Bill Fronk, Jim Abbott, Mary Manning, Jack Adams, Jennifer Scholl, Sandy Scholl, Sue (Lieb) Hamman, Rich Russell, _____

Rich Russell called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone and introduced BLWA officers present.

Dick Graham explained that they now know where each storm drain is located in the area along with where it empties into the lake and where multiple drains tie together. A couple of new drains have recently been found. He reported some irregularities in how these drains are structured. There is one drain they cannot assess that is under the state highway and they are seeking approval to get access to this drain so they can complete an assessment. They hope to finish mapping which is nearly complete.

Barb Farfsing shared that Fall Autumn Glory Day will be Saturday, October 3, 2015. It will be sponsored by the BLWA and other groups are being solicited to participate and host events. It will focus on community and target families for both fun and education. It will be in the Hopkins Park and ideas include children's activities, hayride, farmer's market, fall and watershed photo contest, silent auction of these photos, chili dinner, bonfire and DJ with music. The goal is to engage our community and get the watershed name, mission, projects, information and education out. BLWA will provide seed money for this day. Any groups or anyone with ideas should reach out to Barb.

Don Raiff, nominating chair, presided over the election for the offices of President and Secretary. Don presented Rich Russell as a candidate for re-election as President and offered Maria Somsel as candidate for re-election to the office of Secretary. The floor was opened for nominations. No nominations were presented from the floor and the period of nominations from the floor was closed. Don Raiff made a motion to accept the two candidates as presented without need for formal ballot. Phil Kench seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sandy Scholl was presented as a candidate for a two year term as Treasurer. Don Raiff made a motion to accept the nomination as presented without need for formal ballot. Dick Graham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rich Russell introduced guest speaker, Susan Spencer, Executive Director of the Manistee Co. Conservation District. She explained that The Manistee County Conservation District does much the same with land as the BLWA does in regard to water. Watersheds and the District both help monitor and protect their realms with the assistance and cooperation of numerous agencies and experts; and both work to fight invasive species and contaminants.

The District's goal is to help connect all private landowners to numerous programs and services provided by various entities. The District serves 14 townships and 130 square miles of agricultural land, along with 144,000 acres of non-industrial private timberland.

While the District was nearly bankrupt not too long ago, it is now cautiously growing and expanding the list of services thanks to a millage recently approved by county voters.

As acting Treasurer, Rich provided a Treasurer's report. The beginning checkbook balance on July 1, 2014 was \$17,613.53 and the ending checkbook balance on June 30, 2015 is \$27,033.68. Investments at Manistee Co. Community Foundation as of June 30, 2015 are \$5,772.13. Rick Farfsing made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as provided, Kevin Mallison seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rich Russell recognized Barb Farfsing for her five years of service as Information and Education Chair, annual banquet chair for the past two years, and for planning the upcoming Autumn Glory Day. In appreciation, the BLWA presented Barb with a plaque and a lifetime membership. A replacement for the Information and Education Chair chair is being sought. Maria Somsel and Cindy Zatarga will co-chair next year's annual banquet.

With no old business or new business Rich adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.