

Steering Council Meeting
10-07-04

Approved 11/30/04
Robert Livingston
all

Meeting called to order

Roll Call: Robert Livingston, Dale Gittings, Judy Jooss, Tony Migon, Susan Caraher, Gerry Wrench and Jim Baxa, who filled in for Tom Porps

Other in attendance: Corrine Krebs, Richard Dietrich, Pam Becker and Linda Smith, Larry Smith, Trustee Jeff Gresenz

Approval of Minutes for: June 24, 2004, July 30, 2004 and August 24, 2004

June 24, 2004 minutes

Corrections/Additions: none

Motion to approve: Susan Caraher

Seconded: Judy Jooss

Unanimously approved

June 30, 2004 minutes

Corrections/Additions:

Change: "No Trustee/Lake Commissioner present at meeting"

Change: "Bay View Walking Bridge"

Change: "receipt to received"

Change: "that that to that they"

Change: "two parcels to a parcel"

Motion to approve: Susan Caraher

Seconded: Judy Jooss

Unanimously approved

August 7, 2004

Corrections/Additions: none

Motion to approve: Susan Caraher

Seconded: Judy Jooss

Unanimously approved

Treasurer's Report

Budget Report: Tony Migon

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Judy Jooss

Seconded: Susan Caraher

Unanimously accepted

Committee Reports:

Water Quality Committee, Dale Gittings, Leader

Motions: None

Summary of Committee Activity:

Regarding fish stocking for the Lakes: the DNR is in the process of doing their fish study. They expect to start stage three of the fish study in October; stages one and two were done in August and September. Initial DNR plan was to allow up to 7,000 small mouth bass of at least four (4) inches and at a cost of \$21,000.

DNR suggested that prior to doing the fish stocking half-logs be incorporated into Lakes allowing for spawning and protection areas. Doug Welsh, DNR, should have drawings in late October showing where the half-logs should be placed.

This year the Twin Lakes Sportsman Club will assist in sponsoring the half-logs and next year will do a big jump in the number of fish stocked. The Twin Lakes Sportsman Club will be involved in the process of placing the half-logs.

Half logs sink to the bottom of the lake and provide protection for small and spawning fish especially small mouth bass. Total number of half-logs needed has not yet been determined. Some people will be donating various materials needed. The total cost cannot be determined until Doug Welsh, DNR, determines the entire number of half-logs and their placement. Doug Welsh, DNR, is working on the permit and it is anticipated to be completed by the end of October.

Older lakes contain logs that are hollowed out where fish hide and spawn. The half-logs will be man made, out of concrete block on either end, non-degrading plastic and wood compost pieces will go over and be bolted to the top and ends and then submerged in certain areas so that there is a certain height between the bottom and top. The public will not know where the half-logs will be placed and should not be able to see them. There is a permitting process from the DNR that will be followed for the placement of the half-logs and they decide the actual placement locations. This is not a fish crypt where fish enter and can be fished out.

The Twin Lakes Sportsman's Club has about \$2,300 set aside for this year's budget. Many members of the Twin Lakes Sportsman Club are in the trades and will be able to help cut down on the costs of material and labor. Typically fish stocking occurs the last week of October which is the best time for stocking fish. Stocking will take place on both Lakes but the half-logs will only be on Lake Mary. DNR will not allow the Twin Lakes Sportsman Club to do anything to improve Lake Elizabeth because there is not DNR approved public access; therefore it is not qualified for half-logs.

The Twin Lakes Sportsman Club had been putting in four (4) to ten (10) in fish every year and survivability was about fifteen percent (15%). The half-logs will help with the survivability of the fish stocked in Lake Mary.

Shocking and netting of the fish has stated, waiting on the final report.

Regarding the staffing gauge issue, the Committee had not been told if the Village ever paid the firm for their work (Robert Livingston indicated they had been paid). The benchmarks have been put into place.

Details are needed for excavation to do work during February when there is enough ice to auger drill down. A permit will be needed, Doug Welsh, will handle this process.

The Committee will give an update at the end of the month and the pricing structure. Committee asked that the locations be identified so the gauges are placed correctly. Locations currently identified: spillway between Lakes Mary and Elizabeth, the dam, Tom Porp's and Judy Jooss' lake frontage, the Musial boat launch and Lance Park (six, total). Porp's and Jooss' needed to be recalibrated.

Doug Welsh, DNR, is a fisheries biologist for Wisconsin for the area; handles all permitting.

Shoreline Protection Committee, Judy Jooss, Leader

Motions: None

Summary of Committee Activity:

Delivered copy of annual report and a record of Committee activity from 2003. Update on request for qualifications issue letter. Letter has been delivered to the Village to make it formal and official. Letter to be sent to engineering and consulting firms listing the approved projects. Goal is to have them send back their qualifications to work on the projects. This will create a database to send out requests for bids on the projects.

At August meeting, a recap was done for the new Committee members. Discussed the RFQ letter. Regarding the Twin Lakes Channel the Committee contacted the DNR about applying for a maintenance and dredging permit to keep removing sand as it accumulates. Anticipates the permit will or might have already been issued. The permit is good for ten years. The sand will be removed instead of placed on the shoreline as done in the past. An agreement must be made with the property owners otherwise they will need to approach from the lake.

September meeting, discussion on the need to get the Park Board update. The park Board needs to get the Park and Recreation Plan in order so the Committee can apply for the grants. A letter was sent to the Park Board to put them on notice regarding this matter.

Started work on the Shoreline Protection Overlay District. Question as to whether the Committee should include an ordinance for commercial properties and the storing of boat lifts at the shoreline. Bob Livingston indicated it should be looked into.

Sand on the shoreline issues is under discussion and they are looking at the way Walworth County is addressing the matter.

There was initial discussion on shoreline lighting, boat houses and sheds.

There was a tour to the dam and other project sites for the Committee and commissioners. Another tour will be on Saturday.

Copies of WAL newsletter for distribution to Committee members.

Aquatic Plant and Invasive Species Committee, Tony Migon, Leader

Motions:

Request to purchase a GPS for use by the Committees.

Welcomed Bob Klasek, a new member of the Committee.

Discussed various the methods to control Eurasian Milfoil.

Suggested a motion be made to the Steering Council based on the dollars spent to date treating Eurasian Milfoil, that a GPS (global positioning system) be purchased. Will be helpful to may other Committees like the Water Safety Committee for the placing of buoys. The Aquatic Plant Committee can use it to identify Eurasian Milfoil from year to year and will help in more effective treatment of affected areas. Cost of the GBS should be researched.

Motion will be made at the next meeting after cost of purchasing is determined.

Rita Meier reported she saw some purple **loose strife (spelling)**. Brian Neal, Rita Meier and Tony Migon met after Labor Day and cut the tips treated with Round-up. They worked for about two hours. It blooms for a short period of time.

Committee member Brian Neal's wife has experience in federal grant writing. They would like to assist in developing of the grants.

Scheduled to meet October 30.

Communication Committee, Susan Caraher, Leader

Motions: None

Summary of Committee Activity:

Discussion on the web site, agreed that an outside person (company) should manage the web site.

Susan asked 10 companies for bids and only heard back from one. The Milwaukee group did send a proposal.

The Committee is looking for at least two more bids and will bring forward at next meeting.

Committee also discussed going to a University and having this be part of a school project, option for the future.

Proposal that once a month Lynn Hellman would send the minutes to be posted. If a Committee missed the deadline their minutes would not be posted until the next month. This will help to manage the cost.

Committee is looking for ideas for youth and education ideas.

Buster Amore might have some ideas on what to do in this area but was in attendance so he will be contacted.

Discussion on doing more mailings but the cost could be too great and there was concern that it might take money from the budget that was needed elsewhere.

Discussed having a mailing in the sewer bill like last year. Suggested a paragraph on activities of each Committee.

Suggests every Committee prepare a paragraph on the Committees work.

Storm Water and Non-point Pollution Committee, Gerry Wrench, Leader

Motions: None

Summary of Committee Activity:

Discussed the Earth Tec report and the figures were wrong. Showed that there were four times as much water coming down Esch Road after lance Drive. Questioned how the volume can it multiply four (4) times when considering the size of the watershed.

Committee member Vytai Barcus went to Earth Tec and they would not change the figures. Stated the figures were old and a new plan was needed.

The Committee questioned if they were paid \$9,000 to update the plan without updating the figures.

The biggest problem is not the water and sediment that leaves the Dietrich farm but the amount of water and sediment that comes onto the Dietrich farm.

Vytai Barcus contacted Peter Woods about the issue. Peter Woods sent a letter about Randall Farms. The DNR letter stated that Randall Farms was only one percent (1%) of the watershed.

Concerned that Randall Farms is the first development in that area and worried about what happens when the remainder of the property is developed.

Committee will be reviewing storm water ordinances. In particular they will be looking to review Walworth County construction and post construction ordinances. Committee feels these ordinances should be implemented into Randall. Committee concluded that the storm water must be taken care of as development in Randall occurs.

Related to this is the Round Lake Beach Urban EPA Phase Two Plan the Village was required to get a permit for in March of 2003. The Village has not done this because the DNR was supposed to implement the plan. Walworth County is already enforcing because they know those laws are EPA required.

Purpose is to have good storm water practices not eliminate growth.

Committee concerned with what the EPA requirements will be. It was stated the local newspaper that the municipality is responsible for enforcement not the DNR.

Mr. Dietrich is attempting to get permits for the ponds on his farm to be dredged. The Dept. of Ag and the DNR are not providing good alternatives.

Committee member, Betty Loranger, commented on how much silt has been coming into the channel.

The Dietrich ponds are full and now the sediments are flowing back down into the channels. Committee feels it is important to assist Mr. Dietrich in this process.

Gerry Wrench stated that acceptance of the letter that states that Randall Farms contributes one percent (1%) the result is still tremendous as to what it does to the Dietrich Farm.

Emphasis should be on keeping water on your own property and not moving it downstream.

Committee prepared a letter to be sent to Samantha Kirkman asking to extend ban on lawn phosphorous fertilizer to a state wide ban.

Water Safety and User Conflict, Jim Baxa, Leader

Motions:

A safety/courtesy code placed on an affixable sticker be made available at public building and local marinas with local ordinances and suggested safety courtesy codes to promote water safety on PWC's and boats. And also have an attendant present on weekend at peak boating hours at Lake Mary. Suggested sticker be bright orange, five (5) inches long and three (3) inches wide and listing Village ordinances i.e., slow no wake.

Develop a volunteer program to identify piers from the water for emergency purposes, just an address, no names.

Summary of Committee Activity:

August 20th meeting, Randy Prudick, Twin Lakes Police Department was present. Main concern is the placement of buoys, rafts and piers. There are seven (7) in question on Lake Elizabeth and twenty (20) on Lake Mary. Prudick proposed a new policy to issue stickers for buoys and rafts to help identify ownership. Twin Lakes would also like to implement addresses on piers for emergency purposes to help identify properties from the water. Prudick also suggested as a courtesy to the residents the police would come out with the laser and measure the piers and swim platforms to make sure they are within the 200 foot limit. Prudick recognizes there are several places on the Lakes that may need an extension beyond 100 feet in order to get to 36 inches to float their boat.

The proposed sticker will help people out when friends and family visit and use the watercraft. This can be placed on the dash of a PWC or boat.

Suggested posting identification of fire lanes from the water.

Will attempt to change the date of their next meeting to precede the next Steering Council meeting on the 28th.

The Committee is starting to put together a comprehensive plan using the book . Jeff Thorton, SWRPC, is a co-author of the book. Carrying capacity for the Lakes needs to be looked at.

Next meeting is 10-28-04.

Discussion and Meeting Notes:

Susan Caraher asked why the Lake District Annual Meeting costs were so high; administrative costs were \$2,600 over and \$1,400 for the annual meeting over budget. Gerry Wrench indicated he thought the cost of the transcript was most of the cost because it was to act as the official minutes. Pam Becker stated that the Village stated the transcript was to be the official minutes but the Village did do minutes from the transcript. Livingston asked Trustee Gresenz if he could enlighten why the costs were so high, Gresenz indicated he could not. Explanation expected at the next meeting.

Dale Gittings, questioned the Stormwater update finalized numbers. There was a \$25,000 line item finalized and a \$9,000 debit. Gerry Wrench stated the \$9,000 debit was to update the old Stormwater Plan otherwise the Village would have been required to pay back all to the monies prior funded. The original plan was not updated except some sections of the German Town plan were inserted. The Lake Committees were given only one day to update the plan and subsequently could not act due to such a short time except for some minor corrections. Linda Smith, stated concern that the Village had not acted and at the costs of recertifying the plan without all the updates needed to bring it current.

Judy Jooss requested that every month the Village provide the Steering Council with a detailed printout of the budget. Tony Migon will address the request to have this done on an ongoing basis.

Susan Caraher stated that she lives on Indian Point Road and that there is a small parcel of public property on the point. Appears a neighbor may be storing personal property on the site. Caraher asked what Lake Committee should address the issue. Suggested she send letter to both Village and Water Safety & User Conflict Committee outlining the issue.

Regarding fish stocking by the DNR and the Twin Lakes Sportsman's Club Gerry Wrench stated that is a big jump in the number of fish to be stocked in the Lakes.

Pam Becker complimented Dale Gittings and the Twin Lakes Sportsman's Club on their continued efforts to raise money to stock the Lakes.

Becker offered to help in raising money for stocking the Lakes. Also stated that many of the Lake homeowners were very pleased to see fish in the Lakes and want to make sure that this continues. Also commented that the higher Lake levels this spring helped to bring fish closer into the shoreline, something that that has been missing in the last nine to ten years with the lower lake levels.

Gerry Wrench asked Dale Gittings to let him know when assistance may be needed in placing the half-logs. Also suggested that the Boys Scouts could get involved in the placing of the half-logs.

Livingston will distribute new list of Lake Committee members.

Livingston asked if categories on the budget need to be updated and possibly changed. Tony Migon will contact Twin Lakes Village Clerk, Dorothy Sadona to discuss updating the budget categories and making changes were needed.

Livingston stated that he had not been told "officially" by the Village that the SWRPC grant was approved for the Lakes but rather through the "grapevine" by Kathy Aron. Kathy Aron, is a consultant who does grant writing for lakes. The approval has been "official internally" for about two weeks and Livingston was concerned that the Village had not made any attempt to notify him. Jeff Thorton, SWRPC, should now have the \$25,000 approved. Kathy Aron intended to e-mail to Livingston regarding the approval of the grant. Livingston asked Trustee Gresenz if he had heard anything on the matter. Gresenz indicated he had not.

Gerry Wrench asked if it was possible to have Jeff Thorton, attend a Steering Council meeting. Livingston will ask Jeff Thorton if he is available to attend a meeting, possibly the next Steering Council meeting at the end of the month. Tony Migon intends to get details on this from the Village Clerk, Dorothy Sadona.

Livingston met with Heidi Hopkins, DNR, and they are trying to set up a time to meet regarding the plans for Lance Park.

On the placement of the staffing gauge issue, Pam Becker stated, the two properties on the Lake Elizabeth side of the Twin Lakes Park channel have been sold. Prior owners did not seem to mind others walking on their properties. The new homeowners should be contacted in writing to get permission to gain access. One of the new homeowners has already stated that there is a problem with a person entering onto their property without permission. Pam Becker offered to get the names of the new owners to Livingston so a letter can be written.

Becker stated that Shoreline Committee member Mike Lux could check the readings because he lives right there.

Judy Jooss suggested the gauge be put near the bridge.

Livingston indicated that Randy Prudick, Twin Lakes Police, thought it would be a good idea to have several staff gauges on buoys off the sandbars. Buoys could have a solar panel for lighting at night. Once this and final lake levels and no wake hours are established signage can be placed at the boat launches.

Dale Gittings indicated a GPS can be purchased for around \$300. A GPS will be helpful to the Water Quality Committee to identify the location of the submerged half-logs and anchor points for buoys.

Jim Baxa indicated he may have a magazine with a buyers guide for the purchase of a GPS.

Gerry Wrench asked that Judy Jooss look at the way Lauderdale Lakes addresses the sand at the shoreline issue in consideration of a plan as well as how Walworth County deals with this issue.

Susan Caraher and Gerry Wrench asked to attend the Saturday tour of the dam and other projects.

Pam Becker stated that Buster Amore does a wonderful job with the Aquanuts in teaching them about what to do in the water is someone is in trouble or gets hurt. She suggested offering a session, possibly even at Lance Park, in the spring to offer this to parents and their children.

Judy Joss suggested doing a Lake Day as information and education.

Dale Gittings asked if there is a process to remove members not attending. Livingston will discuss with David Cox.

Gerry Wrench and Dale Gittings may each know someone that will put a bid in for the web site. Will forward contact information to Susan Caraher.

Dale Gittings suggested publishing the good works of the Committees after some of the negativity last year.

Susan Caraher commented that the Twin Lakes Report will not print any of the work of the Committees. Stated that the Twin lakes Report is totally against the Committees. She (Annette Newcomb, editor) either distorts or does not report the works of the Committees. Annette did not even write an article on the 2003 Annual Lake District meeting.

Dale Gittings suggested sending the articles to the Kenosha News instead of the Twin Lakes Report. Then suggested to send articles to both papers.

Susan wrote a letter to the editor of the Twin lakes Report to express her opinions on the papers bias. Annette Newcomb only writes what the Village Board wants in the paper.

Livingston suggested to send out news releases.

Gerry Wrench attended the meeting regarding the petitions to annex from the Lake District. Mrs. Doshe (she is petitioning to annex from the Lake District) stated that there was an illegal meeting on July 27. Gerry has an e-mail return receipt from the Village confirming the meeting confirming with an agenda.

Sometimes the Village does not always post meetings on the Village website.

Tony Migon suggested asking Dorothy Sadona to confirm receipt by e-mail.

Susan Caraher commented that two months in a row meetings were scheduled and on the list and the police department would not give her the key to the Village Hall. Said they (police department) had no record sent to them of the meeting.

Gerry Wrench stated that the Lake Commissioners used to open the doors for the meetings but many (Lake Commissioners) have not been attending meetings.

The Lake Commissioner of the Communication Committee has never contacted Susan Caraher or attended a meeting.

Gerry Wrench stated the lake Commissioners need to let the Lake Committees know when they are available.

Jim Baxa stated that he brought this issue up at the 2004 Lake District Meeting. The Water Safety liaison (Mike Moran, Trustee) missed three meetings in a row and since then has only attended one of two meetings.

Judy Joss commented that Earth Tec stated they would not update the numbers. Gerry Wrench commented that they should have for the \$9,000 that they were paid.

Robert Livingston stated that the Walworth Count construction and post construction ordinances are very good. The problem is always enforcement. But when enforced, violators brought to court are losing. Walworth County is either making the violators stop what they are doing or go back and tear out what they have done.

Livingston asked that each Committee be given a copy of the Walworth Count Ordinance for review and discussion.