

Crockery Lake Association Minutes
2470 Crockery Shores Road
August 18, 2021

1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Betsy Ludwick, President; Pat Wolters, Vice President, Susan McClure, Secretary; Greg Slater, Treasurer; Directors Carl Elliott, John deGeneres, Bob Blauwkamp.

Absent: Paula Humphrey, Mollie Gaggin.

Audience: Jeff Menn

3. Approval of Agenda

Pat Wolters moved the Agenda be approved, Bob Blauwkamp seconded. Passed.

4. Call to the Audience

Jeff Menn addressed the presence of wake boats on Crockery Lake. He owns a 22 foot MasterCraft inboard which will accommodate 3000 pounds of ballast. He said that to use it as a wake boat on Crockery Lake would be inappropriate and instead uses it on the river and in gravel pits. He sees the problem not as the boat per se but as the boat being used by people who don't care about the lake. Because wake boats are attracting new buyers, manufacturers are designing the technology that creates the wakes to be installed in pontoons. Thus, banning wake boats, boats that look like inboards, is not a solution. Rather, Jeff said, it is the activity that needs to be addressed. Such an activity which creates shoreline and habitat damage is not good for Crockery Lake which is one-quarter of a mile wide at its widest and about a mile long. It is possible to stay 300 feet from the shore, but there is still a heavy wake. Jeff said he doesn't know the answer. Education is a start.

Betsy Ludwick noted that she and her husband chose Crockery Lake because it is an "all sports lake." Carl Elliott noted that there are residents who want quiet times on the lake. They are worried about being hit by motor boats as the sun sets. We were reminded that skiing stops 30 minutes after sunset. The use of personal water craft stops one hour before sunset. Pat Wolters said common courtesy should be a given. Betsy and Jeff said safety is a factor.

EGLE is examining the use of wake boats. Jerry Brower, owner of MasterCraft in Holland, speaking at the 2021 Michigan Lakes and Streams Conference, stressed the need to educate people. He spoke of the popularity of wake boats: the boats capable of "surfing the boat" are selling out at a quarter of million dollars per boat.

Jeff also told the Board about "wake shapers." A wake shaper can be attached to a boat and will put out a wake beside the boat. In other words, any motor boat could become a wake boat. Currently one of the features of a wake boat is the capability of carrying ballast. Jeff pointed out that his boat will hold 17 people. The combined passenger weight acts as ballast and will create a wake. Susan McClure asked about a shaft to create a wake. Jeff said that Gentoo Surf Systems offer a "preset" shaft designed to create the "biggest wake."

Jeff said that regulations need to focus on the activity, not the boat.

Betsy thanked Jeff for coming and invited him to stay for the rest of the meeting.

5. Secretary's Report-Susan McClure

Susan passed out hard but poorly printed copies of the Minutes of July 21, 2021. Carl Elliott moved the minutes be accepted; Bob Blauwkamp seconded. Passed.

6. Correspondence

Susan McClure said she had sent a sympathy card to the Gunkel family on Carol's passing.

Pat Wolters said that Jo Lattimer of Michigan Lakes and Streams had sent a letter about grants. Michigan Lake and Streams will help with grant writing. Pat's advice is that we collect the data now and write a practice grant because the information will be available and able to be tweaked to fit the grant. Also many grants have very short deadlines, so having a practice grant to pull from would help.

Betsy Ludwick received an e-mail asking about using non-phosphorus lawn fertilizers. Carl Elliott asked how we would know what is being spread on the lawns. Bob Blauwkamp noted that the lake doesn't need any more fertilizer of any kind. It was noted that some people are using professional lawn services within 300 feet of the lake. There was doubt expressed that any fertilizer is nutrient free and therefore fertilizers should not be used within 300 feet of the lake. Greg Slater suggested we check with PLM.

7. Treasurer's Report

Greg Slater reported there are 50 CLA members. We need 62 members to make the 2021-22 budget. Some Board members said that there are people on their routes who have joined in the past but were missed this year. Board members will contact those people. Board members will also have a pamphlet, "Shoreline Living," to give residents when we re-solicit memberships. John deGeneres asked Betsy Ludwick to accompany him as he meets the people on his route for the first time.

Carl Elliott noticed that we have already collected \$5600 towards next year's fireworks display, which is more than we had last year at this time. Pat Wolters has a call into Wolverine about scheduling the 2022 fireworks.

The sign acknowledging a sponsor is still not up. There will be one at each of the two Welcome to Crockery Lake signs. The Board asked that one be put up at the "boat landing" too where the Association maintains an information board.

The expenses for 2021 total \$538.60 as of June 30. The General Fund is at \$3,632.63. The Fireworks Fund is \$5,641.38. The Board anticipates that the show will cost \$6000.00.

Carl Elliott moved the Treasurer's Report be accepted; Pat Wolters seconded. Passed.

8. Newsletter

Betsy Ludwick reported that three [MY NOTES SAY THREE, MY MEMORY SAYS SIX] residents would like paper copies of the newsletter. Susan McClure advised Betsy to produce black and white copies, as the cost for ink for color photographs is prohibitive. Pat Wolters will check with former volunteers who provided hard copy newsletters. Greg Slater suggested using color on the first page only. Carl Elliott said that a printer that uses toner can print 1500 copies.

The Board appreciated Betsy's informative July newsletter.

9. Fireworks 2021-Update Review

Volunteers who make the entire fireworks display happen were specifically named: Frank and Carol Gunkel--providing the land for the mortar firing; Pat Wolters--paperwork; Carl Elliott--site preparation; Chester Township Fire Department--the damping of the site and for standing by during the firing; Sue Dodde, Carl Elliott, Carl's grandson Gabriel, Tom Ludwick, Susan McClure, and Greg Slater--morning after clean up. The Board also recognized all the private monetary contributions people made. Neither dues nor taxes pay for the CLA 3rd of July show.

10. Lake and Inlet Testing

Pat Wolters reported that Professional Lake Management (PLM) tested the deepest spot in Crockery Lake for depth, total phosphorus, alkalinity, nitrates, conductivity, total dissolved solids, and pH. PLM found the bottom measurement for phosphorus to be 439 Ug per liter. Pat will ask for the

rest of the numbers. The Board finds this information to be necessary in order to assess the lake's health and to give us data needed to apply for grants. The Board decided that three inlets that need to be tested are the inlet at Grose Park, the inlet on the Tom and Roseann Streams property, and the inlet at 2700 Van Dyke Street. These inlets will be tested a day or two after a heavy rain this fall or next Spring when the inlets are full. We will use PLM. PLM suggested that the CLA check with the township to find out if Special Assessment District (SAD) money will pay for the testing.

Again, the Board needs clarification about the SAD budget for weed and algae control. We are unclear about how much the budget increases every year. Bob Blauwkamp asked why there was a difference of \$550 between a Spring application and a July application. Greg Slater will ask PLM for details.

In 2020 PLM used Phycomycin to treat for algae. Crockery Lake had remarkably clear water the rest of the summer. Carl Elliott said that SeaClear doesn't seem to be as effective as it was.

Susan McClure asked for a discussion of an article in the "The Michigan Riparian," Summer 2021, "Different Inland Lake Types and Their Management Challenges." Crockery Lake is best described as a combination of two types, seepage or closed-basin lake and a spring lake. Management problems that the Board needs to consider are septic tank and drain field pollution if the drain at the west end of the lake is impaired, have an on-going riparian educational program to reduce debris in the lake, and determine the extent of nitrogen loading. Susan offered to write an article for the newsletter. Susan noted that the CLA is monitoring the lake as the article says the lake should be monitored.

11. Update Residents List and CLA Members

Greg Slater had passed out a list of current members during the Treasurer's Report.

Carl Elliott said that his wife Karen will no longer serve on the Welcome Committee. Karen had served in this capacity for nine years. Betsy Ludwick said that Karen's resignation "makes me so sad." The Board thanks Karen for her time on the Welcome Committee.

12. Residents Contact: Notice of Lake Treatment Schedule

Advance notice of the specific day of treatment is difficult due to uncontrollable factors like wind, rain, and the need for treatment. Betsy Ludwick has put the information on the website within 24 hours of a treatment, but not everyone checks the website. A proposed schedule is published in the Spring, saying which week the treatment is scheduled. For those who do not like the notice stapled to a tree, the posting of it is mandatory, may contact their CLA representative to request a stake. PLM MUST post the notices.

13. Round the Table

Greg Slater said that Chester Township is reviewing its Master Plan. The Township will host three round table discussions: One will focus on Agriculture, one on Crockery Lake, and a third one for the general public.

Carl Elliott asked for a better way to announce weed treatments. He suggested the information be handled by the Township.

Bob Blauwkamp asked for clarification of the SAD budget and could there be a more formal way to alert PLM when the algae and weeds need to be treated.

Susan McClure thanked people for discussing the Riparian article.

Pat Wolters had already addressed her concerns.

Jeff Menn thanked the Board for "just being here." He also told us that his father who had heart surgery last winter is back on his water skis. The Board was happy to hear that Steve is doing so well.

Greg Slater moved to adjourn the meeting. 8:52 p.m.

Next Meeting: 2470 Crockery Shores Street, September 15, 2021. 7 p.m.

