

Crockery Lake Association Minutes
August 19, 2020
2500 Crockery Shores Road

1, Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present President Bob Blauwkamp, Vice President Pat Wolters, Secretary Susan McClure, Treasurer Greg Slater, Directors Carl Elliott, Mollie Gaggin, Paula Humphrey.

Absent: Betsy Ludwick.

Guest: Callie Melton

3. Approval of Agenda

Callie Melton will speak in place of the PLM presentation. Policies and Bylaws was added as the last item on the Agenda.

Pat moved to accept the Agenda with the changes, Greg Slater seconded. Passed.

4. Call to the Audience.

No audience was present.

5. Callie Melton

Callie Melton reported on the status of the 319 Grant the Ottawa County Department of Conservation is preparing for the Crockery Creek Watershed which will be submitted in October, 2020, as part of the Sand Creek proposal. The Letter of Intent has been submitted to EGLE Phase II includes getting all stake holders involved in the wetland and shoreline restoration. An area of focus will be the northern inlet and the adjacent land around the park. Melton also reported Drain Commissioner Joe Bush is talking to a contractor about dredging sand at an inlet at the lake's southwest end.

Melton asked that CLA Board Members talk to other landholders affected by the grant. We all need to see how each one of us benefits by using "best land management" practices (i.e. buffer strips). One couple has already given the Drain Commission an easement. There are seven land owners whose land drains into the north and east ends of the lake.

One piece of information to be included in the Grant is the "load" of sediment/pollution that enters the lake via the inlets. Melton stressed that the Grant will not pay for septic tank/drain fields.

Melton and the Board recognize that there is an "Us and Them" divide between farmers and the lake residents. Most Board members do not know the land owners whose land drains into Crockery Lake. Board members recognize the need for farmers to maximize the use of their land, which includes plowing (soil erosion) and fertilizing (algae food). "Best Land Management" practices could decrease the amount of soil lost through erosion. BLM could give farmers information about optimal fertilizer use.

Board members mentioned the straightening of a drain and the rerouting of a stream under a hill increasing the load coming into the northeast end of Crockery Lake.

Pat Wolters asked for more information about the 319 Grant.

Bob Blauwkamp thanked Melton for speaking.

6. Secretary's Report

Susan McClure handed out paper copies. Members checked for corrections and made the appropriate corrections on their copies (Carl Elliott had not recommended calling Michigan State University for water testing.) Pat Wolters moved to accept the minutes, Mollie Gaggin seconded. Motion passed.

7. Treasurer's Report

Greg Slater reported that CLA has spent \$1785 of its \$1979 budget. PayPal grossed \$445, from which fees were deducted. The Fireworks Display stands at \$3939 which is approximately \$2000 shy of what is needed for the 2021 display if it is to be the same display as in 2020. Wolverine has been paid for the 2020 display. (Per Bylaws, the General Fund and the Fireworks Display are two separate funds. Fireworks Display money is collected by December 31 for the following calendar year's display.)

Pat Wolters moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Mollie Gaggin seconded. Motion passed.

The discussion morphed into Agenda item #9, Fireworks 2021-Update and Funding.

9. Fireworks 2021-Update and Funding

Bob Blauwkamp said CLA needs \$6000 to have the same show in 2021 as it had in 2020. CLA needs to collect more money. Bob asked Greg Slater for a list of people who have already donated. Paula Humphrey asked why people don't donate, could Covid 19 be a factor. No one had answers. Carl Elliott pointed out that the donations were in line with previous years' donations but the cost has gone up. Greg Slater suggested we look for sponsors. We aren't allowed to ask for donations from people who park along 32nd Avenue or Gooding Street to watch the display. Suggestions: posting a thermometer icon showing the amount of money collected at the Welcome to Crockery Lake signs ; sending a postcard to residents alerting them to the fireworks display shortfall; producing a simple, short newsletter (the printed newsletter was discontinued after Buzz Holtvluwer could no longer sponsor it); finding a sponsor for the newsletter. Paula offered to design and prepare a postcard.

8. Additional Lake Treatment for 2020

There have been four treatments--one for weed control and three for algae. Bob Blauwkamp noted that timing of treatments is important. Best results happen when the excess water has run over the weir. Pat Wolters noted that turbidity makes the treatments less effective. Carl Elliott noted cloudy days are good for vegetative growth. Bob praised the results from applying PhosLock (phycocyanin). Because Linda Lane has checked water clarity daily this summer, there is a record of the dramatic improvement.

At the August Chester Township Meeting, the township board voted not to have any more weed/algae treatments in 2020 because \$13,600 of the budgeted \$14,000 had been spent. To spend any amount over 10% of the budget requires a public hearing.

10. Speaking for the Crockery Lake Association

Susan McClure suggested an addition to the By-laws that would allow Board members to speak as CLA representatives when so designated by the Board. She said that is the policy of the League of Women Voters. There was discussion about such a policy being necessary. No consensus was reached. She is to write a policy that will be discussed at the

September Board Meeting. If the Board approves it, the Policy will appear in the April newsletter and voted upon at the May Annual Meeting.

11. Lake Management Contract

The Board would like to review a copy of the contract between Chester Township and Professional Lake Management.

12. Temporary Watercraft Speed Ordinance

Paula Humphrey had sent all Board Members copies of the applications to establish a township ordinance to limit watercraft speed, during high water in the case of Crockery Lake. Paula talked to Gary Meerman, Chester Township Supervisor, who recommended we look at the Permanent Watercraft Control Ordinance. It will be on the September agenda for discussion.

13. General Lake Cleanup

As Paula Humphrey and her neighbor take a paddle boat around the lake, they see debris as close as twelve inches below the surface. Paula suggested the Board organize an "Earth Day" for residents to rid the shallow lake bottom of trash. Paula referred to three areas in particular where they have seen wood stanchions, tires, and cement blocks. On a clean up day lake residents could help each other remove debris or mark the potential hazards that can not be pulled from the lake.

14. Inlet Testing

Paula Humphrey expressed interest in monitoring the water flowing into the lake via the creek on her property. Paula said she would need to be trained. Pat Wolters said that Michigan Lakes and Streams has a test that determines stream health by looking at the organisms that live in the stream. She also said that testing for e-coli needs to be done quickly when e-coli is suspected. Paula and Mollie Gaggin will look for more information on how to do water testing. Pat suggested contacting Drain Commissioner Joe Bush for information about where the water originates.

Greg Slater learned that Ravenna uses ponds for waste water. The system is near capacity. Bob Blauwkamp said that if people detect the odor of sewage they should report it to the Ottawa County Department of Health. Pat Wolters reminded us that CLMP does water testing.

15. Sonar Weed Treatment

Bob Blauwkamp, Pat Wolters, and Carl Elliott had searched for more information about sonar weed treatment. Bob pointed out that sonar weed treatment is not proven technology nor has it been permitted in Michigan. Pat Wolters had information from Dr. Joy Latimor who wrote that sonar weed treatment has only been successful in small ponds and drinking water reservoirs. The effects on aquatic fauna are not known. She noted that there are several studies that show a lack of effectiveness in lakes. (See Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Research Report 195.) Pat had forwarded Latimor's e-mail to Board Members prior to the Board Meeting. Carl handed out an e-mail from SonicSolutions Algae Control which estimated the number of units (dock installation or solar units to anchor in the middle of the lake). Different treatments are needed for green and blue algae. Green algae needs more units for treatment.

Meeting Adjourned
9:26 p.m.

Next Meeting
September 16, 2020
7 p.m.
Place: TBA