HAMILTON LAKE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors

August 14, 2018

Cathy Wagenknecht called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Cathy Wagenknecht, Linda Skelly, Dennis Germann, Jim Wagenknecht, Val Fetters, Ginny DeBrunner, Jayma Watkins, Jan Miller, Cheryl Silverhart, Peggy Hayden, Tonya Peters, and Janet Albright. Twelve board members and fifteen guests were present.

Guest Speaker Dolores Whitman of the Williams County Alliance gave a presentation concerning the Michindoh Aquipher. This is the underground supplier of water for many counties in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. She talked about hydrological studies that have been done. She spoke of statements made by Edward Kidston that were printed in the Bryan Times. The Ohio businessman wants to tap into the aquipher and pump water out. There is opposition and concerns if this were to happen; would this be harmful or put our water supply in jeopardy. Ms Whitman suggests our communities get together and hire a hydrologist to do testing. There was a time of questions and answers among all in attendance. Discussions included:

* Is the Army Corp of Engineer involved? They are aware as well as the Ohio and Indiana DNR.
* Mr. Kidston has not at this time applied for any permits or placed a well.
* Officials of local counties have met and discussed the water aquipher. They are not being proactive but ready to be reactive.
* St Joe River and Michindoh Aquiphers connect.
* Angola uses 800,000 gallons of water a day.
* Hamilton has a flow level monitoring system.
* Is this a single source aquipher?
* Auburn has an alternative water source.
* Have to protect your single water source.
* When past studies were done, they would stop if there was an alternative water source, so who knows how big the aquipher really is.
* Mrs. Susan Catterall, Community Coalition for Change announced there will be a public forum regarding the Michindoh Aquipher on September 12, at the library in Fremont, Indiana.
* EPA & DNR are involved.
* This becomes a federal issue because it involves 3 states. There would have to be proof that it would not hurt other states.
* How big is the aquipher and where does the water come from?
* Don’t sell outside the aquipher.

The regular agenda commenced.

Secretary’s Report: A motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting was made by Val Fetters and second by Ginny DeBrunner. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Current month weed spray income was $1,231.00. Received final payment of $19,473.00; from the LARE Grant. Poker Run monies received and deposited as of the end of July was $11,275.00. A full report for the Poker Run will be made at a later date. $3,075.00 was deposited for the lilly pad raffle. Total income for current period was $35,090.00. Total current expenses were $1,352.00. Year-to-date: Income $157,110.00, Expense $90,715.00, Bank Balance as of July 31, 2018 $363,924.00. There will probably be an August algae treatment. To date, $78,000.00 has been used of the $100,000.00 estimated Eurasian Milfoil treatment cost. Weed concerns in the Circle Park, Cold Springs, and Acapulco Restaurant & North areas were discussed. Coontail is a native weed. Milfoil is wrapped around the native weed. Plan to do spray treatment again. A motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made by Jim Wagenknecht and second by Tonya Peters. Motion carried.

Membership and Communication:

* Monies are slowing down.
* Website & Database: Cathy expressed disappointment in the Capstone Project. Members of the group are not returning telephone calls.

Wildlife Control: Jayma expressed concern that they are getting alot of lilly pads in their lake front area compared to prior years. Janet explained the ruling that a personal property owner is allowed to pull/ treat weeds including lilly pads in a 600 square foot area of their frontage. Jayma contacted a resident of the Lime Lake / Lake Gage area and got contact information for a person who does goose round-ups. Geese return to where they learn to fly. A two week window is usually needed for a round-up. Jayma will contact the person and see if he can attend next month’s meeting.

Weed Control: In addition to what was discussed in the Treasurer’s Report, it was noted that we may be eligible to apply for a Starry Stonewort Weed Grant; because we are in the Lake Erie Watershed.

Grievance and General Welfare:

* Environmental Concerns: CAFO & Water Quality: Jim reported that grass filter strips have been placed in the Fish Creek and Black Creek areas. Ecoli testing July 26, 2018 was 290. Cathy mentioned that Chris Thomas, formally of the Steuben County Health Department will be closer to these issues in her new job position.
* Buoys: Jim reported that we lost a couple of buoys and we need to replace them. We purchased 6 new round buoys and will replace sinking buoys. Clarks Landing Co-op inquired if the HLA would get 2 additional solar buoys for their area and the Co-op would reimburse the HLA. Jim was looking for the board to make a motion or vote whether to do this or not. After discussion, a motion was made that “The Hamilton Lake Association Board does not get involved with the purchase and / or the maintenance of buoys other than the buoys designated by the HLA Board.” The motion was made by Cheryl Silverhart and second by Peggy Hayden. The motion carried.

Legislative and Council Coordination:

* Hamilton Town Council: Peggy. Topics included Aquipher, Trash pick-up contract, Street potholes, Possible water leak on Lane 215, and Changes in the police staff.
* Steuben County Lakes Council: Jim. Topics: Annual meeting and breakfast. Retired engineer trying to start a conservancy. Looking for help to rebuild the Dam and for weed control. 64% currently pay dues.
* 101 Lakes Trust: Janet. “Reflections” – Tour West Otter Lake, Dinner, and Presentation. $50.00 per ticket.

Old Business:

* Poker Run: Tonya. Do not have final numbers. Ordered approximately 40 more shirts. Sold 1,500 tickets. The board presented a gift certificate to each of the three committee members.
* Summerfest: August 25. Discussed items and supplies needed for our booth. Peggy asked if we could print additional tickets for the lilly pad raffle. It was decided to order 200 more. A motion was made by Dennis Germann and second by Peggy Hayden to award 2 - $100.00 and 2 - $50.00 prizes for the 2nd and 3rd place winners. Motion carried.
* Shirts for HLA Board Members: Peggy distributed the new shirts.
* Dennis mentioned that lake resident Dave Fazzini has interest in joining the HLA board.
* Insurance: Insurance agent agreed to a $300,000.00 theft policy as part of the liability coverage for a cost of $180.00. Dennis signed paperwork for insurance coverage that is effective July to July and comes with a lower premium.

New Business:

* Don Hurd, owner of “The Hamilton News” is giving a free newspaper to every resident of Hamilton for 2 weeks. It would be a good time for the HLA to get something in the paper.
* Michindoh Aquipher: Discussion took place. Two things noted: 1) Not enough studies out there and 2) What is the long-term effect.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 11, 2018.

A motion to adjourn was made by Peggy Hayden and second by Tonya Peters. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Secretary

Linda Skelly